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THE ÖÖLOGIST,

FOR THE

STUDENT OF BIRDS,

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS,

VOLUME IX.

ALBION, N. Y.

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1892.

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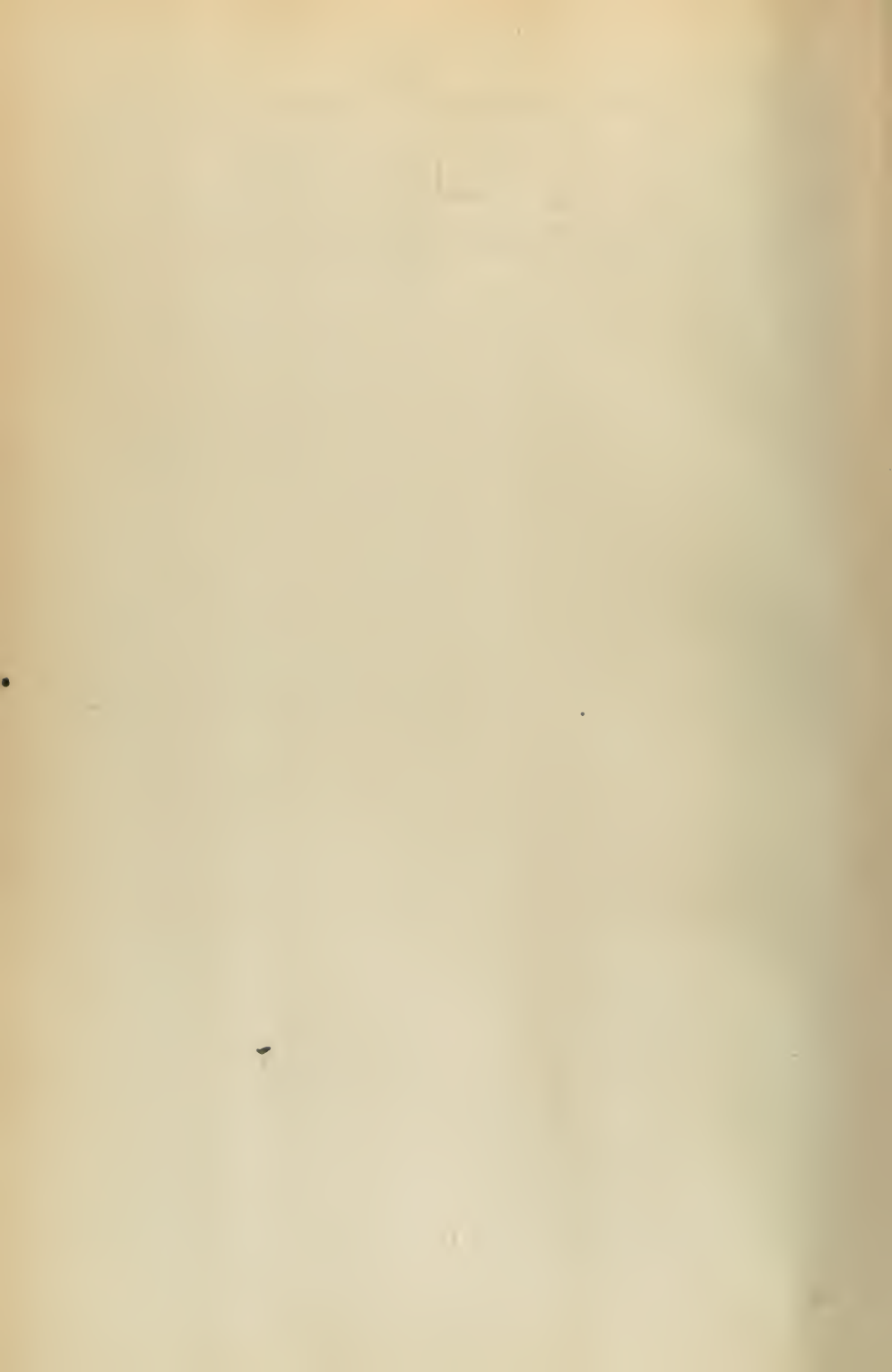
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ALBION, N. Y., JAN., 1892.

NO. 1

Exchanges and Wants.

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

WANTED—Good bird skins in exchange for eggs and skins. Many common species wanted. JOHN A. MORDEN, Brent Creek, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have Indian Relics, N. J. Copper cents and a Scroll saw for eggs in original sets with data. GEO. P. ROWELL, 95 Atlantic St., Stamford, Ct.

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WANTED.—A good 2 barrelled shot gun, will give eggs, mounted birds and 1 barrelled shot gun. Write immediately. BERT H. BAILLEY 92, A. Avenue, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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TO EXCHANGE.—The following 1st class eggs: 12, 19, 27, 28, 29, 37, 38, 37, 35, 25, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Have also a number of 2nd class ones. Will exchange to be for one 1st class one's. W. C. PICKENS, Livingston, Ala.

Large collection of Indian Relics, or \$5 worth of birds eggs to exchange for a guitar or anything useful. Best offers answered. B. H. BLANTON, Frankfort, Ky.

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WANTED.—Bird skins representing species not in my collection, first class only. I offer B. L. Guns, Glass eyes, Taxidermist tools and supplies. Books on ornithology and first class eggs in sets. F. H. CARPENTER, East Providence, R. I.

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STUDERS POPULAR ORNITHOLOGY, (elegant edition, 119 colored plates, 12 x 15 inches,) Ridgeway's Manual (new) and other books for exchange or sale. Wanted especially Cones' Key (latest and in first-class condition). MARK MANLEY, Canton, N. Y.

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EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

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TO EXCHANGE.—Cigarette pictures and about 500 varieties of postage stamps for papers and magazines on Ornithology. FRANK L. OWENS, Brooklyn, Ia.

LOOK! LOOK! Lot of Golden Days, magic lantern 40 specimens, stamps, book, good fishing tackle, etc., what offers in fossils, curiosities, Minerals and ores. L. E. SEABER, Litz, Pa.

I OFFER many rare sets of eggs in exchange for works on Ornithology, Natural History, complete volumes of the Auk, or a Photo outfit. Will mention a few of the many sets I have to offer. A. O. U. Nos. 16, 329, 337a, 345, 349, 373c, 375a. Send for a complete list. Letters answered but postal cards not noticed. W. CAULK, Terre Haute, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Books on Botany, Natural History, Mineralogy, Geology, and Chemistry, all standard works will exchange for sets and singles of eggs, both rare and common. And books on Ornithology and Oology, state plainly what you want and have all letters answered. DANIEL T. KISSAM, 54 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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| 9 Chiton, Conn. | 37 Polydora Shell, Nassau |
| 10 Tusk Shell, C. Is. | 38 Tonal Hawk T. Owl, R. C. |
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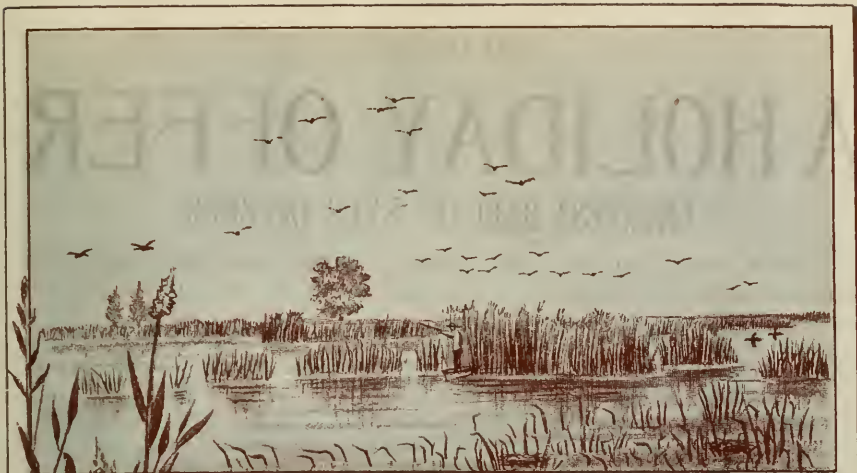
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LONG LAKE



NESTS OF CANVAS-BACK & YELLOWHEADED BLACKBIRD.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN., 1892.

NO. 1

Bird Nesting in North-West Canada.

BY W. RAINE, TORONTO, CAN.*

Jan. 18, 1891.

Putting on my rubber boots I went down to the lake behind the cabin. Long Lake is about ten miles in length and half a mile wide. The Canadian Pacific Railway crosses over it, and I was now at the south end of the lake.

The lake is surrounded with tall rushes and wild rice which grows ten feet high. The place swarmed with birds, and only those who have visited a similiar spot, can form any idea of the number and variety of wild fowls frequenting such a marsh. Out in the open water, were Red-heads, Canvas-backs, Scaups, and Ring-billed Ducks, Blue-winged Teals, Shovellers, Mallards, Western, Red-necked and Horned Grebe, Coots and other water-birds, while amongst the rushes were hundreds of Yellow-headed Black-birds, Red-winged Starlings and Marsh Wrens.

On reaching the margin of the lake I began to examine the rushes and soon found a number of nests of the Yellow-headed Black-bird, they are handsome birds with brilliant orange colored heads and breasts. Their nests are cup-shaped and made of grasses and fine rushes and contained four or five eggs each, which resemble the Lark family more than the black-birds.

Long-billed Marsh Wrens nests were numerous and after examining about a dozen nests I found one containing six eggs. The water soon came over my boot tops, but I did not mind getting my legs wet, for I saw I was going to have some sport.

Just in front of me I saw a large basket shaped nest, covered with grass and aquatic plants, and brushing them off I found the nest to contain a beautiful clutch of twelve eggs of the Canvas-backed Duck. The birds were swimming out on the lake not far away. The nest was similar to that of a Coot and the eggs rested on a bed of down and feathers, they were pale greenish-drab and as large as the eggs of the Red-head. I saw the eggs were fresh so I put them in my handkerchief and waded towards dry land. A few yards further and a Carolina Crake stumbled off its nest, just before my feet. The nest was about the size of a basin and made of sedges and contained eight buff colored eggs, spotted with reddish brown.

I now had as many eggs as I could carry so I took them to the shore and erected a stick and fixed a piece of paper on the top of it so I could easily find the place again. I then explored the rushes further on and soon found several nests of the Coot containing from six to nine eggs each. As I took the eggs from each nest I marked each clutch with a pencil so that I could easily sort out the clutches after blowing them, this is what all collector's should do when they find several nests and eggs of the same species in one day.

Supposing you find three nests of Coots containing six, eight and nine eggs each, the first clutch should be marked 1-6, the second 2-8 and the third 3-9, and so on.

My next find was a floating damp nest of the Horned Grebe, the eggs were covered over with rushes and it is surprising how the eggs can hatch in such a damp situation. The nest consisted of six fresh eggs which are a trifle larger

*This is chapter 17 in Mr. Raine's forthcoming work on Bird Nesting in North-West Canada.

than those of the Pied-billed Grebe.

Coots nests began to be numerous and I suppose I could have collected two hundred eggs had I wished, but three clutches satisfied me, so I left the rest.

Yellow-headed and Red-winged Black birds nests were also plentiful and every part of rushes contained three or four nests. As I was again loaded with eggs. I waded to the shore once more and placed the eggs with the others previously collected.

The sun was very powerful and towards evening the mosquitoes were a terror, my neck was so sore from their stings that I could scarcely sleep that night. I filled up my soft hat and handkerchief with eggs and carried them further along the banks of the lake towards another part of wild rice. On my way I flushed a male Wilson's Phalarope from in front of my feet and soon found its nest and four handsome eggs well concealed in the centre of a tussock of marsh grass. The eggs are smaller than those of the Spotted Sandpiper and are clay colored, heavily spotted and blotched with blackish brown. After the female has laid the eggs, she leaves them to the male bird, who sits on them close until the eggs are hatched. The female in the meantime enjoys herself with other females who spend their time in feeding and swimming about and flying around chasing each other for sport. Wilson's Phalaropes are like turtle doves among birds, they are gentle handsome in plumage, elegant in form and graceful in their movements.

In approaching the thick part of wild rice and rushes, two great birds flew up with a big flap and a splash, which gave me such a sudden start that it caused me to stumble into deep water and I sank up to the waist. I got out as soon as I could, but I was pretty damp. However, I was going to examine that clump of rushes if I got up

to the neck in the attempt. So after wading cautiously I reached the patch of rushes, when to my delight I beheld a great nest, the size of a cart wheel and nearly two feet high. Four steps farther and my eyes rested on, what do you think? Great Scott! two handsome eggs of the Little Brown Crane, well, you can guess my heart throbbled with joy, and I felt like yelling out at the top of my voice. The eggs were warm, but on trying them with a drill I found they were only slightly incubated. The nest was a mass of rushes and aquatic plants, centre hollowed and lined with grass and feathers, and the eggs were yellowish drab, mottled and blotched with reddish brown and are larger than the eggs of the Canada Goose. Putting one in each pocket I waded to the shore and as I was very wet I directed my steps to the cabin which was a mile and a half away, and changed my clothes, I took as many eggs as I could carry with me, intending to return later for the rest.

Two Birds of Western Kansas.

Swainson's Hawk: Black Rail.

Swainson's Hawk, (*Buteo swainsoni*). This Hawk appears here in large numbers in the fall, chiefly during the harvest time. During the heat of the day they are very sluggish, allowing a person to approach quite close, as they perch on a fence post, hay-stack or any exposed situation; but early in the morning and evening they are easily alarmed, taking flight on the least suspicious movement. How often, after crawling a long distance through weeds and sand-burs, in the hope of securing a specimen, have I looked up only to see my prospective game sailing high overhead out of shooting range.

In 1890, while hauling alfalfa, I observed several of these Hawks hopping clumsily around in the field catching grasshoppers, which were unusually

abundant at that time, and I do not doubt that they destroyed large numbers of smaller mammals, mice, etc.

Last spring (1891) several companions besides myself spent a week hunting and fishing in Pawnee Valley, Garfield Co., among the eggs collected by myself while there, is a fine set of three of the Swainson's Hawk. The bulky nest was composed of sticks, weeds and pieces of cow manure, and was placed about twenty feet up on a slanting ledge. The eggs were fresh and show very diverse markings. Each have a ground color of bluish white; on one the spots are confluent around the large end, forming a reddish brown blotch, splashed with spots of a darker tint; on another the spots run together forming a blotch around the smaller end; the third is unmarked with the exception of a few faint wavy lines around the large end. Several other nests were found in the same vicinity, all old ones, and very likely built by the same pair of birds in successive years.

Two or three days after finding the above nest, I found another of the same species, unfinished. It was placed on a knoll higher than the surrounding hills. Sandstone rocks, nearly a foot thick, were placed in the form of a circle about three feet in diameter, and the inside of the circle was filled with stones gradually decreasing in size to the center, thus forming a basin-like platform on which to build the main nest of sticks and weeds. A few sticks had already been placed on the structure. I regreted very much that I was not able to remain in the valley long enough to secure the eggs.

Black Rail, (*Porzana javaiensis*). My acquaintance with the Black Rail is very limited, so limited that I hesitated long before offering to share it with the readers of the OÖLOGIST.

On June 6, 1889, while my brother and myself were hunting Blackbirds eggs in a shallow pond, my brother found a nest of this species. The pond

was partly filled with water from recent rains, and was covered with thick growth of small weeds, from one to two feet high. The nest was placed on a low ridge near the center of the pond, and contained nine fresh eggs—a sight to make a collector's eyes sparkle, and I can assure you it did ours. The nest—a neat compact structure—was composed entirely of blades of a kind of water grass.

The eggs are light cream color, thickly spotted with fine reddish dots and purple shell markings, thickest around large end.

HARRY W. MENKE,
Garden City, Kans.

Ornithologists Association.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the meeting of the Association on November 3d, the following new members were elected:

Active—John M. Davis, 324 Pa. Ave. S. E. Wash. D. C.

Corresponding—Geo. H. Gray, 1326 N. Mount St., Baltimore, Md., Rolla P. Currie, 108 N. 5th St. Grand Forks, N. Dakota, S. R. Ingersoll, Ballston, Spa., N. Y., E. E. N. Murphy, 510 Jackson St. Athens, Ga., H. R. Kellogg, Alpena, Mich.

At the regular monthly meeting Dec. 1, 1891, the following persons were elected corresponding members of the Association:

Edmund Heller, Riverside, Cal., W. S. Strode, M. D., Bernadotte, Ills.

President Langille made a few remarks on the nomenclature and points of differentiation of *Ortyx virginiana*, *Lagopus albus*, and *Bonasa umbellus*.

The popular names of *Ortyx* and *Bonasa* are the same in different sections of the country, but it has been determined that *Ortyx* is not a quail but is really a Partridge.

In form it is stouter and its bill is

shorter than that of the European Quail which it approaches in size while resembling the European Partridge in structure.

In size it is much smaller than Bonasa or Lagopus and its tarsus and toes are *bare*,

Bonasa is not a Partridge but a Grouse, is much larger than Ortyx and unlike Lagopus never turns white in winter.

Its tarsus is feathered to the toes, occasionally undeveloped feathers are found on the toes, but as a rule they may be said to be naked.

The Ptarmigan (*Lagopus albus*) turns partially or wholly white during the winter and its *tarsus* and toes are very heavily feathered.

The work of a designing creative intelligence seems to be presented very clearly in the structure and modifications of these three classes of birds, the Partridge, Grouse, and Ptarmigan. Natural adaptation to surroundings seems to show not the enshrouding of mere animal matter with intelligence but the power of an All Wise Providence.

A. B. FARNHAM,
Secretary and Treasurer

Western New York Naturalists' Association.

NEW OFFICERS.

The following appointments were made Nov. 6th, and have been accepted for Vice-President, to fill vacancy, Dr. A. G. Prill, Springville. N. Y. Secretary, in place of B. S. Bowdish resigned E. B. Peck, Clifton Springs, N. Y. Three new active members have been admitted. One corresponding and one honorary. It is thought best to try and hold a public meeting this winter, probably in Rochester, which we will try to make both interesting and instructive.

E. H. SHORT,
President.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A meeting of the said society will be held in Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1892. From 10:30 to 12 a. m. will be a business meeting for active members only. From 8 to 10 p. m. will be a public meeting to which all interested in the society and the public in general are cordially invited. Papers on Natural History especially Botany and Ornithology will be read and such collections as can be procured will be exhibited. In fact all we can do will be done to make the meeting both interesting and instructive. Committees will meet trains at all stations in the city on the morning of the 3d-

E. H. SHORT, Pres.

E. B. PECK, Sec.

EX-SEC. BOWDISH'S VALEDICTORY.

In the town of Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y., on the evening of Sept., 15, 1891, there was born, the Western New York Naturalists Association.

Brothers and sisters in the love of nature, are you interested in this birth? The answer is of vital importance to *you*. As well as to the newly born association.

If the love of nature is in you, be sure that it is God implanted the gift of such a taste is just as much to be fostered as any other of God's gifts. The talk to the effect that this is nonsense and-so-forth, comes from those who never having had any such taste are utterly disqualified to judge of such a matter. Now, kind reader let us take it for granted you are interested in the study of nature, if you have the love of this study at heart, do you not wish to further the advancement of the study? Can we not better work together than singly? The answer to both of these questions must be in the affirmative. Such conclusions as these led to the birth of this association, having been born it was christened, as nearly as possible, in accordance with the wishes

of all concerned. Christening gifts are now in order, and we want the gift from each one, of their aid and support. None are too young to join in this work nor are any inexperienced.

At its birth the association did me the honor to make me its secretary, and I have since endeavored to faithfully perform the duties of this office. Other duties have called me away, I have been obliged to resign this position but membership in the association, and deep interest in its cause, I will ever retain, in leaving you I have one last request to make, will you, each and everyone pledge your support to this association? Will you join its ranks either as active, or associate member, as your location admits, and then seek out those whose tastes are similar, and induce them to do likewise will you, as far as possible attend the meetings and assist to carry forward the work? If you are willing to do this, communicate with either the President Mr. Ernest H. Short, Chili, N. Y., or with Neil F. Posson, Medina, or the Secretary whose future appointment will be announced through these columns, and in so doing please enclose a stamp that the young and poor association may have as little expense as possible.

I think I hear you answer that you grant this request.

May God watch over and prosper our association and each of its members till I may once more have the pleasure of meeting with you all again.

Yours in the love of nature

B. S. BOWDISH.

The Blue Grosbeak.

A gentleman in last OÖLOGIST wanted to hear from others on the habits of this bird. They are not at all plentiful here, but I see a pair or two every year. Last year I found a nest on June 16 containing three young birds, which

would have left the nest in a few days. I placed the young birds in a cage and hung it in a tree near the house so I could have a chance to study the habits of the old birds.

The habits of the Blue Grosbeak are nearer that of the Painted Bunting than that of the Cardinal, but like the Painted Bunting while the female is carrying on the incubation the male sits on the top of some tree and sings his little song, which is composed of a few short notes and can hardly be told from the song of the Painted Bunting, except it is a little coarser and lacks a little of the sweetness of the Painted Bunting's song. The alarm notes are nearly the same as those of the Painted Bunting, except they are louder and sharper.

The female feeds the young, she begins as soon as she can see in the morning, but does not seem to be in much hurry until after the sun is up, then comes a rush of business with her until about ten o'clock then she feeds sparingly until about four p. m., then comes another rush of work until night forces her to withdraw.

When the female goes for food the male always goes with her, when she stops to catch a grasshopper he mounts the top of a tree or bush and sings his song and he does the same thing when they get back to the nest, he never loses sight of his mate from daylight to dark.

My young birds grew very fast and looked very much like young Painted Buntings. But about July 18th a snake got in the cage and killed my birds.

The nest which contained the young birds was in a large patch of tall weeds and was suspended, being tied on three sides to weeds and 18 inches from the ground, composed of weeds known to me as pepper grass lined with fine brown rootlets, the whole outside was plaited with snake skin.

On July 21 I found another nest built by the same bird which was also in a

patch of weeds about ten steps from my door. This nest was also pensile, it was about three feet from the ground. The two nests were so much alike one could hardly tell one from the other. The last nest contained two fresh eggs, they were pale bluish white, I accidentally let them fall on the floor. So I guess you know the last so I'll tell you no more.

KIT ATKINSON,
Dime Box, Lee Co., Texas.

Maryland Yellow-throat; Chewink.

In reply to Mr. A. B. Call's query in Vol. 8, No. 10 of the OÖLOGIST, would say, I have collected seven sets of the Maryland Yellowthroat and have seen some six or eight nests with eggs and young birds in which I did not take and in the whole series I did not find any placed on the ground as our good friend Davie says they are. They are placed in this locality in clumps of weeds, which are mingled with fine grasses and are placed from six inches to eighteen inches above the ground.

Robert Ridgeway in his Manual of N. A. B. says: "Nests on or near the ground supported between weeds or coarse sedge stalks, with a deep foundation of leaves." Oliver Davie in his Nest and Eggs of N. A. B. says: "Placed on the ground tucked under a tuft of grass." Elliot Coues in his Key to N. A. B. says: "Nests on or near the ground." Thus we see diversity of opinions. I believe, however, all are correct for birds of one locality use altogether different nest material from some of same species found in other localities, and are just as liable to select different nesting sites as to use different material. Hoping the note may be of interest to at least Mr. Call.

In Vol. 8, No. 11 of OÖLOGIST, Mr. W. D. F. Lummis in his article on the Chewink, Chewee, Towhee, makes one slight error of which I wish to correct. He says that they do not dwell in fields

pastures and clearings. I have observed this bird in Darke Co., Ohio, Madison Co., Iowa and Marion Co., Ills, and I find them in greater numbers in clearings, edges of woods, fence runs which are lined with briars and brush than in the dense timber, and think nothing of seeing them in this locality in the orchards and along hedge fences in and around town. I think if friend Lummis will examine the clearings of Coon River bottom near Des Moines he will find the Towhee in clearings. I have and only thirty miles west of his city.

Respectfully,
C. BYRON VANDERCOOK,
Odin, Ills.

The Bronzed Grackle.

Quiscalus purpureus aeneas.

This is one of our most interesting if not most gayly colored birds. It inhabits the territory enclosed in the Mississippi Valley, and those who have never had the good fortune to see this bird alive may know that it is one of the most energetic business-like birds in category of North America *avi fauna*. They are extremely gregarious, very large flocks migrating together and nesting in the same vicinity. They usually make their appearance from the South about the middle of March and leave for warmer climes about the middle of September.

I had always supposed that our Grackle was the "Purple Grackle," I suppose because it was "purple," until I received a skin of the Bronzed species from a Kansas friend. It then dawned upon me that our Grackle was the Bronzed and not the Purple at all. Then followed the task of changing in my note books all references to the "Purple Grackle" and making a note in the margin as to the identity.

The call of the Bronzed Grackle is by far the most rasping, scraping sound

that ever came from *avian* tongue, but, nevertheless, it is pleasant to hear on some clear, frosty morning in March, coming from the top of a tall tree.

How well I remember the first one I heard in 1890. The wind was blowing quite a gale, when I heard the call of "*quiscalus*" coming on the wind. I rushed out of doors and there on the topmost branch of a mammoth cottonwood tree sat *quiscalus*, scraping away like the fiddler at a backwoods hoe-down, although he could hardly retain his equilibrium on the branch when an especially hard gust would come dashing down from the North.

The Bronzed Grackle builds a large and bulky nest, usually in the upper part of a tree. They seem to have a special fondness for cedar trees, and as they are gregarious in their nesting habits, a grove of these trees is usually selected as their nesting site.

During the breeding season "Bedlam reigns" in these tenanted groves, and I have walked through it when the ground was literally covered with the excrement, and every branch was white with it.

In the nest the female deposits 4 to 6 eggs of an olivaceous green shade, thickly blotched with very dark brown. In size the eggs average 1.23x.90.

The eggs of this bird I find to be highly variable in size as well as coloration. They are often almost without spots or blotches of any kind, and I have also seen some in which the blotches almost entirely covered the original back ground.

But this bird has one strong opponent to contend against, and that is the bad name given it by a certain class of uneducated farmers who can look on but one side of the question, and can not be made to believe that the Grackle repays him tenfold for the comparative mite of grain that he consumes. Consequently they are often driven away and their homes despoiled by the farm-

ers who thinks it is "a good riddance ff bad rubbish."

In conclusion I desire to urge all of our young ornithologists to write their experiences with their feathered friends or on the habits of birds that come under their special observation, as such articles are always read and enjoyed by all, old or young, who are interested in the study of ornithology and the advancement of this most interesting branch of natural science.

AIX SPONSA,
Nebraska City, Neb.

Albino Eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren.

I noticed in the November OöLOGIST about the finding of albino eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren. On June 12th '91, while out collecting in the marshes on the Detroit River with J. Claire Wood, we found four sets of Albino Marsh Wren eggs. One set of five were pure white, and very round for the bird. Another set of six was just the opposite being like the normal eggs of this species. These eggs were all identified properly. Several other sets had only a few faint markings on the larger end of the eggs. I thought these Albino eggs were rather unusual, but as I never have seen anything about them in ornithological papers I thought that I would let you know about them.

B. A. SWALES,
Detroit, Mich.

On Nov. 1, '91 a friend of mine handed me a pair of American Crossbills, male and female which he had managed to kill with a sling shot while they were feeding on sun flower seed. There was a large flock tame and easily approached. These are the first I have ever seen in this State.

W. W. SEARLES,
Lime Springs, Ia.

THE OÖLOGIST

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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

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

Complete Index of Vol VIII will be printed in Feb. OÖLOGIST.

February OÖLOGIST, promises to be the most valuable number ever published.

The Xmas presents as promised in December OÖLOGIST were mailed to nearly two hundred of our patrons on Jan. 11th.

Prizes for Best Articles.

During the past our readers have gratuitously supplied us with more MSS. than we could possibly use. For this we feel very grateful and would gladly have given them pecuniary compensation were it not willed that publishers of Natural History papers must do otherwise in order to amass an enormous fortune, or we might add (jokingly of course) to meet our printer's bills.

Publishers of defunct publications, who are now, in their retirement squandering a few of these "amassed fortunes" can appreciate the tenderness of which we speak of "printer's bills."

Well, to resume—we have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in flex. cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th and 5th—Each a set with data of the Noddy.

For the February competition we will give the same set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "relashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 15th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given, for example your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Feb. 15th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which you have

decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

While we can hardly afford to compensate our Judges, we have thought it advisable to give three prizes one to each of the three whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the January competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. Second a set of Noddy. Third, a copy of "Natural History Plays." In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Send in your MSS. also your decisions. Address all to

The Publisher of the OÖLOGIST,
Albion, N. Y.

Are Nesting Cavities Occupied More Than Once?

During the last season I have noticed a large number of cavities occupied by different birds and while many were newly excavated I think that the majority were not. It is well known that Sparrow Hawks if undisturbed will occupy the same cavity for years in succession. One pair of the above occupied a cavity excavated by a pair of Flickers in an elm tree by the roadside for three years. One summer I took two sets from them on which they left and occupied a tree nearly half a mile away. This year I took a set from them on which they left and occupied the old nest in the elm stub. I also know of a Flicker that has occupied the same tree for several years.

A Red-headed Woodpecker built in a walnut tree near here four years ago, the next year they returned but excavated a new hole although the old one was not out of repair. The next year she repeated the performance but last year she began again and left on striking an old hole.

I have noticed several Chickadee's nests but never found eggs in an old

one, so I think that although Sparrow Hawks, Flickers and possibly other varieties of large woodpeckers occupy old holes, Chickadees and Red-headed Woodpeckers almost invariably excavate new ones.

Now although it hardly comes under the head of this article, I will say that I think organization would be beneficial to ornithologists, and would like to hear through the columns of the OÖLOGIST what qualifications would be decided upon for membership.

W. E. AIKEN.
Benson, Vt.

Old Recollections.

In June 1877, my friend Frank Harris and the writer started on a collecting trip to Target Lake. To reach the lake it was necessary to go by boat through sloughs and swamps about two miles. Sometimes the water was too shallow for our light skiff and we were obliged to get out in the mud and water and pull the boat after us. The sloughs were fairly alive with Coots, Grebes and Rails. And Yellow-head and Red-wing Blackbird's nests could be seen, supported by the reeds, in large numbers. The floating nests of the Pied-billed Grebe could be seen on every side. We pulled our boat along side of the nests, and made exchanges with the Grebes. We found the Coots nests near the shore in the rushes and got some fine sets. Here we found our first nest of the King Rail, built in the reeds a few inches above the water, with a covering over it to protect it from the hot sun. We remember how carefully we parted the reeds at the top to see what it contained. We count the eggs twice, no mistake, there is fourteen creamy colored eggs, spotted with light reddish brown. We have some of them yet in our collection. Most of the Blackbird's nests contained fresh eggs. We remember when we

reached the lake. The Coots and Grebes were to be seen in countless numbers. We went along the east shore and found Wood Ducks and Tree Swallows nesting in the elms and willow stubs. In some instances the swallows had to be taken from the nest by hand. We secured several nice sets. On the west side of the lake we found several nests of the Virginia and Sora Rails, most of them contained eggs. On our way home several Least Bittern were seen in the tall wild rice. But we failed to locate their nests. But we were well satisfied with our trip.

W. HARRISON,
Houston Co., Minn.

Summer Tanager.

Six or seven years ago the Summer Red Bird or Summer Tanager was rarely seen in this vicinity, and, if it nested at all, bred in the thick scrub oaks far from any human habitation.

Five years ago I shot a fine male in full plumage, that was the first Summer Tanager taken here. It was not until a year or two ago, however, that they become anyways common, and now it can be seen almost any summer day. Its peculiar metallic note easily leads to its identification and also to the discovery of its nest. I have collected many nests that I never would have discovered had not the male bird uttered its cry of alarm at my proximity.

The male and female bird differ much in plumage, the former being a dull vermilion red and the latter olive.

The nest of the Summer Redbird here is one of the prettiest and neatest we have, it is composed outwardly of fine weed stems and internally of fine grasses, these grasses are green when procured by the bird, and as they retain their color for weeks, give the nest a very pretty appearance.

The nests are invariably built on a

horizontal branch or limb usually of oak, here.

Davie states in his last edition of the "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" that the nest of this species are frail and the bottom unusually thin, in fact in some cases the "eggs could be seen from the ground," this, while it may apply to the nests of the Summer Redbird in some localities, will not apply to the nest of *Pirango rubra* in Aiken county, which are compactly and handsomely built.

The average number of eggs of this species is three, sometimes four. In color they are a bright emerald green when first taken but this bright clear green fades in a month or two after the egg is blown, it is spotted dotted and blotched with various shades of lilac, brownish purple and dark brown. Davie also states the eggs are not distinguishable from those of *P. erythromelas*. Now all the eggs of that species that have come under my observation can be easily distinguished from the former, differing from it both in shape and markings. The eggs of the Summer Tanager, however, much resemble the eggs of *M. polyglottos*—mocking bird—when first taken. A series of 14 eggs in my cabinet average .88 by .67.

S. A. TAFT.
Aiken, S. C.

"The Way of the Transgressor is Hard."

To the truth of the above saying one Wm. Purdy with his numerous aliases, whom we published in December OÖLOGIST, can ere long most painfully testify, in one of his victims he made a poor choice in selecting the Publisher of a leading daily paper in one of the largest cities of the U. S. This Publisher with ample means, proof and counsel intends if possible to place Purdy where honest collectors are—unknown.

This month we sorrowfully add to our roll of dishonor the names of Letson Balliet alias Dean Schooler, of Des Moines, Iowa, and that of J. W. P. Smithwick, of Sans Souci, N. C. The necessity of publishing these names we

much regret as both are young men of the best home reputations and their families are of high rank.

Balliet claims that his sending out very common eggs for rarities was through his ignorance, which is undoubtedly the truth, for no one but an excessively ignorant collector would have sent out Mourning Dove eggs for those of the Saw-whet Owl, but Mr. B. made a bad mess of it when he attempted to replace them under an alias with woodpecker eggs. He promises to "never do so any more" and to replace any spurious eggs he may have sent out with genuine ones or cash.

Smithwick pleads "ignorance" and that owing to his tender years he "didn't know any better," we are inclined to differ with him, however, for at the age of 21 the average oölogist is out of swaddling garments and, in the North at least, knows much more, in his own estimation, than ever after.

Smithwick has doubtless palmed off more spurious eggs during the past two years on innocent and unsuspecting collectors—and older ones too, who had the utmost confidence in his statements and integrity—than any single oölogist that has come to our notice. We have long suspected that his Florida Burrowing Owls were spurious and last season returned them to him without explanation, he was still persistent and among others sent us a set of "Saw-whets" "we had him" there sure and by a little manoueuering elicited from him *three different* "original" datas for this single set of rarities but the datas fail to agree.

Data No. 1 reads: Collector, Franklin Benner. Locality, Leech Lake, Minn.

Data No. 2, "N. E. H" or J. W. P. Smithwick. Locality, near Leech Lake, Minn. Date, April 13, 1890.

Data No. 3, "Miners" from C. A. Wiley. Locality, "Copper Regions," Mich. Date, April 19, 1890. Identification was "A No. 1." "female caught on nest" &c.

We know that many of our advanced oölogical friends will fairly turn green with envy after reading of our bonanza, now as these three datas (we didn't try to obtain any more) for a single set were secured on July 24th, Aug. 3d and August 13th respectively, how many could we have secured up to date? It is our candid opinion that we would have found our "stool pigeon" as prolific as that renowned Massachusetts Flicker.

In companionship with our Owl datas we have an equally wonderful array accompanying some Broad-tailed (?) Hummers, to-wit: No. 1 Collector, Wm. G. Smith; Locality, Loveland, Col. No. 2 "S. E. D" for J. W. P. Smithwick; Pueblo Co., Col. No. 3 "Surveying party;" *Yalencia* Co., New Mexico. We have failed to locate the "Co." yet, but then we have the "original" data.

We, however, were not alone in acquiring desirable sets of Smithwick, only last week a friend in a neighboring city sent us for inspection a set of Cooper's Hawk which S. sent him for Swallow-tailed Kites from Starr Co., Texas—poor Fool!—and a set of Red-starts, which S. *personally* collected and *saw* the bird and sent them to our friend as Yellow-throated Warblers.

Every set of eggs that has passed through Smithwick's hands, if its identity cannot be positively determined by the specimens themselves we consider *valueless* and the data, from our own experience, and from what we might have secured by following up our own "No. 3's," can almost as truthfully be filled out:—Collector, "Adam"; Locality, "Oblivion."

F. M. Kinne, formerly of Knoxville, Iowa, but now of 419 Sixth Av., Des Moines has for several years had a reputation of being *very slow* especially in making returns to exchangers, he has apparently been prompt in offering desirable specimens, but after receiving your specimens it has required from one to three months of patient waiting, continuous spurring and in many cases serious threatening to elicit returns. He usually gave plausible reasons for delay and as far as our knowledge goes eventually made matters straight, we have had dealings with him for years and have never yet found him dishonest, and most sincerely trust that he can now give a satisfactory explanation for his long silence.

In a personal letter to us Mr. Kinne writes that he is now back on only 12 exchanges and that these were delayed on account of sickness, moving, &c. He says that these matters will be straightened up as early as possible, and that he will make everything to his patrons entire satisfaction. We have confidence that Mr. K. will do exactly as he has agreed.

Mr. John V. Crone of Marathon, Iowa, writes:

'H. E. Berry, formerly of Damariscotta, Me., now of Boston, Mass., is a fraud. Some 17 months ago I sent him eggs for rubber stamps and other eggs. In the course of some six months, after repeated "duns" I received part of the eggs, the remaining balance of our account amounting to \$8.65. I have not been able to get though I have written many times and have received many promises a typical one being: "*I will settle with you with good interest inside of five days.*" received some months ago. I am not the only one he has fleeced as the following extracts will show."

Lack of space prevents our printing the "extracts" from the letters of several collectors.

Mr. Berry we believe to be honest, intentionally at least, but by dealing in "futures" fell by the way—with us his fault has always been in promising specimens that he was "going to obtain or collect" and during the past season he has apparently bitten off more he could masticate. Mr. Berry's home friends and business men all speak well of him.

P. B. Peabody, of Minnesota writes:—

"Careful collectors should be on the watch for Iowa, Kansas and Mississippi parties who are sending out eggs of Flicker and Mourning Dove for those of Poor-will."

In conclusion we advise collectors to make purchases and exchanges of *reliable and known* dealers and collectors only. Their prices may seem higher or their terms less advantageous but the results will prove far more satisfactory.

Advanced collector's should not entertain the idea of exchanging with "boys" and the latter must for the time being be content to exchange among themselves.

We do not knowingly publish advertisements or exchanges of any but reliable parties, any of our readers finding them otherwise should promptly advise us stating full particulars.

We will investigate the matter, and if found as reported will give them a gratuitous editorial puff and if circumstances demand will place their cases in the hands of proper Government officials.

Hermit Thrush.

The Hermit Thrush is very rare in

this vicinity, ranking next to Olive-backed which is our rarest Thrush. They are invariably found in dense undergrowth on the borders of low thick woods. Never more than one pair in a place as I have observed here.

It is a very shy bird, generally preferring to skulk off on the ground rather than fly. They do not sing any such song as the Wood and Wilson's Thrushes do, at least when I have been within hearing. Their usual note is a low mournful whistle. The nest is generally placed in the midst of a small thick bush and close to the ground. I have not found any placed more than 10 in. from the ground and most of my finds were much closer. In this vicinity they are made entirely of dead leaves, inside and out. I found a nest on June 9th containing four eggs nearly fresh. They were slightly smaller than the Wilson's and darker colored, but in some cases they resemble each other closely. Nest as described.

ERNEST H. SHORT,
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

The Horned Grebe at St. Clair Flats.

In the December OÖLOGIST an article on the Horned Grebe as an abundant resident in this locality which I think must be a mistake as during three seasons nesting in the marshes of Detroit River I have never seen but the Thick-billed Grebe, which is very common during the breeding season, and from the description of nest in this article I will add that it is identical with the nest of the Thick-billed Grebe as far as my observations are concerned. I will say, however, that Horned Grebes have been shot at the "flats" during the late fall, and I am quite confident that they nest to the north of here.

W. A. DAVIDSON,
Detroit, Mich.

[A few years since Prof. H. P. Atwater sent us several sets of the Horned Grebe, collected on Mitchell Bay, St. Clair Flats, Canada side. Ed.]

"Our Birds in Their Haunts."

Our Friend, the Rev. J. H. Langille, of Box 63, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., under date of Dec. 21st, writes as follows:

"The subscriptions to my new edition of "Our Birds in Their Haunts" are coming in very hopefully; but the number

needed is large. Please extend the time to March 1, 1892.

I enclose a few out of the many commendations I have received from all over the country, as to my book. If you could give place to a few of them it might help my present edition. Make your selection. Do not fail to call attention to the extension of time, and that the price of the work afterward will be \$2.50."

Our readers should remember that according to offer made in November OÖLOGIST advance subscriptions will secure a copy of the new edition for \$1.60—no money required until the work is published, and from the above you will note that our Friend Langille has deemed it advisable to extend this time to March 1st. These advance subscriptions are required not for profit, but as a guarantee of the actual cost of publication, his profits on these advance subscriptions will consist chiefly of a commodity without monetary value, viz:—"glory."

We became personally acquainted with Mr. Langille over ten years ago, when a resident of our county, he was then and always has been a firm friend of every young naturalist, and seems to delight in their companionship, undoubtedly this trait in his character in no small measure accounts for the popularity of his work, and will give the readers of the OÖLOGIST a special impetus in order that the new edition will not be unnecessarily delayed for want of the required number of advance subscribers.

Through Mr. Langille's valued articles which have appeared from time to time in the OÖLOGIST, our readers can form a slight opinion as to the value of his book.

Below we give a few quotations selected from the many commendations received from the first edition.

"More than two years ago I first saw your work, 'Our Birds in their Haunts,' at the Pratt Library, Baltimore; and was delighted to find a book which answered the purpose of the young beginner so admirably, and determined to own a copy as soon as possible, which desire was gratified soon after. Since then I have read it straight through any number of times, each time with equal or increased interest, and have also used it constantly as a reference. Not only do I find it invaluable as a guide, especially to the habits, for which I think it is the best general work short of Audubon's; but boundless is the pleasure I have received from it as a literary work. I read it, and find such sympathy with my own feelings toward nature, that I have ever been drawn toward its author as a personal friend."

GEO. H. GRAY,
Baltimore, Md.

"I have your excellent work, 'Our Birds in Their Haunts,' and value it greatly. It is one of the few works of its kind of my acquaintance that one not a student of birds could read with interest and pleasure. I have often taken it and re-read page after page with renewed interest, and wished from the bottom of my heart that I might know the author personally, and might go with him to some of the localities so well described, to study the birds under his direction and inspiration.

F. W. MCCORMACK,
Editor of the Leighton News.

"If I had a child old enough to read, 'Our Birds in Their Haunts,' would be the first book I should place in his hands."

E. B. WEBSTER,
Publisher of the Cresco Republican, Cresco, Ia.

"The copy of 'Our Birds in Their Haunts' you sent me some days since, was duly received and has been examined with pleasure and deep interest. Considered as a popular work its plan seems to have been happily conceived while each page bears evidence of the writer's intense love of nature and his ability not only observe intelligently, but to express felicitously the aspects of nature and the varied traits of bird-life that under review. It is evidently the work of not only an enthusiastic bird-lover and field naturalist, but of a writer who is fully competent for the pleasant task he has undertaken. As a popular exposition of the life-histories of the birds of Eastern North America, 'Our Birds in Their Haunts' will doubtless meet with the cordial welcome it so well deserves; while its freshness and originality make the work a valuable contribution to the literature of North American ornithology."

J. A. ALLEN,
President of the Ornithologist Union, and
Editor of the Auk.

A Correction.

Please correct a slight mistake in November OÖLOGIST in my list of birds No. 305 Prairie Hen reads "not so abundant as *Bonasa umbellus*," but it should be "not so abundant as *Colinus virginianus*."

W. E. LOUCKS,
Peoria, Ills.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the OÖLOGIST. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

56	signifies your subscription	expired	June	1890.
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We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25, "62"—\$1.00, "68"—75c, "74"—50c.
Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the OÖLOGIST your indebtedness to us is 45 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books Jan. 10, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

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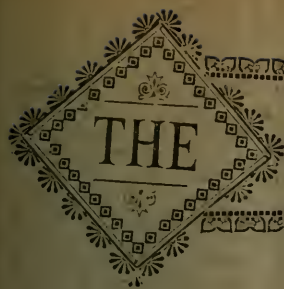
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E. W. WILCOX, ALBION, N. Y.



THE OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1892.

NO.

Exchanges and Wants.

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

WILL COLLECT first-class eggs and skins and exchange for same. Reliable parties. A. V. THOMSON, 321 College St., Iowa City, Iowa.

A 2x3 INCH PRESS, with short type, minerals, fossils, for Brevier or larger type, with figures, etc. R. M. DALRYMPLE, Greenville, Ohio.

Would like to exchange birds skins or eggs with collectors in different localities. Correspondence with collectors and taxidermists solicited. LOUIS DENNING, Council Grove, Kansas.

TO EXCHANGE.—Western eggs for Eastern eggs or other eggs I haven't in my collection. Write for particulars. J. KELLEY, Box 142 Leavenworth, Kans.

WANTED.—Skins of Gt. Horned Owl and fur-bearing mammalia for eggs A. O. U. 686, 671-683, 571, 274, etc. TABER D. BAILEY, Montgomery St., Bangor, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE.—A hard-wood cabinet six drawers, 2 in deep, for the best offer in eggs singles and sets. Write to me, no postals. E. E. HAMMETT, Jr., The Trenton, Cleveland, Ohio.

TO EXCHANGE.—Five first-class skins of the Mountain Partridge and three of California Partridge for Cones' Key, fourth edition. Address TOM STANLEY, Cuyamaca, California.

WANTED.—Glass eyes. Have to exchange, stamps, two Eagle Stamping outfits and eggs in singles and sets. FRED S. HAGGART, Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Several parties desire to purchase Fancy Pigeons, Live squirrels and other pet stock, if you have any for sale, why do you not advertise in the OÖLOGIST?

I desire at once a good skin of *Pseudoryphus californicus* (California Vulture). Write at once stating condition, sex, and lowest cash price. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A collection of one hundred eggs, eighty different kinds, mostly second class. Many rare ones, all in good condition, for a Smith & Wesson revolver in fine condition. All letters answered. G. F. STROTHER, Culpeper, Virginia.

WANTED.—First-class eggs of following: Gray-cheeked Thrush, Dwarf Thrush, Audubon's Hermit Thrush, St. Lucas Robin, Varied Thrush, Leconte's Thrasher. Will pay cash for some. Address E. B. SCHRAGE, Pontiac, Mich.

LOOK! LOOK! Lot of Golden Days, magic lantern, mineral collection (40 specimens), stamps, books, good fishing tackle, etc., what offers in fossils, curiosities, minerals and ores? L. E. SEABER, Lititz, Pa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Cabinet photos, of leading Sioux Indians, battle scene taken at Wounded Knee, Sioux Indian relics and a pair of all-clamp ice-skates. Will exchange for eggs, minerals, insects or any cabinet specimen. Send descriptive list and receive mine. All letters answered. FRANK BENECKE, Chadron, Neb.

I have \$10 worth of Phonographic publications, *new*, your selection from publishers catalogue. Will exchange for good 2d hand standard works on Natural History, Ornithology or Oology preferred, or for desirable Indian Relics. What offers? FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

EXCHANGE NOTICE.—I have a few fine sets of Chachalacas also others to exchange, can use many common and rare sets also back numbers of the "Auk" for which I will exchange good sets, or pay cash or part cash. Few goodsets Whelp-poor will and Chuek-wills-widow especially desired. Please send list and receive mine, also quote lowest terms cash for "Auk" and sets Nos. 416 and 417 A. O. U. C. W. CRAN DALL, Woodside, Queens Co., N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Cones' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—Maynard Flobert rifle in good condition. Will give Gulliver's Travels and Baron Munchausen, cloth bound (new), 1 vol. St. Nicholas and receipt for embalming birds for same. WALTER JOHNSON, 132 W. Brook St., Galesburgh, Ill.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

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TO EXCHANGE.—Stamp album stamps, books, back Nos. of Youths' Companion 1883-8 for eggs in sets with data. ERNEST IRONS, 310 N. 2d St., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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TO EXCHANGE.—100 envelopes, size 6 with any address, for every 70 cts. worth of stamps or first class birds eggs sent me valued at 2cts. or more. GEO. A. FREEMAN, Box 71 Auburn de Mass.

WILL EXCHANGE Woods Illustrated History, good condition, eighteenth edition, value \$3, for Langille's Our Birds in their Haunts. T. PATTON, Hamilton, Canada.

TO EXCHANGE.—Tennis racket, stylographic pen, books, coins, stamps, electrical goods, mounted birds and other things, for oologists or taxidermists instruments, climbers, eggs, etc. D. B. BARTLETT, 1054 Elm St., Manchester, N. H.

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EXCHANGE.—A World Type-writer, valued at \$15, pair of climbers, lot of reading matter, total value \$30, for first-class sets with data. Correspondence solicited. D. FRANK KELLER, Reading, Penna.

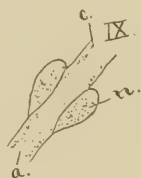
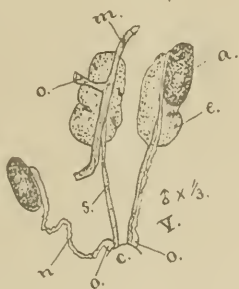
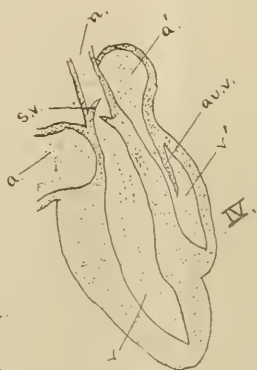
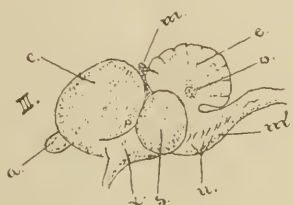
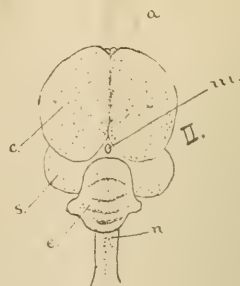
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WANTED.—Single barreled breech loading shot gun. Must be in good condition. Will give in exchange, mounted birds, skins or eggs in sets with data. WHIT HARRISON, La Crescent, Minn.

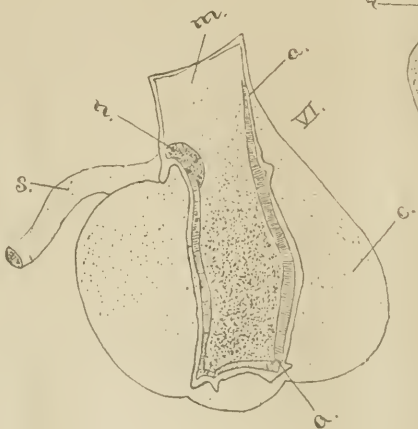
WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Cones' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

A COLLECTION OF A 1 SKINS, valued at over ten dollars, and a set of 1-5 Gambels Sparrow gratis, all with complete data, for Cones' Key (4th Ed.) or Ridgway's Manual in good condition. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318-320 Ex. Block, Salem, Oregon.

A FINE VIOLIN and outfit worth \$10, a canvas canoe and paddle worth \$5, some fine war relics, some good books, a pair of nickel-plated skates and a good flute, for a double or single barreled breech loading shot-gun (12 or 16 ga) in good condition. Give accurate description. W. TALLEY, 612 Edwin Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.



VII.



THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1892.

NO. 2

ZOÖTOMY.

THE DOMESTIC PIGEON.

In the following notes, the writer does not pretend to put forth anything new, and but little, if anything original. The material has been collected from standard works on the subject and from his own notes taken under competent instructors, and dissections made during the last year. He only hopes to give a few, or perhaps many young students an introduction to one of the most interesting of studies. These notes can be of no interest to the student who does not perform the work as indicated. A mere reading of them would be as fruitless and uninteresting as the reading of Dr. Jordan's "Manual of the Vertebrates" without seeing a specimen. A bird has been chosen as the subject, as it is supposed that most readers of the OÖLOGIST are interested in birds. While these notes will apply in a general way to the class, yet the student must not lose sight of the fact that comparisons are very important and should be made whenever opportunity is presented. Many interesting peculiarities will be noted in the comparative anatomy, "internal" as well as "external," of the *Sinicola*, *Gallina*, *Raptores*, *Passeres* and others. The Pigeon is selected on account of the comparative ease of obtaining specimens as well as the convenient size of the bird.

The implements absolutely needed to make a successful dissection are few and simple. A scalpel, a pair of fine pointed scissors, small forceps, blow-pipe, a hand lens and several dissecting needles made by forcing the eye-end of a large needle into a soft stick of convenient size. Probes made by dipping the ends of large bristles into hot sealing wax. The small drop of wax, on cooling will make a little ball which will prevent the probe "going wrong."* Pen, pencil, ink, dividers and a good quality of drawing paper together with the note book must never be wanting. Not only should the student verify all notes in this article, but careful drawings of all dissections should be made. First, lightly drawn with a hard lead pencil and then traced with ink, remembering that exactness is more important than ornament.

With the aid of dividers all drawings should be made on an exact scale; natural size when convenient. Do not attempt a drawing until the dissection has been put in the best possible shape, and all the characteristics have been made out. Make your dissections on a table facing a window so that no shadows will bother. Although we have not space to pay much attention to external peculiarities of the pigeon, we can-

* A pair of bone-crushing forceps, heavy scissors, cartilage-knife, an injecting syringe, &c., may be used to great advantage.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE. DOMESTIC PIGEON *Columbia Irida*. (Pen-drawing from dissections.) Fig. I. Head showing cere, &c. Fig. II. Brain, from above. a, olfactory lobes, c, cerebral hemispheres, m, pineal body, s, optic lobe, e, cerebellum, n, medulla oblongata. Fig. III. c, cerebral hemispheres, m, pineal body, a, olfactory lobe, e, cerebellum, s, optic lobes, m, medulla oblongata, n, roots of nerves, x, optic tracts, o, flocculus. Fig. IV. Half of heart, v, left ventricle, n, aorta, s, v, semi-lunar valves, v', right ventricle, a, u, v, right auriculo-ventricular valve, a, left auricle. (The section was so made that the connection between this and ventricle is not shown.) a', right auricle. Fig. V. Male sexual and urinary organs, x₁, a, testis in place, e, kidney, s, ureter, n, vas deferens, o, vesicula seminalis, c, cloaca, m, iliac vein, o, femoral vein. Fig. VI. Half of gizzard, c, c, thick muscular walls of same, a, horny epithelial lining, m, entrance of digestive canal, the proventriculus, s, duodenum, n, pylorus (opening into duodenum). Fig. VII. Cross section of brain showing (a) folds of cerebrum and (c) arbor vitæ. [This last (VII) from fresh brain.] Fig. VIII. Lower part of tracheæ and bronchial tubes. Fig. IX. n, cœca, a, rectum, c, small intestine.

not help glancing at the head. (see cut I). Notice the *eye*, position, size, &c.; compare with other birds: notice upper and lower eyelid; find the third lid; notice live bird wink; the *beak*; shape, size, color; *nostrils*; open mouth and probe to find their opening into mouth: nostrils open beneath a soft tumid cere; compare with bills of other birds; find the auditory aperture; compare with other birds; has size and shape anything to do with acuteness of hearing? make a careful drawing of head. **The specimen should be killed with chloroform or ether*. If put in a large glass jar with chloroformed sponge, note which way it falls when being overcome by the drug. Laying specimen on board, draw outline of bird; dip in hot water and pluck; draw another outline of body; compare with first; notice feather tras, &c., &c.; thrast blow-pipe (one without enlargement of end) in the mouth: loop a string around the beak behind sere, tightening it enough to prevent air escaping while the crop and *air sacs* are inflated; withdraw the blow-pipe, at the same instant tightening the loop to prevent escape of air; tie securely; make an incision through skin along keel of sternum back to vent and forward to throat. Skin the whole ventral surface of the body; (being careful not to cut the crop) the *oesophagus*, trace it from mouth to crop; lobes of crop; fine lines, *muscle fibres* in walls of crop; *jugular veins* on each side of neck; *trachea*; rings of same; are they complete rings? do not forget drawing paper; large muscle of breast; muscles of abdomen; make an abdominal incision from sternum to vent; be careful not to cut the *abdominal air-sacs*; part the abdominal walls and note the *air-sacs*; find another pair of air-sacs anterior to these; remove the ligature around mandibles; break the humerus bone of one wing, after clearing it of flesh; insert

the broken body-end of bone in water; inflate air-sacs as before; what does this show? What are you doing with your note-book? the membrane which covered the contents of abdomen is the great *omentum*; make incisions on each side of keel of breast-bone; dissect away breast muscles, noting their structure, &c., with strong scissors make an incision through the sternum parallel to the keel; inflate the air-sacs at first; part the pieces of breast-bone; can any more air-sacs be seen? make another incision of sternum similar to first on other side; remove keel of sternum; note the position &c. of the following organs, viz:—*Liver*, *gizzard*, heart, lungs, intestines, &c., trace the digestive canal from crop to gizzard; backward from gizzard, the part of intestine nearest it is the *duodenum*—its loop shape; *pancreas* in loop; trace intestine backward; the *mesentery*, the thin membrane holding intestine; trace the intestine to the two bulb-like protuberances, the *caeca*; (cut IX-n.) back of these the digestive canal is known as the *large intestine*: the widening of the large intestine near the vent is the *cloaca*. The *liver*; lobes; the *bile ducts* leaving the right lobe; where do they empty? notice ducts leading from pancreas. The part of the canal for a short distance in front of gizzard is the *proventriculus*.

[To be continued in the March number.]

Bro' Partridge.

Hudson is a town of about 800 inhabitants. In September 1889, I saw a Ruffed Grouse in the garden upon an apple tree over run by a Concord grape vine. Every day or two for a month I saw him there. He staid in town all winter, in April he disappeared. In fall of 1890, he was on hand again, and during that winter spent three weeks of the severest weather in a large Norway spruce within twenty-five feet of my

*The bird should have fasted a day or two before being killed.

window. He went out upon an apple tree three times per day, eating buds industriously, once he was within ten feet of me, as I stood upon the walk. Last spring he left as usual, and this fall in October he returned. Last Sunday he alighted upon the window sill within two feet of where I sat reading. He was not after me, but after the woodbine berries.

I have Kodaked him three times at 20, 12 and 12 feet. Pictures not yet developed. He spends considerable time under the front sitting-room window. After young clover, grasses, woodbine berries and gravel. If anyone comes by he leisurely walks down under the arbor vitae hedge, ten feet away.

But soon he returned. He has a good many families who know him well and would not have him hurt for the world.

My setter dog "Tom Dollar" has pointed him several times. When with me I have called him off. But how many times he has started him in his morning runs, I know not.

F. HODGE,
Hudson, O.

Yellow Warbler.

There is a swampy stretch of land within easy access from my house which is a favorite breeding place of the Yellow Warbler.

The bird is about five inches long. The principle color is yellow with some variation. The breast and back are streaked with orange brown (often indistinctly). There are no blotches on the tail-feathers as in all other *Dendroica*

Their flight is never long. If you were to approach this meadow about the middle of May, you would see them flying about from twig to twig either obtaining food or gathering material for their nests.

The nest of the Golden Warbler, as it is sometimes called, is one of the neat-

est and most well built specimens of bird architecture I ever saw. It is usually placed in a bush not far from the ground. Yet sometimes it is fastened close to the trunk of a small tree quite high up. Minot describes the nest as being composed outwardly of very fine grasses, interwoven with woolly or cotton materials which form a substantial wall. "This," he says "often covered with caterpillar's silk and is lined with wool, down from plants (particularly a dun-colored kind,) horse hairs rarely feathers."

The eggs are characteristic of the birds themselves. They vary to some extent. I have two before me which I will describe:—1. White with yellowish-brown markings, chiefly about the crown. 2. White with obscured lilac markings.

As soon as you come in the immediate vicinity of their nests they will leave them, and hover very near, at the time uttering in a beseeching tone a melancholy chirp which becomes more intense as you advance nearer the nest. In this way I have often found nests, where, otherwise I would not have noticed them.

Its notes are quite variable. You may often hear its soft chirp while they are at work among the bushes.

They are rather shy at the approach of man, except when their nests are disturbed. They are of great benefit in destroying insects, caterpillars' and canker worms which they like exceedingly.

A. B. DUNNING,
Jamaica Plains, Mass.

Black-throated Bunting.

A cheerier, happier feathered vocalist can scarcely be found, than the Black-throated Bunting or Dickcissel as he is locally called, and sometimes termed the Lady Lark, (*Spiza americana*) is about four inches in length, and wing

spread three inches, the color is brown above, drabish light beneath, with a yellow band beneath the throat.

In the heat of the hot June and July sun, it will swing to and fro in some tree or on a swaying weed and chant its few, unmusical notes, when all other songsters are silenced.

Its notes can be heard coming from all directions in a locality where *Spiza* is numerous as in this. A favorite place is some top-most twig of a tree near the nest, on which the female is setting upon which the male sways back and forth during the entire day utter his song. There is scarcely ever more than a pair in company. The food consists of seeds largely and many insects. When the nest is approached both birds remain near uttering their cry in which scarcely indifference can be detected from that uttered in happiness, unless, perchance, the nest should contain young, then the scene is different, the parents remain near uttering cries of distress and flying near the intruder.

The nest of the Black-throated Bunting may be found in a variety of places, often upon the ground in meadows or attached between several large stalks, sometimes in bushes or hedges generally near the ground when placed in bushes or small shrubs. The nest is often composed of coarse tongue grass on the exterior and lined with hair or some equally soft or downy substance. The nest is usually composed of fine material and a well made structure, but some probably from hurried building or by an inexperienced pair are made of husks of corn, coarse rootlets, etc., but usually lined with some comforting element, but the average nest is an architectural affair of merit to the feathered builders.

The eggs deposited from May to July are of a blueish green, three to five eggs constitute a complement, and I think two broods are often reared in a

season, they are exceedingly shy and if molested will often vacate their parental abode.

The eggs measure from .75x.60 to .80 x.62 as an average.

JAMES HILL,
Edinburg, Ills.

Mountain Bluebird.

768. *Sialia arctica*, (SWAINS)

Hab. Rocky Mountains and higher ranges west of them.

This is our common and only Bluebird, in higher elevations of the Cascade Mt. range.

It is by no means abundant, in the vicinity where I made my observations, (Sweet Home, Oregon,) and I only saw 6 pairs within a radius of 5 or 6 miles. Its nesting sites are similar to those of *Sialia sialis*, but is more often found in barns and out buildings, than *S. sialis*

I have found it nesting in the Post Office front, in under the eaves of the hotel, and deserted Woodpecker holes, generally not a great distance from the habitations of man.

The nests are composed mostly of fine dry grass, but in some locations coarser material is used to strengthen the nest in an unsecure position.

The eggs are generally 6 in number of a pale blue color, with a slight greenish tinge. They are a little more pale than the eggs of *Sialia sialis*, and will average about .84x.64.

Nesting season begins about May 15th and fresh eggs can be secured by June 5th.

Western Blue bird.

No. 767. *Sialia mexicana*, (SWAINS)

Hab. Western U. S., from Rocky Mountains to Pacific.

This bird is chiefly found in the valleys and low foothills of the mountains,

Its habits are similar to those of the eastern bird, it nesting in holes of dead trees, and bird boxes, &c. The nest is composed of dry grass, leaves and some times a few feathers.

The eggs are from 4 to 6 in number of a pale blue color, and somewhat darker than *Sialia arctica*, also somewhat smaller averaging about .80x.61.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

Oregon Chickadee.

No. 735b. *Parus atricapillus occidentalis*. (Baird.)

Hab. Pacific coast from California northward.

This is a common specie in Linn Co., Oregon. It is not found as abundant in the lefs as in the hills and mountains, probably on account of the better facility for nesting afforded in the many dead trees in the mountain or wooded districts.

It feeds upon insects and their larvae, and at the close of the nesting season, gather in flocks (if the term may apply) and traverses the woods, going from bush to bush, in search of their food. The fruit orchards are also visited, and in this small bird the farmer has one of his best friends.

The nesting season begins in April, and fresh eggs may be obtained as late as June. I found one nest on June 28 which contained five young and one egg.

It nests in deserted woodpecker holes rotten stumps, and the complement of eggs is usually six although seven to nine have been found. Its nest is composed of moss and dry grass thickly lined with feathers and down. The eggs are of a white color, thickly speckled, mostly at the larger ends, with shades of brown.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

Western Yellow-throat.

No. 681a. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. Brewst.

Hab. Western U. S., west of the Mississippi. (Davie.)

This species is common in the low swampy districts which are over-grown with wild rose bushes and tall marsh grass, in the vicinity of Sweet Home, Oregon. Although on entering such a locality you are greeted by several of the birds, it is no easy matter to find their nest. The bushes generally are very thick and grass perhaps a foot high. The nest being safely tucked away in some tussock of grass in the midst of these briars. The general habits of the bird resemble those of *G. trichas*.

The nest is made of fine dry grass, some times partly roofed over like the Meadow Lark.

The eggs are four or five in number of a creamy white, spotted at the larger end with shades of brown and black.

It's nesting season is in May. I have secured fresh eggs as late as June 6. Their average size is .66x.48.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

My Trays.

As trays are an important factor of the cabinet, I will try to describe mine.

Although the majority of collectors will use nothing but paste-board trays, I hope a few will give the tray, I am about to describe, a trial.

Having had no satisfaction out of paste-board trays, I have at last a tray that suits me in every respect. Taking a block of poplar, 3x3x $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, I had a circular hole cut in it by means of a lathe, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. This made a square tray with a circular cavity within a sixteenth of the sides of the block and with an eighth of an inch bottom.

After sand papering it, I finished it off with a coat of black enamel.

Another tray was finished off with cherry stain and another was cut out of cedar and left with the natural finish.

These trays have a few advantages over the paste-board variety. They do not warp and can be had of any size or shape. They can be made to fit the cabinet drawer very snugly and produce a beautiful effect. Imagine, reader, a tray finished off in black enamel, filled with red cedar sawdust, and a set of four beautiful, blue eggs of the Wood Thrush reposing therein.

The trays can be made very cheaply. Poplar wood is the best and perhaps the cheapest. For a small amount, an inch board can be bought that will make a great many. After dressing the board, a sixteenth of an inch on each side, it may be cut into the blocks of the size desired. Then they are ready for the lathe.

I had my trays cut out very cheaply at the rate of one dollar per hundred at a cabinet shop. These I finished off according to my taste and time.

Next month, I may say a few words concerning the data I use, providing the editor does not consign this to the waste basket.

W. E. Loucks.
Peoria, Ills.

Pileated Woodpecker.

I read the article on the Pileated Woodpecker in the last number of the OÖLOGIST, and would like to make known to the readers of this paper some of my notes on this bird.

I had read considerable about how shy and retiring it was and how it disappeared from its haunts as civilization advanced. The first time I came across this King of Northern Woodpeckers was Oct. 5, 1888. I was at Trout Brook about twenty-five miles from Minneapolis, hunting gray squirrels. I was in

a small grove of trees, near a traveled road and within three hundred yards of a farm house. I had just shot a large grey squirrel, when I saw a large black bird fly from a neighboring tree and alight on a fence close by, which upon being shot proved to be a Pileated Woodpecker. Upon showing my bird to a farmer, he said one of his boys had shot one two weeks before in the same place.

The next time was June 5, 1891 at Buffalo, Wright Co., Minn. I was at Buffalo Lake after some of those five pound bass, which inhabit its waters. One night after a hard days work with the rod, we were taking it easy and telling a few "that reminds me" yarns. One of the party told of a Heron roost, that he had visited a short time back, and a colony of Woodpeckers, that he had found down near Pelican Lake.

As I was very desirous of securing another specimen I started for Pelican Lake the next morning at daylight. After an hour's drive I put up at a farmhouse, and went across the fields to the woods. At the edge of the woods from an old cotton-wood stub, about forty feet high I saw a Pileated Woodpecker fly. I had found my birds and now to get one. I followed in chase but could not get a shot so I returned to the nest, sat down and waited for the Woodpecker to come back. It was a long wait, but at about noon back he came and flew upon the top of a tall cotton-wood; it was an easy shot: he is now No. 213 in my cabinet.

Now the cottonwood stub in which this Woodpecker had its nest is within three hundred feet of a farm house, with a path running directly under the tree.

In these two cases which have come under my notice, it will be seen that these Woodpeckers do not always shun civilization; or has my experience been entirely different.

W. F. DEALING,
Minneapolis, Minn.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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

Notes, Queries, short items and black-list will occur in March OÖLOGIST

The writers of articles appearing in January and February OÖLOGISTS knew nothing about the prize article contest at the time of sending in their Mss.

Judges in the prize article contest

must name the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th articles as they may deem most valuable, if they do not name the whole series there is very little, if any, possibility of their being awarded one of the Judges' prizes.

The fine geological collection made by the late Prof. Worthen, State Geologist of Illinois, will form a part of the Illinois exhibit at the Exposition. The State World's Fair Board has purchased it for \$8,000.

Notes on Albinos.

I read with interest, Mr. R. G. Goss's article in November issue on Albino Birds and his account recalls to mind the only freak in the bird line I ever saw alive in a wild state. This was a pure white House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) feeding on a road in the city. He was very tame and I approached within five feet of him. He flew to a brick building and hopped onto the gravelly roof out of sight.

In the museum of the Detroit Scientific Association, however, there are several Albinos, of which I recollect the following: Green-winged Teal (adult male), Musk Rat, Red Squirrel and Belted Kingfisher; also a black and white American Coot, Rusty Black-bird and Gray Squirrel. I will look these specimens up and give a more definite description in the near future. Have also seen two live Albino Racoons, a mounted Crow, pure white with the exception of the tail which was dull black, and a snow white Florida Gallinule.

White eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren are not uncommon here, and the fact that such eminent ornithologists as Prof. Ridgway and Capt. Bendire

should pronounce them "a great freak of nature" is a surprise to me. I must have taken at least seven sets of this species last June which contained white eggs. The average number in these sets were five and six and ranged in color about as follows: two natural, three white or light dirty yellow, spotted or blotched at the larger end, and the remainder pure white. I succeeded in washing the spots off many of the lightly marked eggs. My brother and Mr. Bradshaw Swales of this city have both taken a few pure white eggs of this species. I recollect Mr. Swales finding a set of six, all of which were white and another containing five white and one of the typical color and markings. Would be pleased to hear from him on the subject through your paper. All the white eggs are very rough and rather thick shelled.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

A Day's Trip for Bald Eagle Nests in Florida.

What oölogist has not wished to find an eagle's nest, and dreamed of climbing some huge tree or scaling a steep cliff in quest of one. As I am no exception to the rule and thinking my brother collectors would be interested, I will relate how my wildest dreams were more than realized by finding three nests in one day.

On Dec. 14, '91 Mr. R. C. Stuart and myself started with horse and buggy at 8:30 a. m. for Gadsen Point on Tampa Bay, eleven miles from home, in quest of Bald Eagle's nests. After a pleasant ride of two hours and a half we came out on the Point and began to search the tree tops for nests and in a few minutes had spied a huge nest in a large pine about seventy feet from the ground; as it was the first nest that I had ever seen you can imagine my feelings.

As we approached the nest one of the birds flew off and began circling around

the tree screaming with alarm which soon brought its mate, and the two sailing around in their graceful flight made a beautiful picture.

Losing no time I strapped on my climbers and started up, but finding the tree too large to reach around I had to use a strap until the first limb was reached, and leaving it there soon reached the bottom of the nest, but here came the difficult part for the nest was so flaring that it was hard to gain access to the top, but after a little planning soon swung over into the nest, but the sight that met my gaze sent a shade of disappointment over my face for there sat two young eagles, scattered all around the nest were parts of ducks and fish some nearly fresh.

The nest was about six feet in depth and eight feet across the top, perfectly flat on top except a small hollow in the center about a foot in diameter and six inches deep lined with fine grass and weeds. The bulk of the nest was composed of pine branches about an inch in diameter but some were much larger, three feet long and two inches thick.

The nest was placed in the fork of the large main limbs and was so solid that I stood up and *walked around* on the nest.

This nest is typical of about a dozen nests which I have examined in the past three weeks. Taking the young eagles for mounting I soon descended and we started on. In about two hours we had found two more nests, and obtained two fine sets of eggs. As it was now getting late we packed the eggs safely in our dinner basket (an indispensable article on eggin' trips) and started homeward. To say that we were happy would not express it, I had found what I had been looking for for several years and my joy kept bubbling over at times. Well we reached home about dark and so ended a trip long to be remembered.

WILLARD ELIOT,
Tampa, Florida

Partridges and Their Relatives.

As there has been a great deal of confusion in our country as to Partridges, quails, grouse, and ptarmigans it may be well to make a diagnosis of the differentiating points in these kinds of gallinaceous birds. As a group or order, they are strongly marked; and may be associated with our common Domestic fowl. In other words, they are the wild hens.

Quails and Partridges on the one hand, and the grouse and the ptarmigan on the other, are well differentiated from each other; for the naked legs and feet and naked scab-covered nostrils of the former, always mark them as distinct from the feathered legs or feathered legs and feet and finely feathered nostrils of the latter.

Quails and Partridges, then, do not have feathers on the feet and legs; and no bird having such appendages should be called a Partridge or Quail. But to distinguish between the Quail and Partridge is not so easy. In this country it is the more difficult, from the fact that in the strictest typical sense, we have neither Partridges nor Quails, but birds of such structural characters, as place them between these two heading points of classification. Ornithologists, however, are coming to decide, that the short, thick, vaulted bills of our so called Quails in America, place them rather with the Partridges. The Quails proper of the Old World, have a longer, straighter, and more alternated bill, a longer and more pointed wing, and a more slender leg than our so called Quails. They are more particularly birds of flight and of passage, and far less of a scratching and running bird. Our common Quail so-called, therefore, and the elegant so-called Quails of western North America, are Partridges rather than Quails; and should be designated accordingly.

As to the Grouse and the Ptarmigan,

the differentiation is easier, and we have genuine representatives of the two families in this country. The Ptarmigan, *genus lagopus or hare-foot*, has the toes feathered out to the claws, strikingly like the foot of a hare; while the Grouse has only the leg feathered, and the claws pectinated with a sort of scales. Generally, too, the Ptarmigan, as it is a bird of the snowy mountain regions, for which its foot, fitted with a sort of snow-shoe, is so well adapted, turns white in winter; while the Grouse retains its color, and is not so boreal in its habitat.

Our Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), therefore, is not a Partridge, nor yet a Pheasant, but a genuine Grouse; and one of the most beautiful and interesting of its kind.

This is the substance of a discussion before the Ornithologist Association at Washington, D. C., Dec. 1, 1891.

J. H. LANGILLE.

Notes on some Peculiar Eggs.

Peculiarities occur so frequently in the coloration of eggs as to be scarcely worth recording as a rule, but the four sets mentioned below differ so greatly from the normal types as to merit a brief description.

Set a. Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

Two eggs. Ground color, *now* a clear pale blue, much like Bluebird's, but were originally somewhat darker, over this a few light brown dots are scattered, so small as to be scarcely noticeable.

Set b. Black Skimmer (*Rhynchops nigra*).

Two eggs. Color dull white, *unspotted*.

Set c. American Oystercatcher (*Hæmatopus palliatus*).

Two eggs. No. 1 normal in all respects. No. 2, ground color darker than usual, while the superficial color

is massed in one spot measuring $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in. and some half dozen minute dots, the whole effect being very peculiar.

Set d. Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*).

Two eggs. No. 1, ground color pale greenish-blue, resembling the Least Bittern's. Pigment all confined to one spot, nearly round, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter. The color is black and very thick like a drop of oil paint. No. 2 resembles No. 1, but spot is larger, being nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, its edges sharply defined.

There is a noticeable deficiency in the amount of pigment in sets a and b and this I think admits of a ready explanation. The eggs of Gulls and Skimmers are commonly taken for food and the colonies from which the above mentioned sets were obtained had previously been systematically harried for several weeks, until the reproductive powers of the birds were well nigh exhausted.

In case of sets c and d the peculiarities are not accounted for so easily. Here the color is normal in quantity but abnormal in its distribution, probably owing to some slight malformation in the oviduct of the female, and if so it would be interesting to know whether the same cause would produce similar effects in a series of sets from the same parents.

THEODORE W. RICHARDS,
Washington, D. C.

Collecting on the Farallone Islands.

About noon on June 2d, my friend, Mr. Chamberlain, and I reached San Francisco and spent the afternoon in making arrangements for our trip, having previously obtained permission to collect on the Farallones through the kindness of Lieut. Perry, U.S. Lighthouse Inspector.

Next morning at two o'clock we repaired to the wharf and embarked on a "tug" which was getting up steam, pre-

paratory to going to the Island in search of incoming vessels.

We had passed the bar, which is at the entrance of San Francisco Bay, and were very much excited at catching a glimpse of the Islands, when suddenly, by some strange means, the excitement all left us and the remainder of the voyage was passed in excruciating agony.

On the near approach to our destination, we became aware of an incessant glamor of voices coming from the different birds, which produced a very wierd sound, and, at times, was, so loud, that one's voice could not be heard for any distance.

At seven o'clock we disembarked and rested a few hours.

The main island known as the South Farallone lies about twenty eight miles west of San Francisco. It is about one mile long and one-third as wide. The light-house is situated on the highest point which is 340 feet.

The Island contains numerous caves washed out by the surf thousands of holes made between the rocks, by the rabbits and some of the birds, and presents the appearance of a large barren rock with many crags and points, without a sign of vegetation, and has no inhabitants except the light-house keepers and families, sea lions, a great many rabbits and countless numbers of sea birds.

The life of the light-house keeper is a very monotonous one. The sounds that he hears by day and night are always the same—the ceaseless ocean's roar, the wild screaming of the sea-birds, and the occasional howl of a sea-lion.

In the early spring the islands are covered with a plant called the "Farallone weed," but in a few months it dies on account of the drought and is used by most of the birds to construct their rude nests.

Some years ago, a Frenchman brought a pair of rabbits to the islands,

with the intention of supplying the San Francisco market, and in the winter, when the weed is green, the island is over run with rabbits, but, when the weed dies, most of the rabbits, "follow suit."

The first set of eggs that we found was one of the Western Gull. The nest was placed on the ground near the east end.

It was a mere platform of Farallone weed, about eighteen inches in diameter, with a very slight depression in the center containing two eggs. Measuring 2.80 x 1.95. It is very interesting to watch this species trying to catch a young rabbit. They will watch patiently at the rabbit's burrow until the victim comes out when the gull pounces upon it and slowly devours it,

I have watched a gull trying to catch a rabbit by slowly walking up behind the intended meal, but the rabbit would invariably hop out of reach at the critical moment.

This gull is the only one of its family that nests on the Farallones, and it nests indiscriminately over the entire Island. An average set is three.

The next nest found was that of the Rock Wren and to me this is one of the most interesting species found. The bird reminds somewhat of the Dwarf Hermit Thrush.

The nest is built in a hole generally under a boulder, or in a rift of rocks. The five nests that I examined were made of cocoanut fibres and lined with hair, (from the "Island Mule,") or feathers, but the interesting feature is that inside of the hole and all around the entrance is paved with flat chips of rock, and in one instance, with shell and small bones. The chips of the rock varied from one half to an inch in length about one-half an inch in breadth and quite thin.

They nest all over the island, more frequently on the lower portions. This is the only land bird that nests on the Farallones.

Out of the five nests, two contained seven eggs each, two contained five eggs and two young one's each, and the last one, three eggs. They are pure white with light brown spots, principally around the larger end.

Average size is a .73 x .57.

The Tufted Puffin, called "Sea-Parrot," was found to be very abundant principally near the west end, it slightly resembles a Cockatoo. Their single egg is laid in a horizontal burrow (often made by themselves) from two to five feet deep. Occasionally a few pieces of weed are used for a nest.

These Puffins keep up a growling noise almost constantly,—in their burrows, or out.

A typical egg in my collection measures 2.75x1.95 inches. It is of a dull white color with indistinct purplish and light brownish blotches, principally in a wreath around the larger end. In some the marks are not discernable.

One day was spent in hunting Cormorant's eggs with great success, although we only found Baird's and Brandt's—no Farallones. They are called "Shags," and were most plentiful about the center of the island, above 150 feet elevation.

About forty nests of Baird's Cormorant were examined, most of them containing three eggs. The nests are composed of Farallone weed and placed on ledges of rock. The eggs are of a light blue and covered with a chalky substance. Average size of Baird's is 2.20x1.45 inches. Brandt's and Farallone's are larger.

Only a few sets of two eggs each of the Pigeon Guillemot were found, although the birds were very plentiful. They are called "Sea-Pigeon" and nest in any suitable hole among the rocks. The eggs are beautiful being of a light greenish-blue, blotched, principally at the larger end with dark-brown and indistinct blotches of lilac. Measurements are 2.43x1.62.

The last sets found were those of Cæsin's Auklet. One egg is deposited in a crevice under some rocks and the old bird is generally on the eggs.

They all seem to keep concealed during the day, but appear in large numbers about dusk.

A typical egg is white with a very slight greenish tinge, and measures, 1.95x1.31.

All the bird inhabitants have their peculiar notes and at dusk the Auks can be distinguished by their, *chee-rie kee—chee-rie-kee*.

The Guillemot's plaintive note somewhat resembles the sound made by a young pigeon.

Beside the "egggers" it is said the California Murre has a forminable enemy in the gull, on account of the large quantities of eggs that he steals, when the the Murres leave their nest: and I do not doubt that he eats eggs, on account of a little lesson that he taught us.

When "C" had laid down a hatful of eggs for a minute a Gull swooped down and picked out the only Auklets egg and ate about ten Cormorants eggs before discovered.

FRED A. SCHNEIDER,
College Park, Cal.

Our Winter Visitors.

Who does not hail with delight, the coming of those feathered friends which cheer us with their bright presence and merry chatter, when nature has donned her somber robes of grays and browns? What stout hearted little fellows those must be who can face the bleak winds and bitter cold and snow of the North!

Think of such a tiny bit of life as a Kinglet braving the severest weathers, all ruffled up in a ball, flitting among the branches of trees and picking frozen insects from the cracks and crevices of the bark, when the thermometer registers thirty degrees below zero; the

while chirping merrily and now and then singing their sweet little song. 'Tis a wise provision of Nature, that these little midgets can keep warm, even in the coldest of weather, when the larger species are compelled to migrate to warmer lands.

As long ago as I can remember, I took pity on the poor little bare-foot birds, and longed to bring them in and warm them by the fire. My childish mind could not solve the mystery of how the little Snow birds could stay out in the snow all day without freezing, while I was so much larger and could stay out but a few minutes. Mother used to tell me to knit stockings for them, but I was too young to do that, though I would try and bother her to start them for me.

Another dusky little bit of bird life, that makes itself welcome here, during the winter season, ever reminding us of its presence with its "*git, git, git git, git, git,*" as it teeters among the bush and fences, under logs and over the house, is the Winter Wren. It asks no odds, but will climb up the door or creep in at the window and tell one "*git git*" with as much independence as if it owned the whole world.

It awakens at the earliest dawn and we are often called to listen, by its faint, but clear musical song, long before the sun has risen, as it rustles among the fodder leaves in the shed. They are not afraid of even the cats, and will go within two feet of puss while lying in wait, but is dancing in yon brush pile before kit has time to move.

The "little upside down birds," (Nuthatches), are a source of constant torment to the cats. They have learned to come in the yard for crumbs, and are so tame and teasing as to keep just out of reach of those sharp claws that would like so well to toss and play with them awhile.

The "little downy" has taken up his

winter quarters in the garden, and has carved a neat hole down in the old stump, and will peek your hand if you place it over the opening.

The Persimmons and Black Gums are still full of fruit, down by the springs, where Woodpeckers of all kind flock in to get their breakfast, and Robins, Blue-birds and Waxwings feast throughout the day. The Purple Finches, too, make them an occasional call with their yeaping cries, like a flock of young chickens.

We are greeted all the year by the clear toned whittle of the Black-cap, as he hangs from some swaying limb, or is merrily singing his chick-a-dee-dee-dee dee.

Our night music from the Chat, is replaced by the screaming ridiculous laughing and Whoh hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo-hooah of the Great Horned Owl. An occasional note is heard from the Motted Owl, in the morning or evening, as he sits lazily in the door of his palace in the Chinquapin tree.

The only Barred Owl we have met with came to stay. He stole the bait from our Wild-cat trap, one night, and the next night was unlucky for him. He now ornaments our book-case top.

This winter the Red-heads are all flown away; Tawney Thrushes and Snow-birds are very plentiful; Titmice are scattering; White-throated Sparrows are abundant; Fox Sparrows very rare, and since Thanksgiving, the Turkey has not been seen at all.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,
Clinton, Ark.

Nesting of the Golden-winged Warbler.

While out collecting May 25, 1891, in a small piece of swampy land on the borders of Voight's Woods, I was startled by a small bird that darted from some small bushes near my feet. I recognized it as the Golden-winged Warbler. After searching for a few moments

I found the nest which contained four eggs. The nest was composed of grasses, roots and leaves, and lined with fine dried grass with a little thistle down. The eggs measured .60x.47, .62x.48, .65x.50, .66x.52 and were of a creamy white color speckled with umber, lilac and chestnut with the greatest number of spots at the larger end. This bird can generally be found in the vicinity of low swampy woods and is a beautiful little creature. Its song is a pleasing lisping warble, and its habits are like those of the Titmice.

B. H. SWALES,
Detroit, Mich.

Michigan Notes, 1891.

May 25th—Prairie Warbler—set of two fresh eggs from a nest situated in a small thorn bush. The nest was a beautiful little structure composed of fibres and grass and lined with hair and down.

May 27th—Hermit Thrush—took a set of three fresh eggs from a nest in a small bush. It also contained a Cowbird's egg.

May 28th—Took sets of 8 and 7 Red-headed Woodpecker eggs from nests in an old poplar tree. These are the largest sets that I ever took as the number is usually five.

Savanna Sparrow—set of four from nest in a hole made by a cow.

May 29th—Wilson's Thrush—set of four eggs from nest in a small bush. It also contained one Cowbird's egg. This is quite a common breeder here.

June 1st—Myrtle Warbler—found a set of four fresh eggs in a nest in a hemlock tree in Highland Park. The nest was firm and compact, about ten feet from the ground.

June 4th—Bobolink—set of five fresh eggs from nest situated in a meadow. Their nests are extremely hard to find.

June 12th—American Redstart—set

of four fresh eggs from nest in small maple.

June 13th—Ruby-throated Humming-bird—set of two from nest in oak tree twenty-five feet from the ground.

June 18th—Lark Sparrow—four fresh eggs from nest in pasture. This is the only nest of this species I ever found here.

June 21st—Orchard Oriole—three fresh eggs, nest in a small maple.

B. H. SWALES,
Detroit, Mich.

A Golden Nugget.

A strange novelty is this golden table corn, with its beautiful rich cream color. It is claimed by those who know it that it is very sweet, early and tender and a superior corn. We notice Vick recommends it very highly. The Floral Guide, which comes to us, bringing a bouquet of Carnations on the front cover, with a splendid bunch of Brilliant Poppies on the back, gives full description of this new corn, which is only 15 cents a packet. Vick's Floral Guide is worthy a place in the home of anyone who expects to make a garden the coming spring: By all means send ten cents to JAMES VICK'S SONS, Rochester, N. Y., for the Guide, and you can deduct this amount from your first order. It will pay you well.

Marvelously rich in illustrations and text is the fiftieth anniversary number of the *American Agriculturist*, published at 52 & 54 Lafayette place, New York, for January. It contains no less than 143 illustrations engraved especially for it. Most of the leading authorities in American and foreign agriculture are among its contributors. It gives a remarkable statistical epitome of the present situation of American agriculture and the figures to show its apparently brilliant future. A comprehensive statistical review of the cotton trade and crop for fifty years and of our live stock and principal cereal crops is also given. The list is given of all the live stock breeders' associations of the world that preserve a registry for recording pedigrees, which is as complete for Europe as for the United States, and is alone

worth many times the fifteen cents charged for a single copy, or \$1.50 per year.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY has elapsed since Lippincott's Magazine was first presented to the reading public. By adding new and original features it has kept in advance of the times, and now occupies a unique position among magazines. It was the first to abandon the use of serial stories, and by publishing a complete novel in each number, the Magazine has wonderfully increased in popularity. The January number (92) contains a remarkable novel, dealing with newspaper life, entitled "THE PASSING OF MAJOR KILGORE," by Young E. Allison, late Managing editor of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*. A series of articles on Athletics also commenced in the January number. The initial article on "Boxing" by Daniel L. Dawson, illustrated. The articles will be prepared by experts in such sports and exercises as Rowing, Fencing, Base Ball, Cricket, Walking, Swimming, Archery, Tennis, Foot-Ball, Riding, Sailing, Golf, La Crosse, Polo, Wheeling, Curling, etc., as well as articles on Physical Training and In-Door Exercises. New Talent will be heartily encouraged as heretofore, and writers from every section of the country will be represented in the pages of Lippincott's during 1892. A series of articles dealing with reminiscences of men famous in our political history, and giving hitherto unpublished correspondence, will form a feature. A Department entitled "As it seems, treating of topics of timely interest, will form a valuable feature during the year. It would be impossible to mention in detail the wealth of material that has been secured for the ensuing year in the shape of Short Stories, Essays, Poems, etc. 25 cents, single number. \$3.00 per year.

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Persons suffering from "La Grippe" are speedily and permanently cured by HUMPHREY'S SPECIFICS, NOS. ONE and SEVEN. NUMBER ONE allays the fever, pain and inflammation, while NO. SEVEN cures the Cough, Hoarseness and Sore Throat.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

WANTED.—Eggs in sets with data of Osprey, Gulls, and Terns. Will give eggs and mounted birds. Write immediately. ARTHUR SMITH, 49-4th Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Vol. XXV "American Naturalist" (unbound). Will exchange for vol. XV "Auk" or Vols. X, XI, XII and XIII "Ornithologist," and "Oologist" or first-class Birds Skins or Eggs, with full data. THADDEUS SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, W. V.

TO EXCHANGE.—Good Flobert rifle, 22 cal., walnut stock, pistol grip. For the best offer of birds eggs in sets with data. SAM W. DU BOIS, 1804 Broad St., Nashville, Tenn.

TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs in sets and singles for climbing-irons or eggs in sets and singles. FRANK C WILLARD, 510 N. Cherry street, Galesburgh, Ill.

PAIR OF ACME club ice-skates, pair Union Hardware roller skates, all clamp, nickel plated and in fine condition. to exchange for first-class sets. W. L. MORSE, 6 Onondaga Savings Bank, Syracuse, N. Y.

HAVE a x5 self-roller press. 9 fonts type in large cases, border, etc., in good condition to exchange for detective camera with plateholders, Premier or Haweye preferred. E. LUEKE, 621 Superior St., Cleveland, Ohio.

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Nashville Warbler n-4. La. Water Thrush n-5, Black-chinned Hummer n-2. Blue Gray Gnatcatcher n-5. Turkey Vulture 1/2. Brown-headed Nuthatch 1/4, thirty fine sets, also 25 singles—Osprey, Gulls, Grouse, Water birds, etc. The whole must be sold right away. Price very low. Collectors write me.

WILBUR W. JUDD,
Thomaston, Conn.

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Parties desiring a watch of any movement will find it to their advantage to correspond with me and obtain my prices, as I know I can save you \$ \$ \$, by your doing so.

Write for prices upon any movement that you would like.

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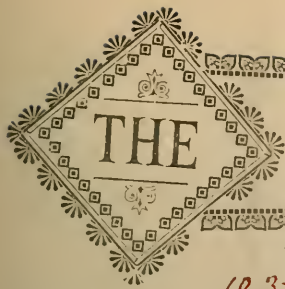
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OöLOGIST.



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VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., MAR., 1892.

NO. 3

Exchanges and Wants.

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

TO EXCHANGE:—25 second-class mounted birds for good pair Climbing Irons, D. B. MECOMEY, 164 Mulberry St. Lockport, N. Y.

BOOKS on Natural History, novels, fossils, minerals, curiosities for desirable shells, bound books D. A. Revolver, or "West Coast Shells" by Jos'ah Keep. HOMER SQUYER, Mingsville, Mont.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Cones' Key" or "Rdgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—One Banded Plymouth Rock cockrel and pullet. Also one Golden Duckwing Bantam Pullet. Address CHAS. S. WEEKS, 157 West 13th street New York.

MINERALS, fossils, shells and insects to exchange for first-class Bird Skins and eggs with data. Send Lists. H. S. HATHAWAY, 243 Elwood Ave, Providence, R. I.

TO EXCHANGE a Fine Magic Lantern worth \$3.50, 37 back numbers of the Youth's Companion for best offer of eggs, first-class. Must be worth over 10 cents in value, each. W. B. HUTCHINSON, JR., Michigan City Ind.

WILL EXCHANGE.—A first-class set of two eggs, with data of Bald Eagle for "Cones' Key" late edition or offers. Address, W. H. BELL, West Point, Va.

WANTED.—A Taxidermist outfit in good condition, will give cash, second or first eggs. Address, FRED PORTER, Strong, Me.

EXCHANGE. Old coins—1860-57-38-33 and German Pfennig.—Mexican 10 Centavos for best offer 1st class eggs. W. B. DEYONG, Webster Groves, Mo.

WANTED:—First-class skins, A. O. U., 280b, 292, 293 to 295, 278, 493, 502, 712. Have to exchange, glass eyes, books, papers, poultry literature, including new "Standard," and a few high-class White Wyandotte cockerels, NED HOLLISTER, Delavan, Wis.

SPOT CASH.—For the best offer of "Cones' Key" in good condition, 3d or 4th edition; write immediately to WILLARD ELIOT, Tampa, Florida.

I WOULD LIKE to correspond with all who are getting up mineral collections by exchange also Indian Relics and Old Coins, GEO. W. ATWOOD, Box 111, East Concord, N. H.

TO EXCHANGE:—Four hundred different tobacco tags, a magic lantern, and some sea-shells; for issues of United States Postage Stamps. Address, GUY JOHNSTON, Eagle Hotel, Grand Rapids, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE:—Strapped Climbers, Davie's Nest and Eggs (\$1.25), seventy-five varieties of Central Kentucky eggs (second-class), drills and blowpipe (nickel) for Camera. HOWARD SALLEE, Lock Box 52, Danville, Ky.

TO EXCHANGE:—Fine sets of Costas and Black-chinned Hummers with nest, and other fine sets for sets not in my collection. RALPH ARNOLD, Pasadena, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Violin and outfit worth \$15 for best offer of cash, field glasses, botanical or oological instruments, &c. GEO. L. PERRY, Wilmington, Mass.

WOODS, 35 varieties, to exchange for best offer of eggs, skins, relics, etc. What have you? For particulars address E. DWIGHT SANDERSON, 1142 Fourth Ave, Detroit, Mich.

I WILL GIVE 100 mixed foreign stamps for every perfect arrow-head with locality or set of birds eggs with data, sent me. I also have vols xi and xii of Golden Days to exchange for first-class skins and eggs. GUS. RAPP, 465 Ninth St. Milwaukee, Wis.

25 DOLLARS WORTH of Stamps and a camera worth \$20, for books on American Moths and Insects, colored plates preferred, or an insect cabinet, also cocoons etc. for others, R. FROELICH, 1437 Lexington Avenue, New York.

"R. W. BENDER, Carson, Nev., wishes to exchange a good lathe and scroll saw in good condition, for a 124 set of choice birds eggs in good condition."

FOR STAMPS:—Eggs, U. S. Military Dictionary and Gazetteer, Records of living U. S. Army Officers, 2 volumes; Naval Encyclopedia Government Survey, Live Questions of the Day, Indian Sign Language, All official books, Also a \$5 open-faced gold-filled Elgin Watch, in running order and excellent timer, O. W. BRIGGS, Paw Paw, Ill.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

WANTED.—Old copper cents and ½ cents and old United States silver coins, have eggs in sets, mounted birds and skins. Books and Indian relics for same. H. W. FLINT, Care Yale National Bank, New Haven, Conn.

TO EXCHANGE.—New York Ledger for 1891, complete, and Youth's Companion, complete for 1890 and 91, for best offers of 1st class eggs in sets. CARLETON R. BALL, Little Rock, Iowa.

WANTED.—A printing press, Small newspaper press preferred. Will exchange for bird skins, banjo, or purchase. All letters answered. PAUL VANDER EIKE, Lake Mills, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—A few hundred more of my lined trays in exchange for first-class eggs in sets with data. The last to be had without cash. E. J. SHAEFER, 338 Second St. New Orleans, La.

WANTED.—The address of collectors who can collect animal skins. Send stamp for list of prices paid, and directions how to prepare. JAMES P. BABBITT, 10 Hodges Ave. Taunton Mass.

WANTED.—Cone's Key, for which I will give either "Cone's Bird Life of New England," or "Samuel's Northern and Eastern Birds," and \$4.00 worth of desirable eggs in sets with data. F. L. FARLEY, St. Thomas, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE.—American Supplement to Encyclopedia Britannica, 9th edition, vols. 1 and 2 bound in leather, perfectly new, will exchange for best offer of books on Ornithology and Botany, or microscope, also printing press size 4x6 with type, write for particulars to D.T. KISSAM, 54 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

WILL EXCHANGE these first-class single eggs with data, A.O.U., Nos. 5-70-77-120-211-221b-261-300-360-423-443-501b-507-531-598-631-637-713-725-731 for first-class eggs in full sets with data. Correspondence desired with Southern and Western collectors to exchange sets the coming season. Send lists. All letters answered. WALTON MITCHELL, 534 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

2,000 varieties of rare postage stamps to exchange, in any quantity, for first-class eggs in sets with data complete. Scott's catalogue and Latin's prices as a basis. Send list of eggs stating about what is wanted in stamps and I will send list in return. H. C. HIGGINS, Cincinnati, N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, or ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Cone's Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OBSTETRIEE containing one hundred and thirty-three illustrations, with eighty-four colored plates, representing difficult operations etc. Value \$25. Will exchange for best offer of medical books, Gray's Anatomy, Park's Hygiene, Martin's Human Body, good books on Materia Medica, Practice of Medicine, Surgery or Gynaecology, preferred. F. D. SNYDER, 33 Ann St. Ann Arbor, Mich.

Several parties desire to purchase Fancy Pigeons, Live Squirrels and other pet stock, if you have any for sale, why do you not advertise in the OÖLOGIST?

EXCHANGE.—I will give 8 Dukes cigarette-albums for the best offer of first-class birds, eggs with data. All letters answered. W. ELBERT FARRIOR, Charlotte, N. C.

TWO GOOD revolvers to exchange for best offer of first-class collecting gun, Cone's Key or Ridgeway's Manual. EDWARD WALL, Box 473, San Bernardino, California.

NOTICE.—I have a large collection of eggs, mostly in sets, that I will exchange for guns, revolvers, musical instruments and anything desirable. N. P. BRADT, Hindsburgh, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sixty numbers of "Once a Week," thirty Once a Week Library Books, Sixty numbers of Scientific American, Buffalo-Horns, Fragments Indian Pottery and singles of eggs, for eggs in sets, Minerals and fossils. All letters answered. H. A. SHAW, Grand Forks, N. D.

TO EXCHANGE.—Revolver, telescope, Indian clubs and dumb bells, for first-class mounted birds. EVERETT E. JOHNSON, No. 55 College St., Lewiston, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE.—Small printing press type and magic lantern, both worth \$3 for best offer of eggs. CLARENCE E. SIMPSON, Sherman, Chautauqua Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class rare sets for a first-class revolver. H. C. CAMPBELL, Lansingburgh, N. Y.

EXCHANGE.—Grandfather's clock, stuffed birds and Chicago Air Rifle, for Books on Ornithology, Oology, Geology or Safety Bicycle. S. O. BRUSH, Milton, Vt.

One Mounted specimen of the Whistling Swan for the best offers of first-class single eggs. D. J. BULLOCK, Marshalltown, Iowa.

EGGS WANTED!—In exchange for 1 pair \$4 Speed Skates, brand new, a 1 condition; 14m. Youth's Companion '85 to '87; 133 No. Golden Days '87 to '90. GLENN LEVINGS, Potsdam, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs, sets or singles, for first-class bird skins, egg or taxidermist's tools. All letters answered. FRANK C. SHEPHERD, Hastings, Minn.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A nice flobert rifle, 32 cal., nearly new; and single eggs A. O. U. No. 4, 221, 413, 475, 497, 605, 768; also a few sets for 1st class sets. ALMON E. KIBBE, Mayville, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs in sets or singles for back Nos. of the OÖLOGIST also eggs in sets with data. HAWLEY HALL, Lewisville, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Rare single eggs, for common in sets. Also a Vol. of Golden Days (vol. XII), for eggs and skins. And a Winchester repeating rifle (22 cal. short), for a collecting gun and outfit. Send for list and description of my articles. E. W. MERGLER, 136 Mulberry St., Buffalo, N. Y.

EXCHANGE NOTICE.—I have 1st class birds eggs in sets and singles, with data, to exchange for same. ERNEST MARCEAN, 38 Jones St. Dubuque, Iowa.

AN EASTER OFFER

We quote the following Liberal Offers until May 1st,

ON EGGS OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES.

Orders of 50c or over sent prepaid, under that amount 5c must be added for postage and packing.

For \$1.00 you can select Eggs to the amount of	\$1.50
" 2.00	3.50
" 3.00	6.00
" 5.00	11.25
" 10.00	25.00
" 25.00	75.00

This offer will hold good until May 1st and is positively the only chance to obtain eggs at so low a rate of us during 1892.

All specimens will be carefully packed in strong tin or wooden boxes and sent at purchaser's risk by mail, or at our risk and purchaser's expense by express.

SECOND-CLASS SPECIMENS can be furnished of most of the species at one-half the price of a first-class one. Parties ordering second-class Eggs must name a list of extra Eggs to be used as substitutes.

SETS. We can furnish sets of species preceded by * or †.

A POINTER.—Collectors well know how readily they can exchange some cheap egg, not found in their locality with local collectors for specimens worth many times as much. Many wide-awake collectors will doubtless lay in a large supply for this purpose.

I might also add that if your collections are in need of any species included in offer, an opportunity to purchase at so low a rate may never occur again.

Holboell's Grebe	50	Widgeon	32	Bob-white	10
Horned Grebe	35	Baldpate	75	*Florida Bob-white	15
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Tufted Puffin	1 00	Shoveller	40	Partridge	50
*Puffin	20	Pintail	40	California Partridge	10
*Cassin's Auklet	3 00	Barrow's Golden-eye	1 00	Valley Partridge	20
*Murre	20	Harlequin Duck	1 25	*Gambel's Partridge	25
*California Murre	25	American Eider	20	*Ruffed Grouse	15
*Razor-billed Auk	20	American Scoter	2 00	Willow Ptarmigan	1 00
Parasitic Jaeger	60	Ruddy Duck	50	Rock Ptarmigan	1 00
Long-tailed Jaeger	1 25	Whooping Swan	1 50	Prairie Hen	20
Glaucous Gull	83	Whistling Swan	2 50	Sharp-tailed Grouse	75
Iceland Gull	1 50	American Flamingo	1 00	Sage Grouse	50
*Herring Gull	20	*American Bittern	1 25	Wild Turkey	75
*American Herring Gull	20	*Least Bittern	20	*Chachalaca	1 50
Ring-billed Gull	30	*Great Blue Heron	25	*Red-billed Pigeon	2 00
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Caspian Tern	50	Louisiana Heron	10	Ground Dove	25
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Roseate Tern	10	on		Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 00
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*Bridled Tern	2 00	King Rail	20	*Harris' Hawk	75
*Black Tern	12	Virginia Rail	20	*Red-tailed Hawk	50
*Noddy	75	*Sora	10	*Western Red-tail	75
*Black Skimmer	12	*Florida Gallinule	12	*Red shouldered Hawk	50
Fulmar	75	*American Coot	10	Red-bellied Hawk	1 00
Manx Shearwater	1 00	Red Phalarope	1 00	Swainson's Hawk	75
*Audubon's Shearwater	2 00	Northern Phalarope	50	*Broad-winged Hawk	1 25
Cormorant	50	American Avocet	75	Duck Hawk	3 00
*Double-crested Cormorant	35	European Woodcock	1 75	Merlin	50
Florida Cormorant	25	American Woodcock	1 25	*American Sparrow Hawk	25
*Brandt's Cormorant	50	Dunlin	35	*American Osprey	50
Baird's Cormorant	50	Black-tailed Godwit	50	*American Barn Owl	30
American White Pelican	50	*Bartramian Sandpiper	40	*American Long-eared Owl	35
*Brown Pelican	25	*Spotted Sandpiper	15	Short-eared Owl	1 25
Merganser	1 00	Curlew	75	Barred Owl	1 00
Mallard	20	Whimbrel	40	Florida Barred Owl	1 00
Black Duck	10	*Golden Plover	40	*Screech Owl	40
Gadwall	40	*Killdeer	20	*Florida Screech Owl	50
		American Oyster catcher	60		

*Texan Screech Owl.....	50	*American Goldfinch.....	08	*Brown Thrasher.....	03
California Screech Owl.....	50	*Arkansas Goldfinch.....	20	*Texas Thrasher.....	30
*Great Horned Owl.....	1 25	*Lawrence's Goldfinch.....	25	*Curved-billed Thrasher.....	25
Western Horned Owl.....	1 25	Snowflake.....	50	*Cactus Wren.....	12
Hawk Owl.....	1 00	*Grass Finch.....	05	*Carolina Wren.....	15
*Burrowing Owl.....	25	Western Vesper Sparrow.....	15	*Bewick's Wren.....	50
Groove-billed Ani.....	1 00	Savanna Sparrow.....	12	Vigor's Wren.....	25
*Road-runner.....	25	Yellow-winged Sparrow.....	20	Baird's Wren.....	25
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	10	Western Yellow-winged Sparrow.....	20	*House Wren.....	06
California Cuckoo.....	25	Sharp-tailed Sparrow.....	35	Western House Wren.....	06
*Black-billed Cuckoo.....	20	Seaside Sparrow.....	25	*Long-billed Marsh Wren.....	06
*Belted Kingfisher.....	20	Lark Sparrow.....	04	Tule Wren.....	15
Hairy Woodpecker.....	50	Western Lark Sparrow.....	05	*White-breasted Nuthatch.....	30
*Downy Woodpecker.....	20	*Gambel's Sparrow.....	25	*Brown-headed Nuthatch.....	35
*Red-cockaded Woodpecker.....	1 25	White-throated Sparrow.....	35	Tufted Titmouse.....	35
Pileated Woodpecker.....	1 00	Chipping Sparrow.....	02	Plain Titmouse.....	50
*Red-headed Woodpecker.....	08	Western Chipping Sparrow.....	10	‡Chickadee.....	12
Lewis' Woodpecker.....	40	Field Sparrow.....	04	‡Carolina Chickadee.....	15
*Red-bellied Woodpecker.....	30	*Slate-colored Junco.....	20	‡Californian Bush-tit.....	15
*Golden-fronted Woodpecker.....	75	Black-throated Sparrow.....	50	‡Verdin.....	50
*Flicker.....	10	*Song Sparrow.....	02	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	20
Red-shafted Flicker.....	03	*Desert Song Sparrow.....	50	Western Gnatcatcher.....	50
Chuck-will's-widow.....	1 50	*Heerman's Song Sparrow.....	12	Wood Thrush.....	06
Whip-poor-will.....	1 50	row.....	08	*Wilson's Thrush.....	15
*Nighthawk.....	40	Samuel's Song Sparrow.....	15	‡Russet-backed Thrush.....	15
*Western Nighthawk.....	50	Swamp Sparrow.....	15	‡Olive-backed Thrush.....	40
*Chimney Swift.....	15	*Towhee.....	10	Hermist Thrush.....	40
*Ruby-throated Hummingbird.....	60	*Spurred Towhee.....	25	*American Robin.....	02
*Costa's Hummingbird.....	1 00	Oregon Towhee.....	40	‡Western Robin.....	15
*Anna's Hummingbird.....	50	*Californian Towhee.....	08	Red-spotted Blue-throat.....	60
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	10	Cardinal.....	05	Bluebird.....	02
Kingbird.....	03	*Texan Cardinal.....	50	Western Bluebird.....	15
Gray Kingbird.....	40	*Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	15	Mountain Bluebird.....	01
Arkansas Kingbird.....	08	*Black-headed Grosbeak.....	20	English Sparrow.....	15
Cassin's Kingbird.....	25	*Blue Grosbeak.....	25	European Tree Sparrow.....	15
Ash-throated Flycatcher.....	25	*Indigo Bunting.....	08	‡Yellow-billed Tropic Bird.....	2 00
*Crested Flycatcher.....	12	Lazuli Bunting.....	20	‡Man-o-war Bird.....	2 00
Phoebe.....	05	*Painted Bunting.....	10	Canvas-back.....	1 25
*Say's Phoebe.....	20	Grassquit.....	75	‡Wilson's Phalarope.....	1 25
Black Phoebe.....	20	*Black-throated Bunting.....	05	Mountain Plover.....	1 25
*Wood Pewee.....	15	*Lark Bunting.....	50	Canadian Ruffed Grouse.....	50
*Western Wood Pewee.....	20	*Scarlet Tanager.....	25	White-crowned Pigeon.....	2 00
Western Flycatcher.....	25	*Summer Tanager.....	25	Fla. Red-shouldered Hawk.....	1 50
Acadian Flycatcher.....	20	*Purple Martin.....	15	Western Bobolink.....	50
Little Flycatcher.....	40	Cliff Swallow.....	04	Bronzed Cowbird.....	60
Trail's Flycatcher.....	20	Barn Swallow.....	05	‡Chestnut-collared Longspur.....	75
Least Flycatcher.....	20	*Tree Swallow.....	15	‡McCown's Longspur.....	1 25
*Prairie Horned Lark.....	20	Bank Swallow.....	04		
Desert Horned Lark.....	25	Rough-winged Swallow.....	20		
Quddy Horned Lark.....	35	Cedar Waxwing.....	20		
*American Magpie.....	25	*Phainopepla.....	50		
*Yellow-billed Magpie.....	75	*Loggerhead Shrike.....	15		
Blue Jay.....	05	White-rumped Shrike.....	08		
Florida Blue Jay.....	50	California Shrike.....	08		
Florida Jay.....	1 50	*Red-eyed Vireo.....	10		
*California Jay.....	25	*Warbling Vireo.....	20		
Northern Raven.....	1 50	*Yellow-throated Vireo.....	35		
*American Crow.....	05	*White-eyed Vireo.....	20		
Florida Crow.....	50	*Bell's Vireo.....	30		
Northwest Crow.....	50	*Prothonotary Warbler.....	30		
Fish Crow.....	25	Golden-winged Warbler.....	75		
Starling.....	10	Nashville Warbler.....	75		
Bobolink.....	20	Parula Warbler.....	25		
Cowbird.....	03	Yellow-Warbler.....	05		
Dwarf Cowbird.....	20	Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	75		
*Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	05	bler.....	75		
*Red-winged Blackbird.....	02	Magnolia Warbler.....	50		
Bi-colored Blackbird.....	10	*Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	75		
Tri-colored Blackbird.....	20	Black-poll Warbler.....	20		
*Meadowlark.....	12	Black-throated Green Warbler.....	75		
*Western Meadowlark.....	12	Warbler.....	75		
*Hooded Oriole.....	50	*Prairie Warbler.....	50		
*Orchard Oriole.....	10	Oven-bird.....	15		
Baltimore Oriole.....	10	Louisiana Water-thrush.....	50		
*Bullock's Oriole.....	15	*Maryland Yellow-throat.....	15		
*Brewer's Blackbird.....	05	Western Yellow-throat.....	25		
Purple Grackle.....	04	*Yellow-breasted Chat.....	10		
*Bronzed Grackle.....	15	Long-tailed Chat.....	15		
Purple Finch.....	15	American Redstart.....	15		
*House Finch.....	06	American Dipper.....	1 00		
Redpoll.....	50	Mockingbird.....	05		
		*Catbird.....	02		

FOREIGN EGGS.

Ostrich (25c extra if prep'd.)	2 00
Barbary Partridge.....	25
Chuekar Partridge.....	25
Black-headed Gull.....	25
Ruddy Sheldrake.....	35
Ring dove.....	15
Song Thrush.....	10
Blackbird.....	10
Egyptian Goose.....	1 00
Egyptian Vulture.....	3 00
Bul-bul.....	50
Black-headed Weaverbird.....	50
Sun Bird.....	1 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

‡Gopher.....	35
Python.....	2 00
Skate.....	15
Shark.....	05
Hammerhead Shark.....	20
Fossil Fish Eggs, per doz.....	10
Egg Case of Periwinkle.....	25
Hummingbird Nests, each.....	
15, 25, 35 and 50c according to condition and beauty.	



A Pair of Screech Owls (*Megascops asio*) at Home.

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NO. 3

ZOÖTOMY.

THE DOMESTIC PIGEON.

[Continued from February Number.]

Cut open the proventriculus, on inner side, with the aid of lens make out openings of gastric gland bisect the gizzard as shown in cut VI,* notice thick muscular walls; why so? its horny epithelial lining; use lens; notice contents of gizzard; the tube leading to, much larger than tube leading from: is this difference in size of any use to birds? Cut out small section of duodenum, open out by a longitudinal slit, and after very carefully cleaning under water examine with lens before removing from *clean* water; notice *villi*; examine different parts of intestine; now look for the *spleen*, an oval body near the proventriculus; can you find a duct leading from it? when you have opportunity, examine the digestive apparatus of worm and insect eating birds; fish-eating birds and same in small mammals; now turn your attention to the *heart*; its surrounding membrane, the *pericardium*; (should a blood vessel be cut its ends must be at once ligatured to prevent escape of blood, as blood tubes are more easily traced when gorged with blood.) Distinguish between the arteries and veins by the difference in their walls; trace the arteries to head and the return veins; the large veins from kidneys; the large tubes to and from lungs; why so much blood to lungs and kidneys? notice the peculiar "joining" of jugular veins at anterior parts (anastomosis); tie the large tubes some distance from heart, cut one (or more if necessary) of the

large veins insert blow-pipe and inflate the heart; the lower pointed part contains the *ventricles*; the upper part the *auricles* remove the heart not cutting the vessels too close to it, carefully dissect away any fat that may adhere to heart; bisect the heart; wash out the blood the *left ventricle* constituting the greater part of heart and extending into the apex; the *right ventricle* much smaller; the *right auricle*; *left auricle*; which division of the heart has the heaviest walls; why? Your note book and drawing-paper; notice the *auriculo-ventricular valves* between auricles and ventricles; any difference between right and left? The left is the *mitral valve*; find valves in tubes proceeding from ventricles, the *semi-lunar valves*; see cut IV, and explanations of same; make out how these valves act; the *lungs*; inflate; let air out again; note the branching of *trachea* before entering lungs: are the rings of this part like those before examined! (Cut VIII,)*

Trace the bronchial tubes as far into lungs as possible; of what use are the cartilage rings? Look for vocal cords (membranes) at upper end of trachea.

Carefully remove an eye by cutting off the muscles and optic nerve.†

*Can you find any connections between lungs and airsacs?

†The head should be removed and put into strong alcohol soon after death, to harden the brain. This will require some time, perhaps 2 or 3 weeks.

‡Many dissections are best carried on under water. This is done by means of a "dissecting pan," which may be made in the following manner. In the bottom of a tin pan (about 10 x 5 inches, and 2 or 3 inches deep,) pour ½ inch of hot bee's wax. This should be cooled slowly by putting the pan in hot water and letting it cool as the water does. It is a good idea to have drops of solder on the bottom of the pan, or to have the tinner make a "ring" around the sides, near bottom, to hold the wax in place. The specimen may be pinned out on the wax, and it will be found that the parts will show much more distinctly under *clear* water. Whole animals, such as earth-worms, insects, frogs, &c., may be put in, while parts of the larger ones can be studied in this way.

*For cuts referred to, see plate in February OÖLOGIST.

Note shape; optic nerve entering at back part. The eye must be dissected and examined under clear water.

With small scissors, divide the eye into an outer and inner hemisphere, by carefully cutting through the coats; separate the coats, leaving the humors, &c., in the outer hemisphere; notice the interior of the cup-shaped part of the inner hemisphere, the place of entrance of the optic nerve and the blood vessels. Now make out the three layers of membrane of eye; the *sclerotic* outside, the *choroid* and the *retina*, the delicate membrane on inside of back part of eye; how far does the sclerotic coat extend? Its character in different parts; how far does the retina extend? The jelly-like substances in the eye are known as *humors*. The one exposed is the *vitreous humor*; looking from behind into the outer hemisphere, note the *celiary processes*, the dark "plaited" part of the choroid coat; remove this and notice the *crystalline* lens; turn the hemisphere over and look from in front; notice the transparent continuation of the sclerotic coat, the *cornea*; back of this the *iris*, the membrane giving color to the eye; in centre of this, the circular aperture, the *pupil*; the fluid just back of the cornea is the aqueous humor remove the crystalline lens; note shape; what is the effect when placed over a small object? Put the lens in alcohol for a few days, then see whether its humor is arranged in layers like an onion; compare the size of optic nerve with some others of body.

The opening of ear; the *external auditory* meatus; the *tympanic membrane* stretched across its inner part; remove this; probe for the opening of the eustachian tube in mouth; the bony framework of ear will be studied in the prepared skull.

The male urinogenital organs. (see cut). The *testis* two white oval bodies of variable size in the upper, posterior part of body; the *vos deferens*, a tube

leading from them downward to the cloaca; the *kidneys*, large dark red organs above the testes; notice irregular shape, lobed, fitting into cavities in bone; the *ureter*, going from each kidney to the cloaca, the large blood tubes connected with kidneys. The female urinogenital organs. The *ovary*, a number of capsules, each containing an egg; these very in size; the *oviduct* going from ovary to cloaca; can you find a rudimentary right oviduct?

The reproductive organs are most conspicuous in old birds near breeding time. The brain is best studied after hardening in strong alcohol. After removing skin and flesh from skull as cleanly as possible; beginning at the posterior part, with bone forceps or knife, remove the skull from brain by little particles; (great care must be taken in doing this, as a neat dissection of the brain is most desirable.) The large *cerebral lobes* separated by deep fissure; back of these the *cerebellum*; notice its ridges,—*gyri*; on each side of cerebellum, the *flocculus*; the *pineal body* on the dorsal side of brain, in the triangular opening between cerebral lobe and cerebellum; (read up on "pineal body" from some good author,) the lobes on each side, between cerebrum and cerebellum are the *optic lobes*; note the under side, the peculiar way in which the optic nerves leaves the lobes; the *olfactory lobes* connected with the under, anterior part of cerebrum. Compare this with other brains, as a rabbit or cat, fish, frog, snake, or that of man. Now notice the *cranial nerves* leaving the brains. Some parts of the brain contain cavities.

These are known as "*ventricles*." How many are in the cerebral lobes? Are there any in the optic lobes? Find these. Several other points will be noticed when making dissections as shown in the plate accompanying this article.

JNO. SNYDER,

Waterloo, Ind.

Incessancy of the Yellow Warbler's Song.

The Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) arrives in these parts on the first day of May, or perhaps a day or two earlier or later. The first notice we have of his arrival, is his sprightly little song which immediately attracts our attention, and from this time on, whether from the willows by the brook, from the depths of the forest, from the thickets adjacent, from the bushes by the roadside, or from the trees of the dooryard, this song is one of the commonest sounds of nature throughout the summer months.

No bird we have is such an untiring, persistent, all-the-while singer, as the Yellow Warbler.

Most birds confine their song principally to the morning and evening hours, and if they do not do this entirely, they surely quiet down at midday, when scarcely a sound is to be heard, but not so the Yellow Warbler,—morning, noon and night, he keeps it up, and the incessancy of his singing has become to be a matter of remark. Maynard in his "Birds of Eastern North America" speaks particularly of the persistency of the Yellow Warbler's song, especially during the breeding period.

But unceasing as is *aestiva's* song, we wouldn't think much about it until we began to notice it more closely. They say that "Facts are stubborn things and figures don't lie." Now I have compiled some figures in regard to *D. aestiva's* singing that may prove interesting. [I presume that I should have compiled this article in more scientific shape and sent it to the "Auk" under some such title as this: "Computation of the Relative Incessancy of the Song of *Dendroica aestiva*."] But those figures. Last summer a pair of these birds took up their abode in my garden, and there reared their young. During all this time, the male was constantly gleaning food among the shrubbery about the

house and garden, and his song was continually in my ears. All day long, or nearly so, it would keep up its pleasing tune at the rate of six vocal performances every minute. With the use of my watch, I found that every ten seconds, on an average, he would give utterance to his song, and that just before the close of every minute, his sixth song would come, and so six utterances a minute is his usual rate. Now let us figure on this. Six songs a minute, are 360 an hour. Let us say that he begins to sing at 6 a. m. and sings until 7 p. m. This is certainly generous, for of a summer morning, he begins to sing as early as 4:30. But granting him from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m., we will next allow him one hour's silence for breakfast and the same time for dinner and supper, and we will also give him a generous allowance of an hour's resting spell in the middle of the afternoon (But it is a fact that he sings at all his meals, and doesn't take any rest at all.) But with these generous allowances, what is the result? Why, during the lapse of one short day he has sung us 3,240 little songs. They are all the same to be sure, but none the less pleasing for all that. 3,240. A wonder he didn't wear his throat out before night, or at least, sing himself hoarse.

And what does this represent? 3,240 little outbursts of happiness. 3,240 expressions of self-content and satisfaction with everything around him, and 3,240 bits of cheer and encouragement to all who listen.

O, what a lesson for us of the genus *homo* to learn. If we would only look on the bright side of things, and do a little more singing, and the world would be 3,240 times brighter and happier.

But I am drifting. Do you care to figure *aestiva's* singing by the week, with the same charitable allowances? Then you have 22,680 of his ditties, and at the same average rate, he would

sing us during the month of May (his happiest time) no less than 100,440 solos.

If we should undertake to pay him for these poetical productions, even though we gave him no better pay than is rendered for poor spring poetry, viz. a "penny-a-line," even then we would have a bill on our hands at the end of one short month of \$1,004.40.

Had you looked at it in this way before? Had you really considered what a happy, contented little fellow, *Dendroica aestiva* is? Let us, the next time we meet him, take off our hat, and render obeisance to one who is always so contented and happy, and with the remembrance of him in our minds let us try, in the words of Pope, to "look through Nature up to Nature's God."

NEIL FRANKLIN POSSON,
Medina, N. Y.

Some of Our Thrushes.

The various members of this interesting family of birds, comprising as it does many of our sweetest singers, are, most of them, liable to escape the notice of most casual observers. To the naturalist they prove one of the most interesting families to study. Commencing with the Wood Thrush, we find him in this vicinity from about May 1st to Sept. 1st, when he moves southward for the winter.

As you wander through some small woods or close to the outskirts, or clearings of larger ones, you see a bird, but little smaller than the robin, rise from the leaves where he has been feeding, perch on the limb of a bush or tree and salute you with a clear ringing whistle, the warning note to his mate. You are struck first by the sharp contrast between his nearly pure white breast and the dark brown, almost black, stripes running in nearly parallel lines the whole length of it. If you continue to advance he will flit along before you and soon disappear when

he thinks he has taken you away from his nest. If he chooses to drop on the ground among the dead leaves, none but the sharpest observer will spy him as the tawney brown of his back harmonizes well with the dead leaves, in fact. I believe the color of the thrush is given him as a protection, as is the case with many other birds. If you look sharp around where you find him, about June 1st, you may see what appears at first to be a robin's nest, but which on closer inspection, you find to contain the mother bird. Now if you think, that like the robin, she will fly off as soon as you approach, and "raise the wind," as the small boy, and sometimes larger one, says, why you are greatly mistaken. She will let you approach until you look down on her in many cases, and sometimes even let you place your hand on her. When she does leave the nest she utters a note so mournful and low, you instinctively look for some bird at a distance, but on looking again you see her perched close by, her eye sparkling and alert, but uttering again that plaintive note which seems to entreat you to leave her treasures; but not so with her lord. At the first note he comes, crest erect, eyes flashing, and uttering a loud but bell-like whistle. as he flits around you, now dashing at you now inspecting his nest, he is the picture of anger, and as you leave him to his mate, you still hear his scolding voice behind you. I could write much more about this bird but must hasten on.

As we advance deeper into some large wood, we come to a place where it is wet the greater part of the year, the ground is covered with rank weeds and small bushes, the soil moist and in some places muddy, the leaves are mostly rotten and mosquitoes abound. But listen, just ahead we hear a low plaintive whistle, where did it come from? Where is the songster? Soon we hear it again, this time followed by a low

but sweet and full song, coming seemingly from the bosom of the earth. Advancing cautiously we see a slight rustle ahead, and looking closely we see a bird hop up on some small bush or root, which by his coloring we instantly recognize as a near relative of our late scold, the Wood Thrush, but look, he is much smaller, his breast is not streaked but spotted and he keeps close to the ground, we have found the haunts of Wilson's Thrush, and he is at home. The song of Wilson's Thrush is, to my mind, the sweetest of all the true Thrushes, and one of the best, short songs I have been fortunate to hear. It cannot compare in strength and variability with the songs of the Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher, nor in sweetness and length with the Canary and other warblers, but ranks well with the Purple Finch and the Grosbeaks. It is much more subdued than that of the Wood Thrush, which like the Robin is too harsh. The nest of Wilson's Thrush is usually on or very near the ground, and hard to find. The female is apt to leave the nest and skulk off on the ground leaving it to the tender (or otherwise) mercies of the intruder, when both birds will be heard calling to each other in a mournful voice. But the male makes no such demonstrations as the Wood Thrush. Leaving them and their nests which is usually so water-soaked you wonder how the young birds ever live the first day, even. We arrive again on higher ground and find an old clearing on the edge of the woods once all cut off, but, now grown up to small trees, briars and weeds. Under these small trees it is always dark in the summer, and here we find our third Thrush very rare as far south as this, never seen in summer below New York and New England states, becoming common from Maine, northward. It is the Hermit Thrush, the shyest and stillest of them all. He looks much like Wilson's Thrush, but his tail is redder, showing

different from rest of back at a glance. He is rarely seen far from the ground, being continually skulking under the brush and weeds, hunting the worms and insects it feeds on. Its song is short and low and resembles the song of Wilson's in tone, its warning note being almost exactly alike. The bird is so extremely shy it is very seldom seen except in the breeding season.

The nest is a ball of dry, dead, leaves, with a hole in the upper side, placed, usually close to the ground against an old stump or in the sprouts growing around the bottom of some tree. The bird sits closer than Wilson's but when she gets off the nest she disappears remarkably quick no matter how close you watch her, but go a little to one side and keep perfectly still and you will soon hear her plaintive note as she flits along toward the nest, keeping close watch for you, and if you move behold where is your bird? Suddenly disappeared, but if you keep perfectly still she will be seen to go to the nest and settle down again, if the nest is not molested, otherwise she will leave and you will see her no more in that spot. The male shows very rarely and then it is usually only a glimpse.

I could tell you more much about these and other species of this family but must give some of my colleagues a chance. Thanking you for your kind attention I will close, hoping what I have said was interesting to a few at least.

Read by President E. H. Short before the W. N. Y. Naturalist Association at the meeting held February 3d at Rochester, N. Y.

The Specimens I Didn't Get.

The fisherman tells us regretfully of the biggest trout of all, which refused to take the hook, and the hunter insists that it was when he aimed at the finest deer of the herd that the cartridge missed fire; and it is in a similar vein that I write to-day.

It is late in July, 1877, and I am among the New Hampshire hills, about 25 miles north of Mt. Washington; there are still some nests to be found, for along the river banks the Cedarbirds are nesting in little colonies among the alders and the Goldfinches are at home in the small growth of the pastures and roadsides. A certain hill-side pasture is of interest, for two or three pairs of Winter Wrens live there, and to find their abode is my ambition, but in vain; for when by their excited movements in some pile of stumps and logs I am led to believe that their nest is "just around the corner" and commence to explore, they flit to the next pile and go through the same performance, and at last we leave in despair. A few days after, I received word from my friend that he had found the wished-for nest with five eggs, which were left for me to take myself. The next day we went to the place, but before we 'got there the Wrens met us, protesting most forcibly against our intrusion.

It is related that a young lady from Vassar, after witnessing the efforts of a steam fire engine to drown out a fire, turned to her escort and remarked, "who would have thought that so diminutive an apparatus could have contained so much water?" And any one who has met an excited Wren must have wondered that so diminutive a bird could contain so much indignation.

However, we ventured to the nest and peeped in, and to our disgust saw a most promising family of five young Wrens. But it was something to be able to say we had seen a Winter Wren's nest. The location was on the edge of a meadow, where it began to relapse into its original state of spruce swamp, and the nest was built in a hole in an old stump, entered from the top, and so entirely open to the sky. No attempt was made to cover the nest, as the opening was just large enough for the birds to pass in.

One evening my uncle asked, "do you know any bird that nests in the winter?" and then explained by saying that early in the preceding March a party of wood-choppers from the village were at work in a birch forest on a range of hills just west of the Connecticut river, when to their surprise they found in one of the trees a nest containing eggs, and on examination they found several others in the vicinity. They brought the eggs to the village and exhibited them, but no one took sufficient interest in them to preserve them. At last I found a boy who had blown one and kept it, so I made a bargain with him and he went home for it, only to return with the pleasing information that his mother had broken it and thrown it away, and so I lost the Cross-bill's egg. He described it as colored something like a "Teeter's," (Spotted Sandpiper's) egg. I have never seen it mentioned before that this bird was social in its breeding habits.

The scene now changes to a Minnesota swamp, some 12 miles west of Minneapolis, where in making a survey a Hawk's nest was found in a maple tree, about twenty feet from the ground. The bird startled from the nest flew but fifty or sixty feet, and lighting on a dead limb, faced us with quiet curiosity, displaying the beautifully and uniquely marked breast of the Goshawk; but the tree was large and slippery and all our efforts to reach the nest failed, and that set of eggs never reached my cabinet. The next spring I visited the tree with climbers, hoping the bird to have returned, but was disappointed.

But I will not pursue this subject of "It might have been," much further, but to show that such ill luck still pursues me, will say that a friend in "the pineries" shot for me about a month ago, a large specimen of the Great Gray Owl, but when he came out his pack was so large that he had to leave it for the wolves. This specimen was shot in

about latitude 45° 45', quite a distance south of its usual range.

FRANK H. NUTTER,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Notes From Southwestern Ohio.

In the course of my ornithological studies, I have been particularly interested in observing the difference of the abundance and varieties of birds caused by different locations in the same neighborhood.

In Clermont Co. the land on each side of the watershed between the Ohio river and the East Fork creek, is well drained, and the woodland is comparatively dry; while on the water-shed the land is quite wet, and has, in consequence, been left uncleared, to a great extent. In the dry woods on the hills, are found commonly, the Yellow-breasted Chat, the Chewink, and the Brown Thrasher and Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. In other woods not over a mile distant, these species are rarely seen and Wood Thrushes, Oven-birds, Acadian Fly-catchers and Tanagers make up the most of the feathered population.

In these wet woods, which, during fall, winter and spring, are covered with a few inches of water, the Wood Thrush is, in summer, by far the most abundant species. Early in May, when the woods are in new leaf, the woods fairly ring with the bell-like notes of these birds, the combined efforts making a grand concert, in which the Oven-birds and Acadian Fly-catchers took a part.

From the first of May, fresh eggs may be found, but they are most abundant during the second and third weeks. The nest is commonly placed eight or ten feet upon a horizontal limb, sometimes in a fork of a sapling, and have an internal wall of mud, lined with shiny, jet black rootlets, and covered outside with bleached lace like dead leaves, which contrast beautifully with the jet

black interior, especially when the latter contains the usual number of three or four blue eggs. Two is sometimes the complement, and I have seen five, but the latter number is unusual. One nest found on May 7th, was placed in an upright sapling in a narrow fork, so that the nest was built up to a height of 10 inches before it had room enough for the sitting bird.

The Ovenbird is next in abundance. Its clearly accented notes are heard in great abundance early in May and its eggs are laid at any time during that month. The nest, placed under a bushy dead limb on the ground, resembles greatly the nest of the meadow mouse, *Arvicola pennsylvanicus*, but is thatched outside with broad dry leaves of the white beech.

This bird is more imposed on by the Cow-bird, than any others that have fallen under my observation, as the following record shows:

May 6, 1 egg of Ovenbird, 5 of Cowbird.

May 7, 3 eggs of Ovenbird 3 of Cowbird.

May 23, 3 eggs of Ovenbird, 3 of Cowbird.

May 23. no eggs of Ovenbird, 3 of Cowbird.

The female was sitting, in each nest, excepting the first, when all eggs were fresh.

Another abundant resident of these woodland shades is the Acadian Fly-catcher. I cannot say when it arrives, but it is quite common by the 1st of May. It is difficult to see, as its plain colors corresponds well with the dead lower limbs of trees, on which it loves to perch. You may be guided to it by its shrill, "*queedle-a-ree, ree,*" *queedle-a-ree, ree, ree,* which is almost constantly uttered; but the bird, as you approach moves on out of sight.

Its nest, always as I have found, is placed on a pendent limb of a white beech, usually about seven feet from the ground. One nest was made of yellow "tickle-grass," loosely woven,

the loose ends left sticking out for eight inches on each side. There was no other material used in the nest, which, on May 29, contained 3 eggs. Other nests are made more like the Wood Pewee's but deeper and with a softer lining. It may be well to mention here that, although no Least Flycatchers are seen here in the breeding season, they are abundant in August, moving through the leafy branches, quite unlike the rest of their brethren who sit and wait for a job.

All this time they utter a pair of sharp notes, *swick! swick!* lingering a little on the first letter. I have heard the Great Crested Flycatcher frequently in the spring but have found no nests.

The Maryland Yellow-throat is found abundantly in the sunny thickets surrounding the woods, loudly singing its leisurely "*yipp-o-whittie*," "*yipowhittie*" in the top of a tree, or in lower notes in the thicket, where its nest may be found on the ground, or rather on a platform of leaves built up six inches high, from the wet soil and built of fine weeds and coarse grass. It is a rough nest for so trim a bird.

That the Woodcock breeds in these dark and gloomy woods, I do not doubt; but I have never found a nest there. Last spring while crossing a deserted wood, then grown up in swamp grass, I flushed a female who flew into the thicket, carrying a young one in her toes as she went off. This is a sight one does not see every day. She lit near by behind a log. I looked down and at my feet I saw another bunch of gray down squatted in a hole. I picked him up and examined him, and then, setting him down, he spread his long blue-quilled wings, and standing very high on his legs, he wandered away after his mamma, uttering a shrill whistle. As I moved, I noticed I had been standing upon another, also squatted in a hole, which saved his life probably.

Other species found in these woods

during the breeding season, are, the Summer Tanager, the Scarlet Tanager, Mourning Dove, and the Blue-winged Yellow Warbler. The latter is quite common in the thickets near patches of swamp grass; and many a time have I searched the grass tufts for a nest without success. Its only song is a lively *ra-a-y, chee*, the first syllable in the rising, and the second in the falling inflection.

The owls are represented by the Great Horned, Screech, and Barred Owls, named in the order of their abundance. The Screech Owl take the lead, however, the county over. A nest of the Barred Owl, containing a downy youth a little shorter and broader than a Screech Owl, was found on May 9th. This owl afterwards got into numerous scrapes.

Birds abundant in migration are Cerulean Warbler, Redstart, Black-throated Blue and numerous other Warblers not yet identified.

The tract of woodland this article describes contains eighty acres.

FALCO.

Montgomery, O.

A Day with the Ducks.

I think it was about March 10, 1887 that I had an invitation from an uncle to spend a day down at his ducking shore with him. I accepted, of course, and will try to give you a short account of our trip.

Leaving Baltimore at 7 p. m. by the Philadelphia, Milwaukee & Baltimore railroad, in about 40 minutes we arrived at Chase Station where the wagon met us. After a drive of nearly three miles we reached the shore, which is on the Gunpowder River a few miles above Maryland's celebrated ducking resort, and club place, Carroll's Island.

After a hot supper we set by the fire smoking and talking until bedtime.

It seemed to me that I had only been

asleep half an hour, when some one knocked on the door and said "four o'clock, breakfast almost ready." I jumped up, and donned my flannel suit and taking my long rubber boots in my hand went down to the dining room.

After eating our breakfast we drove down to the blinds, which were on the Gunpowder side about half a mile below the house.

In the morning we occupied two boxes, two men in each box. We remained in them until 12 o'clock, only killing 20 ducks, all of which were Redheads. We saw one flock of Geese but they passed up the river just out of range. By-the-way, did you ever notice how accurately a bird can gauge the range of a gun?

We found it very cold about this time and the ducks having ceased flying, at 12:30 we went up to the house for dinner.

Whilst we were eating, one of the men came up and said the ice had broken and was passing out of Saltpetre River, where we also had some blinds. Telling him to put out some decoys, my uncle and I soon followed him.

We took our places in the blind about 2:30 and 6 o'clock we had 98 Ducks, 97 Redheads and one Baldpate. I don't know how many we lost, as the wind and tide carried some away before the man or dogs had a chance to get at them.

The cause of such fine shooting was that the ducks having been kept from their feeding ground by ice, crowded in behind it as soon as it broke loose, and as they had to pass our decoys on their way up the river, a great many stopped with us.

I well remember one Redhead which came straight in over the decoys and blind, close enough to have struck him with a fishing rod. When he saw us below him, he used his wings, feet and tail in his efforts to climb out of our reach. I think he stopped with us.

By this time it was too dark to shoot, so shouldering our guns we walked up to the house and sent a horse and cart down for the game, which made a pretty good load. I ate duck for about two weeks after that.

Last year we had very little duck shooting in the Gunpowder, and still less so far this year. For some reason or other the grass which the ducks feed on, seems to have died out, or been washed out of our rivers.

WM. H. FISHER,
Baltimore, Md.

A Trip Through "Wa-hoo-Hammock."

It has probably fallen to the lot of few persons interested in Natures products to visit the spot in which it was my good luck to spend three or four days in March 1889. "Wa-hoo Hammock" ("Wa-hoo" is very likely an abbreviation for War-Whoop and Hammock is the name given in the south to any growth of hard wood trees) is the place, and is situated in the interior of Florida.

For miles we traveled through forests of gigantic hickory, oak, and magnolia trees, many of them ten to fifteen feet in diameter and one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet high. These, I am aware do not rival the great redwoods, but I think, are the the largest to be found anywhere but in the far west. There is almost no underbrush and the great trees grow at distances of twenty to forty feet apart, and the place is almost as dark as night, as the trees hold their foliage the year around and it is so thick as to shut out the light. Combining this with the long festoons of Spanish moss and huge loops and swings of wild grape vines recalled to my mind the stories of my childhood of "The Giants that Lived in the Great Forest."

It is, of course the favorite abode of owls of all sizes and kinds, and it

makes no difference to them whether it be day or night. It is the hunters paradise. Bears are few, although several have been killed there in the last few years. Deer are more common, while wild-cats, raccoons, foxes, opossums and squirrels abound in numbers.

The specimens which I value most, however, are the skins of three fine Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. I saw eight of the birds and also saw one of them leave a hole, high up in a hickory tree—How I wanted to get up there! But it was utterly impossible.

As we traveled on, during the third day the trees became smaller—underbrush began to appear, and we were through the hammock, but that day we came upon a sour orange grove and it was a beautiful sight, as the trees were full of the white, wax-like flowers with the previous crop of golden fruit, which does not fall still upon the branches.

Leaving this we came to the open country and at once obtained quantities of smaller game—rabbits, quail etc., and soon came upon a large plantation the owner of which entertained us with stories of adventures with wild animals and with the Seminole Indians who once inhabited those parts. These we took with a grain of salt and next morning started for home, this time preferring to go around the hammock instead of through.

If any of the readers of this ever have the chance, by all means make the trip.

R. B. WHITEHEAD,
Westfield, N. J.

A True Naturalist.

There are Oölogists of many descriptions, some collect for the money there is in it, some to outdo their friends and again there is the true lover of nature, who is prying into the secret lockers of Dame Nature in search of new truths,

and in their pursuit he finds the study of Oölogy a great assistance.

I have a very poor opinion of a man's morals who will collect birds eggs for the money there is in it.

Such a man cannot give us true descriptions of the birds, their habits and surroundings. His aims are selfish and sordid. His preceptions are blunted and the beauties of nature effect him only in regard to their market value. Not so with the enthusiast, the true lover of nature. Ask him what he sees in taking long tramps through the country in rain and snow in the winter and in the torrid heat of summer, often returning empty-handed. Ask him why he does this, and he will say I know not, a voice seems to be calling me away to the forests, I have no choice but to go. I seem to enter into a new life. The forests are no longer lonely, but the birds are singing hymns of praise, the old oaks are whispering their secrets to the south wind, and all nature animate and inanimate seem to be uniting in praise to its Maker.

Oh! that all naturalists had that finer preception that they might see into the secrets of nature. We would be nobler, truer men, what a bond of brotherhood there is between naturalists, what confidence they place one in another. I have often been asked when making an exchange. What do you know about that fellow? Why do you send him those valuable specimens? What guarantee have you that he will return value for value? I smile and say, that man is a naturalist, he and I belong to the same brotherhood. He will not cheat me, how do I know this? I know that a man who can read the pages of the book Nature has laid before him, gains good habits and good thoughts, and I know a true naturalist is a true man.

I have corresponded with a number of naturalists for several years. I do not

know them personally and have exchanged only very formal business letters with them, yet I instinctively trust them and would risk almost anything in their hands.

There are no exceptions to this rule, a true naturalist is a true man.

But there are some so-called naturalists who are not as honest as they might be. I know this to my sorrow. Any losses I meet with from such people as these, I have charged to the account of experience and come up again with a smiling face determined not to coudem all my brethren because there is one black sheep in the fold. I have an old colored friend who says, "You jes temptin Providen's to trust all them fellers, you gwine to get lef bad some of des days." I think differently and only hope that the day may come when all naturalists are honest men.

J., M. F., O.

The Crow Around Omaha.
Corvus americanus.

There is probably no city in the United States where *corvus americanus* is so plentiful and tame as they are in Omaha.

Here they are almost as common as the English Sparrow or the tame Pigeon and show no more fear of man than the latter two birds.

All through the winter months and especially when the ground is covered with snow this handsome and intelligent but very mischievous bird is a common sight on our side streets and alleys and very often they may be seen in our dooryards picking up the refuse from the table. They seem almost absolutely without fear of man, and when busily engaged in enjoyment of a meal they can be approached within a very few yards before they take wing.

This will seem strange to people who live in eastern states; where the crow is considered the shyest of wild birds.

The farmer's boy who succeeds in crawling within gunshot of a crow in some parts of Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania accomplishes a feat, that he may well be proud of, but here any boy with a nigger-shooter or flobert rifle can pop away at them as if they were so many barn-yard fowls. This domesticity of of the Crow in this particular region is a hard nut for Ornithologists to crack.

We do know, however, that they congregate here in countless numbers and frequent the streets and byways of the city with the impunity of the Buzzard in Charleston or Savannah or the common tame Pigeon of any of the northern cities. They are good scavengers and deserve rigid protection. In olden days the Crow was supposed to be granivorous and was the least beloved of all our native birds, but in these days of scientific research and investigation the Crow like many others is known not to be nearly as black as he is painted, and almost everywhere something like a just sentiment prevails toward our Crows.

This was brought about by a thorough study of the habits and diet of the bird and instead of being wholly or largely granivorous, they are almost insectivorous and the amount of insect larvæ they destroy more than counterbalances their destruction in the grain fields.

This fact alone is sufficient to warrant their protection instead of the old time persecution. Strictly speaking, the Crow while being an extremely clean bird is omnivorous; he will eat or attempt to eat a door knob or railroad spike with the same avidity that would mark his attack on a sponge cake or veal entlet. He is a splendid scavenger as I said before and picks up and does away with many a scrap of noxious offal which otherwise would be left to taint the air and breed disease.

The Crow is an interesting study at any or all times, and will repay anyone who takes the trouble to watch and

study them. A bird of marvelous intelligence and barring his mania for petty larceny makes a most entertaining and interesting pet; some authorities even go so far as to say that he may be taught to talk, but my experience with them does not carry that idea out to any greater extent than to say *Ah! Ah!*

Crows are very tenacious of life and there is said to be an old male in the London Zoo now about 100 years old.

Just now they are at their thickest around Omaha and every morning and evening great flocks can be seen flying over the city.

In the evening their flight is from the south or southwest towards Cut-off Lake where they pass the night and scattering out again at day-break towards the south and southwest. For years and years the birds have roosted on the low willows east and north of Omaha and when the sable host have congregated in the evening, the uproar from the numerous tongues is so loud you can not hear yourself think and the spectacle is a sight of a lifetime.

I could go on like this for a day but our Friend Lattin has not the room nor I the time for it.

ISADOR A. TROSTLER,
Omaha, Neb.

A Peculiar Bird.

On February second I went hunting on the Blue River for Birds. One of the students went along with me as I was unacquainted with the region. For two or three miles we scarcely saw anything but Snowbirds and Tree Sparrows. We then came to a bend in the river which was well grown up with timber, and here we found birds, plenty of specimens if not species. A number of specimens were secured among which was a *Spinus tristis* with a crossed bill. Another was secured which had a normal bill. The winter plumages being the same. I de-

termined the sex by dissection. The first was a female the other a male. The bird is normal in all respects except the bill. The normal bill has the commissure almost straight, curving downward toward the tip; in the cross-billed specimens, both mandibles are curved, the upper a little the more. The upper mandible is crossed to the right, which is true of the three or four Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostris*) that I have. I wonder if the same bird can cross them either way? Looked at from above, it seems that the upper mandible were merely bent to one side as the culmen lies in a straight line; but viewed from the side, the mandibles coincide past the ramus, but from there on they cross and curve till the tip of the upper is .15 of an inch lower than that of the lower. Has any one else found a similiar bird?

CLOUD RUTTER,
Doane College, Crete, Neb.

Early Nesting of the Great Horned Owl.

Thinking that it might be of some interest to the readers of the OÖLOGIST to learn of some early finds, Walter Truitt and myself have decided to give a short sketch of our January's collecting Great Horned Owls eggs.

The twenty-third of January we went to the woods to seek locations in which we might expect soon to find nests. Hawks of various species were noted, and numerous nests were located.

The sight of an occasional Great Horned Owl, as it silently left its roost on some neighboring tree and hurriedly fled to some hidden retreat, urged us on. Finally we noticed one of these birds fly away from an elm in a manner which attracted particular attention. Investigation revealed some feathers around a cavity in the elm. Curiosity impelled us to climb up the tree to gain a closer view. Truitt, who was first to put on his climbers, began to ascend,

but had scarcely started up when an owl flew from the cavity. What was my surprise when the presence of two eggs was announced. We took them and continued our tramp.

On our return a second surprise awaited us, for the eggs were so badly incubated that we succeeded, only with great difficulty even after a liberal application of caustic potash, in blowing them. They must have been deposited before the seventh of the month.

The twenty-seventh we again took the field and were rewarded with a set of two eggs, these were perfectly fresh. The thirtieth, we took two other sets of two eggs each, one set slightly, the other badly incubated, one of these sets was taken from an old Hawk's nest at an elevation of sixty-seven feet.

We thus closed one month's collecting, well satisfied and convinced that February would furnish still richer finds.

O. K. WILLIAMSON,
Lawrence, Kas.

A Trait of the Carolina Wren.

I have seen a good deal written lately in the OÖLOGIST about the Carolina Wren, but have never seen anything about what is a distinct characteristic around here.

I mean their fondness for building in artificial places such as I will describe.

Two or three years ago I saw a pair of Wrens carrying building material into a thick evergreen bush, in the yard of an unoccupied house near where I live. I could not imagine what kind of a nest they were building as there was no hollow in the bush. At last my curiosity got the better of my discretion and I went to the bush and parted the leaves. One of the birds hurriedly flew out and I saw the nest about half done inside of an old watering pot.

The birds quit the nest but I had found out something. I put an old

paint bucket in a hedge near by and they started to build in it. But a child meddled with it and they quit that one too. Then a friend and myself commenced to put up tin cans, old coffee pots, etc., for Wrens. My friend got about five sets and I got one.

This was the spring and summer of 1890. In 1891 I was more lucky with my cans. April 11, I got a set of five from a can stuck between the boards of a fence by myself. The next three sets, all of five were in a stump, post and bank of earth, respectively. On June 17th I got a set of five from a can that I had put in a thicket. On June 25th I got a set of four from an old coffee pot I stuck up in the woods. And on July 5th I got a set of three from a can that a non-collecting friend had put up for me.

I have a very pretty specimen of a nest that a boy gave me. It is in a small round gourd with a hole in one side, such as are hung up for Martins. He put it in a hedge in his yard and the Wrens built in it.

All of the nests are made of pretty much the same materials. Leaves, grass, roots, pine, straw, moss, lined with horse hair and roots generally constitute a nest here.

The nest in the post was the deserted nest of a Blue Bird, prettily arched over with green moss.

ALBERT R. HEYWARD, JR.,
Columbia, S. C.

Visiting a Bald Eagle's Nest in Virginia.

I see in OÖLOGIST of January, '92, the experience and adventures, of some of our collectors, and thought some of mine might be of interest to others.

Our Editor warns us not to meddle with Sparrows, So I will try to keep as far out of their way as possible, and will take up the abode of the Bald Eagle.

After repeated inquiry I found the lo-

cation of five nests of this grand bird. On March 2nd I went to the first and struck the tree, off jumped the bird, and flew screaming and whistling around us. By past experience we knew this meant eggs. So with what delight I buckled on my climbing apparatus only an experienced collector can tell up I went. The pine was very large, when about 80 feet and past the third limb, I struck my right climber rather high to get the next limb, when to my not very pleasant surprise, my climber broke square off.

So here stood our collector 80 feet from the ground, with only one climber and about 30 feet more to the nest. But after a moments deliberation, I decided as there were limbs up to the nest I would get the eggs, reaching that point in a few moments. I stood with my face just above the nest, which was so large that I could not reach the middle, nor could I see any eggs, and began to fear I would have my climb and adventure for my reward. But taking up a crooked stick I pushed around the center and to my delight brought out two beautiful eggs,

The nest was about 6 feet across, flat on top, and about 5 feet thick. The cavity in the center was about 12 inches across, and about 5 deep, lined with wire grass and corn husk.

After packing our eggs, I started on the downward course. At the last limb, 70 feet from the ground, came the tug of war, but I was in for it and had to go. With some very close hugging I got down 10 feet, to a dead strip of the tree which went to the ground; lightning had struck and killed this part many years ago. In this dead place were several Pileated Wood-pecker holes, into these I put one foot, and so reached terra firma in safety, and did not forget to feel thankful to the lightning and Woodpeckers for valuable assistance rendered.

F. THEO. MILLER,
Kilmarnoek, Va.

The Vireos of Connecticut.

These charming little birds take a prominent place in the summer woodland attractions of Southern Connecticut.

The more common is the Red eyed Vireo, and is so well known to require much description. Being sober colored and shy they would not be much noticed were it not for their sweet warbling song, which may be heard at any time of the day in the shade trees of the town or the quiet woodland. The pretty little pensile nest is generally hung from bushes in quiet woods. I once found a nest eight feet from the ground directly over a much traveled road. In this locality four eggs are more common than three.

White-eyed Vireo: Of later years this little bird seems to be growing more common. They are the first of their family to arrive in the spring. Their queer little song can always be identified, it is sharp, decisive and to the point. They commence building early, and the nest is a work of art. It is larger and deeper than the Red-eyed; although the bird is smaller. When the nest is disturbed they express their displeasure by scolding in a most ferocious manner. The birds seem to prefer bush and scrub lots, and the nest is seldom over four feet from the ground. Three eggs are the average.

The Yellow-throated Vireo is the handsomest and most striking one of the family. His yellow breast and large size bringing him more into view. It is not a common bird here. For two seasons a pair of these birds have reared a brood in a small orchard at the rear of a house. They grew very bold, and when any body approached their tree the female resented it by flying down and snapping her bill and some times even striking the heads of the intruders. Last season the nest was so well concealed, that the young were

hatched before it was discovered. The eggs are slightly larger and more heavily marked than the Red-eyed.

The Warbling Vireo is not common. They much resemble the Red-eyed and the eggs are scarcely distinguishable. They are a bird of the tree tops and the nest is placed from 15 to 40 feet from the ground.

The Blue-headed Vireo occurs as a migrant.

WILLIAM I. COMSTOCK,
Norwalk, Conn.

The Crossbill in Iowa.

I noticed a short article by W. W. Searles, on the America Crossbill, in the January OÖLOGIST, and thought a few notes on that bird might be of interest to your readers.

My acquaintance with the Crossbill began in the fall and winter of '84, I was then living in DeWitt, in the eastern part of this state. In our yard there were several large evergreen trees, and in these the Crossbills would spend a goodly part of each day, as long as the flock stayed in the vicinity.

The fall of '84 is as early as I remember seeing the birds, but each fall and winter after that, up to '88, when we moved from the place, the Crossbills were regular winter visitors. Some times they would stay in the vicinity as long as two weeks, so I managed to see a good deal of them. Our house was so situated that a balcony extended to within a few feet of the branches of two large evergreens, and from this place I have watched the birds for hours at a time. Cones were very numerous on these two trees, which made it a favorite resort.

While feeding the Crossbill is very intent upon its work, and does not seem to care "which end up" it is. They cling to the cones in all manner of positions, and a person may approach quite close to a flock without

startling the birds. The lower branches of these trees were not over five feet from the ground, and I have often approached to within easy reach of the Crossbills, but on the least suspicious movement, the whole flock rises, uttering a sharp, peculiar cry of one syllable. Ordinarily, when so startled, the flock settles in the near neighborhood, after making several circles overhead.

The largest flock I ever saw numbered about fifty, the usual number being twenty-five or thirty, and in all the flocks I have seen, I notice that generally about two-thirds of the birds are females.

Formerly I thought these birds must be kept on rather short rations, as the seeds are so hard to extract from the cones, but upon examining the stomachs of several specimens, I found that I was much mistaken. They were literally stuffed with seeds. Their peculiar shaped bill is adapted to this particular purpose, and when the Crossbill gets to work in earnest, it makes the chips fly.

After leaving DeWitt, I did not see the Crossbill until the fall of '90, when we moved to Hampton. Here I again renewed my acquaintance with the bird. I saw a small flock in November, 1890, and flocks of about twenty on Nov. 15th and Dec. 5th, 1891. This year ('92) a flock of about twenty-five has been in the vicinity, and I have seen the birds almost every day during the last week of January and first of February.

One thing I noticed in the Crossbill this month, which is new to me. I saw a flock feeding on ash seeds, picking them from the ground under a tree. I had supposed their food to consist entirely of cone seeds.

To conclude with, I will say, the Crossbill is, in my estimation, a very model of industry, and one which I much admire.

FRANK H. SHOEMAKER,
Hampton, Iowa.

Notes From the Virginia Coast.

The following observations on some of the more characteristic birds of the Virginia coast are from notes taken by Mr. Elliott B. Cones and myself during three trips to that locality in the seasons of 1883-89-90, and are simply the result of our personal experience which was, perhaps, somewhat limited.

SEASIDE FINCH, (*Ammodramus maritimus*.)

This species we found breeding abundantly on all the larger islands and along the shore, inhabiting the beach grass and the dryer portion of the marshes. Their nests varied considerably in construction some being open while others were round and domed like a Marsh Wren's, all built in the grass close to, but never touching, the ground. In all the eggs which I have examined the ground color is white or gray and has no greenish tint.

BOAT-TAILED GRAKLE, (*Quiscalus major*.)

Of all the land birds the "Jackdaw" was perhaps the most conspicuous, their peculiar cry being constantly heard. They are exceedingly shy, particularly the old males and we had considerable difficulty in shooting specimens even at the nests. They breed in colonies, the largest we observed being on Manekhom Island, in a grove of scrub pines, the nests being placed near the tops of the trees and built much like those of the Purple Grakle but larger. By the middle of May many of these nests held young of good size while others contained fresh sets of 2, 3, or 4 eggs.

FISH CROW, (*Corvus ossifragus*.)

Abundant, much more so than *C. americanus*. They breed about a month later than the latter species, nidification being at its height during the third week in May. They build only in the taller pines, generally selecting one close to the water. On one small islet

nourishing a half dozen low oaks and a lone scrawny pine, dwelt three pairs of Jackdaws (from which we took three sets of 4 eggs,) a number of White-bellied Swallows, with a pair of rash and misguided Fish Crows who had located a nest most conspicuously in the top of aforesaid pine. But their corvine confidence was badly misplaced for their eggs paid the penalty of reckless impudence. We found sets of four and five the latter being the most common.

CLAPPER RAIL, (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*.)

Exceedingly abundant on all the marshes, but the seclusive birds we seldom observed. The nests were neatly built, as a rule placed on the ground with the tall green marsh grass prettily twined and plaited into a bower above the eggs. Many others were built in the thick beach grass by which they are completely concealed, some again being placed on the piles of broken reeds thrown on the edge of the marsh by high winter storms. These latter nests were entirely open and exposed, being visible from a considerable distance.

Eggs commonly 10, many sets with less, and one which consisted of 12.

THE TERNS.

Five or six species occurred as follows, named in order of their abundance: Common, Forste's, Least, Gull-billed and an occasional glimpse of a Royal or Caspian. Though formerly abundant neither of the last two species now breed regularly in Northampton Co. The Common Terns breed on all the open beaches making little or no nest, unlike the Forster's which built a compact nest back in the marshes. Doubtless exceptions to this rule occasionally occur, but it is of importance on account of the impossibility of otherwise identifying eggs of these species.

The only colony of Gull-bills which we investigated was on Hog Island, where the birds were breeding abun-

dantly The nests were on the beach and not nearly so substantial as we had expected. Two eggs the usual number and no nest held more than three.

The beautiful Least Terns are now comparatively rare and we found only a few scattered pairs breeding on the shelly beaches where once they swarmed by hundreds.

LAUGHING GULL, (*Larus atricilla*.)

Abundant on all the marshes. They collect an immense amount of rubbish and build in the wettest portion of the marsh, many nests being actually afloat. Eggs not laid till June when we took sets of 2, 3, 4, and once 5 eggs, three being the common number.

BLACK SKIMMER, (*Rhychops nigra*.)

Breed in immense colonies on the bare sand bars, laying through the month of June. Where the birds are not molested 4 eggs are laid at least as often as three.

* * * * *

While we collected to some extent on the mainland, most of our time was spent with the sea birds, for there is an exhilaration aroused by a tramp on the beach and marshes among their screaming, shrieking hosts which is never afforded by the quiet haunts of the rarer but much too microscopic Warbler.

THEODORE W. RICHARDS,
Washington, D. C.

An Hour with the Water Birds.

We stood on the brow of a steep hill overlooking the beautiful Humber River. About the journey there, with all its little incidents, adventures; and oölogical finds, little need be said. At any rate here we stood, gazing on the beautiful picture which lay spread out before us. About a quarter of a mile in front of us, was a corresponding bank: and between the river flowed, bordered on each side by extensive lily ponds. Farther south, we could see, a steep cliff overhanging the river, with

its frowning front mirrored in the glassy waters. Directly opposite, was a most beautiful spot jutting out into the river, shaded by several large willows. The back was protected by a thick growth of elders. What a delightful spot it would be for a quiet afternoon with birds and books!

A dull thundering roar now attracted our attention, and looking further down the stream, we saw, suspended between water and sky, a railway train crossing the steel bridge. Farther out, the deep blue of Lake Ontario, set with here and there a glinting white sail, formed a picturesque and striking background. This reminded us of our experience as sailors; moonlight excursions; an, oh dear! of seasickness. Thus our minds wandered to regions far over the lake, picnics; excursions, and all the general pleasures of holiday life. But here we were, standing in the hot June sun, with still a large part of our journey before us.

Down the steep hill we rushed, regardless of the mercilessly hot sun; regardless of the general shaking we received, nor did we halt until we were safely esconced behind the upturned roots of an old pine stump. From behind this we shortly afterward appeared in gaily striped bathing suits. Did ever anybody experience so delightfully rested a feeling, as we oölogists did; as thirsty, tired, and hot, we plunged into the delightfully cool and refreshing waters of the river. The occupants of some passing row-boats, stopped to look curiously at the amphibious creatures, which rolled and tumbled in mid-stream; and no doubt wished that they themselves were in the same position of ease and comfort.

In the delight of our swim, we had for a moment forgotten the enthusiasm we had for our favorite pursuit; but only for a moment. Soon we reached the other side, and dove into the rushes amid the ceaseless clatter of Marsh

Wrens. If they made a fuss when we entered the reeds, the noise they made when we attacked their nests was indescribable. We were however rather early for eggs, and only two sets were secured. Round and round among those rushes we waded, waist deep in mud and water, and with only wet clothes on our backs; but that did not dampen our enthusiasm, much as it did our skin. Suddenly from in front of me there arose a little apparition in yellow, and with dangling legs and stooped head, a Least Bittern skimmed over the tops of the rushes for a few yards, and dropped. It however immediately returned, not by the overland route, but through the rushes, to find out the fate of its nest and eggs.

So sudden was the rise that I stood motionless staring at the bird; but a moment after I was stooping over my first set of *Botaurus exilis*. Five dirty bluish-white beauties formed the set, and with my treasures I hastened back to the landing where a boat manned by a friend was awaiting me. As it was now nearly five o'clock it was deemed advisable to start home; and in a few minutes our staunch craft was gaily riding the billows of Lake Ontario. A stiff breeze had sprung up and rendered our voyage back rather exciting but we were fresh and jolly because of our good fortune, and our treasures packed in our respective collecting boxes.

During our short stay a large percentage of the birds were Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) and next in numbers were the Red-winged Blackbirds, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), who were feeding their clamorous young who sat with flapping wings on the edges of the nest or on the reeds. Coot's (*Fulica americana*), were tolerably common but it was past breeding time and all we saw of eggs were a few broken egg shells. Lastly Least Bitterns (*Botaurus exilis*) were seen in small numbers, and Song Sparrows, (*Melospiza fasciata*) as

usual haunted the grassy edges of the pond.

W. H. MCNAIRN,
Toronto, Ont.

A Curious Battle.

One sunny morning in the early part of May, 1887, I witnessed a curious battle between a Baltimore Oriole and a Least Pewee. The Pewee was building its nest, which was partly finished, when the Oriole came and tried to steal the Pewee's building material to build its own. The Pewee resisted and there was a royal battle for a few minutes, in which the feathers flew from the bodies of both combatants. The Pewee drove Sir Lord Baltimore back, only to have him return to the attack, after a few minutes rest. In the third attack the battle raged hot and heavy for about five minutes and at the termination Lord Baltimore was glad to retreat, leaving the Pewee the victor.

MORAL—It is not always the stronger party that wins. Pluck tells every time.

BUBO VIRGINIANUS,
Schuyler's Lake, N. Y.

A Set of Krider's Hawk.

On March 24th, 1891, I and my friend L. L. Knox, started out for a days collecting. On arriving at our favorite collecting ground, an elm flat we saw a large Krider's Hawk silently leave the nest, which was situated in a large elm tree, 75 feet or more tall. My friend strapped on his climbers but I took the tree without them. We got within six feet of the nest when my friend slipped and had to give up the race. I got to the nest after some hard climbing and found two eggs, one slightly blotched on the larger end and the other more so. We came down, highly elated with our success for we were the only collectors who had taken any Krider's that year.

G. W. ERWIN,
Giddings, Tex.

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Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y.

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

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

E. E. H., of Cleveland, O., writes: "In the summer of 1889 I spent a few months in Vermont and had a very peculiar find. I was setting by a small creek reading and was startled by a bird flying up right by the side of me and looking in the hole in the ground I spied a nest containing four eggs exactly like the Wood Thrush in color but not quite so large. I am sorry I could not see the bird but my eggs are still unidentified."

R. J. B., of Minneapolis, writes of taking "albino" eggs of Cliff Swallows. They can more appropriately be termed "abnormal" and are not uncommon.

W. L. B., of Bay City, Mich., sends an interesting account of a day with the Hawks and Crows, but as almost every reader of the Oölogist has had a like experience, the lack of space forbids our printing it.

In a letter of recent date our friend, Rev. J. H. Langille, says, "The Smithsonian Institution has lately purchased, ready mounted, twelve magnificent species of Birds of Paradise, from New Guinea. They are a show in themselves."

G. N., West Quincy, Mass., writes that Flickers, Chewinks, Song Sparrows and Robins have been quite common with them this winter, also that 43 eggs of *Passer domesticus* were taken from a single electric lamp in that town last season.

H. B. A., Manchester, Ia., writes that large numbers of American Crossbills have been feeding on sunflower seeds in his garden this winter.

It gives us pleasure to announce that arrangements have been perfected whereby each issue of the Oölogist for the year will contain a full page frontispiece, engraved expressly for that purpose; also that small illustrations will be made to illustrate any MSS. requiring the same, providing the drawings accompany the article and we deem them worthy or of sufficient importance to admit the additional expense.

The following taken from the Manchester, N. H. *Union* records the habits of a very common bird, entirely new to the ornithological world. Had this egotistical writer consulted some wide-awake ten-year-old boy he might have been saved the pain of having his extreme ignorance exposed in making such an almost unpardonable blundering statement:

□ "Are you sure? A writer on animal oddities says:

"The British Cuckoo and the American Cow Blackbird never build nests of their own, but content themselves with

depositing their eggs in the nests of other and smaller representatives of the feathered tribe."

This yarn has been going about the Cuckoo for many years and some people have supposed that it applied to the American bird; and such cases may have happened on either side of the Atlantic, but it is not the custom with either bird in this country.

The female of the Cow Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird and Bobolink differ so much from the male in appearance that many people have wondered when they found nests of these birds with the female on the eggs. The writer has seen scores of nests of the Cow Blackbird, sometimes three or four on one willow overhanging the Mississippi river, where the birds were so numerous and tame that they would often ride on the same log with a man and pick off insects that were exposed by the log being rolled over."

January Prize Article Contest.

One hundred and seven (107) Judges sent in their decisions as to the merits of the articles in January OÖLOGIST. In determining the results of these 107 decisions we allowed the articles named by each judge, credits as follows: The articles named as deserving the 1st prize we allowed five credits; 2d prize, four credits; 3d prize, three credits; 4th prize, two credits; and the 5th prize, one credit.

Upon this system of credits, the articles winning the prizes and the number of credits received by each were as follows:

1. Bird Nesting in North-west Canada. 475.
2. Two Birds of Western Kansas. 280.
3. The Bronzed Grackle. 253.
4. The Blue Grosbeak. 244.
5. Summer Tanager. 155.

Seven other articles received credits ranging from 7 to 67 each.

All future awards will be made on the same credit system.

The decisions of the 107 Judges were numbered from 1 to 107, consecutively, as received. Three of these lists or decisions were exactly as the awards were made and to these three were awarded the Judges prizes. The earliest list taking 1st prize; second, 2d prize; third, 3d prize.

The successful Judges and the number of their decisions as received by us were as follows:

1. Geo. H. Gray, Baltimore, Md. No. 16.
2. R. M. Miller, New Chester, Pa. No. 38.
3. Frank H. Shoemaker, Hampton, Iowa. No. 101.

All prizes were mailed the successful winners on March 7th.



"No-o Ma'am I-I d-d-on't w-want any b-b-ir-ds."

The above is a reduced *fac simile* of one of "Lattin's" valentines; it most faithfully portrays his prowers as a sportsman.

The following from W. Raine is self-explanatory: "In answer to numerous enquiries as to when "Bird-Nesting in North-west Canada" will be out I wish to inform subscribers that the book is now being printed as rapidly as possible, and that this delay cannot be avoided. The twenty plates of Birds' Nests, Prairie, Swamp Scenes, Indian Camps, etc., have taken considerable time to execute, and it has been decided to color the plates of Birds' Eggs by hand, which is a slow and expensive process."

"Our Birds in Their Haunts."

A letter from our Friend Langille advises us to again extend the time for receiving subscriptions at *only* \$1.60 to the new edition of this valuable work, till April 1st, after which date the price will *positively* be \$2.50.

A sufficient number of subscribers has been received to guarantee the publication of the work and he expects to have it out by May 1st.

Self Explanatory.

My Dear Friend Lattin:

Please notice in your next issue, that the Ornithologists Association will adopt as a study for this season the Crow family and also their near relatives the *Quiscalidae*. We hereby invite the co-operation of all corresponding members, and ask them to adopt their own methods of investigation and reports; those which are the most perfect in respect to matter and method, shall have a special recognition. We would call special attention to the geographical distribution and the food of the different species of the two families above mentioned. *Possibly* we may be able to offer some reward at the end of the year for best papers.

J. H. LANGILLE,
Box 63, Smithsonian Institution,
Feb. 24, '92. Washington, D. C.

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Mar) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th and 5th—Each a set with data of the Noddy.

For the April competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your

decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Apr. 10th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the February competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a set of Noddy. 4th and 5th each a set of Sooty Tern. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

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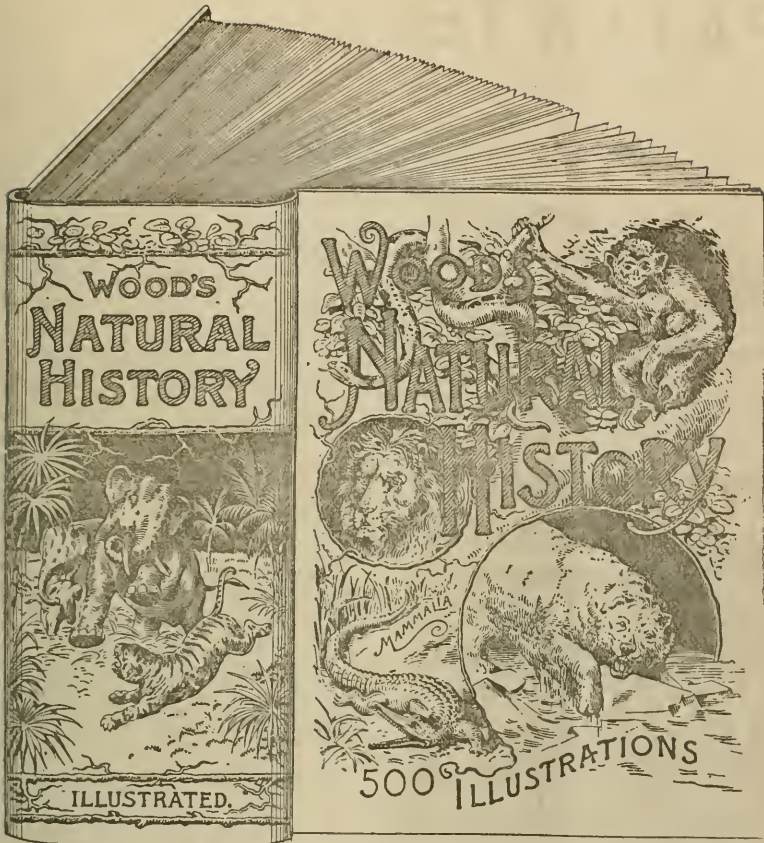
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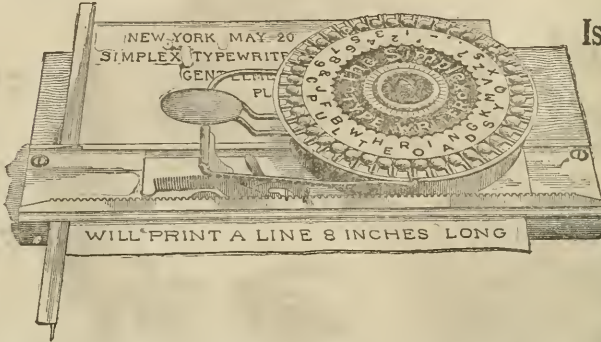
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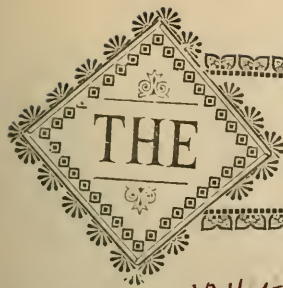
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OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

1044

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1892.

NO. 4

NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS. Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements. "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 55 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"Dealers" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only*.

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

EXCHANGE.—Sets 51a $\frac{1}{2}$, 71 $\frac{1}{2}$, 339 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, 387 $\frac{1}{4}$. 1-5 for other sets. D. W. RAYMOND, Norwalk, Conn.

A fine telescope for sale or will exchange for climbers. Value \$4. Correspondence solicited. H. CUDLIP, 630 B. St., N. E. Washington, D. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—Two pairs climbing irons. 2 vols. Golden Days, Flobert rifle. Wanted eggs in singles. Write for particulars. CHAS. MCGEE, Leavenworth, Kansas.

TO EXCHANGE.—Dumb bells, all sizes from 6 to 50 lbs. per pair. Dumb bell exercises are the healthiest thing in the world, every boy should have a pair, will exchange same for first class eggs with data. ERNEST MARCEAN, 33 Jones St., Dubuque, Ia.

WANTED.—Minerals. Fossils. Sea Curios. Fresh water and land Shells. Have for exchange Fine Fossils, Pet. Moss. J. M. KILVINGTON, Mason City, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine sets of following (A. O. U.) species: 59, 297, 233a, 289b, 311, 319, 313, 335, 339a, 424, 410, 477a, 602, 586, 573, 718a, 706, 707. THOS. H. JACKSON, West Chester, Pa.

I have a fine collection of 50 first-class eggs, value \$8.50, which I will exchange for a 22 cal. rifle in good condition. L. N. KIBBE, Princeton, Franklin Co., Kansas.

TO EXCHANGE.—BIRD SKINS with all collectors. Send list and receive mine with terms. J. CLAIRE WOOD, 101 Abbott St., Detroit, Michigan.

TO EXCHANGE.—Light Brahma Cockerel and eggs for hatching of Light Brahmas and Black Minorcas for sets not in my collection. ROBT WARWICK, Fleming, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—1st class eggs for books. Must be in good condition. Also eggs, many rare ones, blown through two holes in one. Also for common 1st class eggs. A. E. PRICE, Grant Park, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—32 cal. revolver, 52 Yonth's Companions, Violin, climbers, live squirrels, for birds eggs, oologist's or taxidermists instruments. A. C. BLACK, DeGraff, Ohio.

LOOK. I have a first-class receipt for embalming birds and for every dollar's worth of Indian relics sent I will send it to them. J. M. KILVINGTON, Mason City, Iowa.

FINE SETS of Great Horned Owls eggs, also many other sets. 30 species of mussels. 30 species of univalves, all in exchange for scientific literature. Spencer's works especially desired. Send for list and state what you have. DR. W. L. STRODE, Bernadotte, Ills.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A pair of Roller Skates for Bird's Eggs or Skins, also 1st class sets, A. O. U., 488 1-c. 5-st $\frac{1}{2}$, 422 $\frac{1}{4}$. NATHAN L. DAVIS, Box 224, Brockport, N. Y.

BIRD'S EGGS.—FREDERICK A. HUNT, Care O. C. M. A., Syracuse, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Pair of deer antlers, skin on head, two feet wide, six prongs on each antler, worth \$10, for first-class eggs in sets. BURTON H. JOHNSON, Box 693, Orange, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Cornet in good condition, value \$12, will exchange for bird's eggs in sets or singles, mounted birds or skins. E. L. HALEY, Phillips, Maine.

MOUNTED BIRDS.—Thirty specimens, for exchange for Relics, Books, Curio, or articles useful to a naturalist. Send your list and receive mine. W. W. SHELLEY, Hesston, Harvey Co., Kas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Compound microscope (cost 5.00) for first-class climbers, also 3 vols. of the ARGOSY, for eggs in sets. GUY A. MOORE, 1436 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

FORTY-EIGHT numbers of Scientific American 1859-1861. In fair condition. Five Nos. of Century, for climbers and Oölogical instruments. C. HOUSE, 408 Jenning's Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

BIRD SKINS.—If you want strictly first-class, southern skins, such as Kites, Warblers, Seabirds, etc., address, GEO. P. BUTLER, 946 Jones St., Augusta, Ga.

WANTED.—Singles listed at under \$1, especially the commonest ones and several of each variety. Will exchange good original sets or singles for same. FRED A. SCHNEIDER, College Park, Cal.

WANTED.—Eggs, minerals, insects and Natural History specimens of all kinds. Can offer fossils, minerals, stamps, insects, curios, etc., also 1st class military file with instruction book. C. WILL BEEBE, 73 Ashland Ave., East Orange, N. J.

TO EXCHANGE.—Two handsome white thoroughbred Jacobins and one bald-headed tumbler pigeons, for best offer of eggs in singles and sets. BURTON H. JOHNSON, Box 693, Orange, Mass.

CAN OFFER living, mounted, or skins of Am. Porcupine, groundhog, squirrels, etc., also Am. and British bird skins and later eggs of both. Wanted, Jordan's Manual of Vertebrates, and other Natural History works. Also good skins of birds and eggs in sets. What offers. JOHN A. MORDON, Sherman City, Mich.

I would like to hear from all collectors who wish to exchange Coleoptera (Beetles) from their section for same from Wisconsin, during the coming season. W. E. SNYDER, Beaver Dam, Wis.

I WILL GIVE 10) mixed foreign stamps for every perfect aro head with locality or set of eggs with data sent me. I have Vols XI and XII Golden Days to exchange for first-class eggs with data. GUS. RAPP, 465 9th St. Milwaukee, Wis.

REVOLVER, papers and 1st class eggs, sets or singles, for 1st class eggs in sets. All letters answered. CHAS. E. HUSK, Shabona, Ill.

ALL OÖLOGISTS west of the Rocky Mountains who are in favor of forming an association of oölogists for our mutual benefit please send me their names and any suggestions they may think of. N. R. CHRISTIE, Box 15, Mountain Home, Idaho.

FLEAS and LICE—During the coming season will give liberal exchanges in Colorado bird skins and insects, for fleas and lice from all kinds of birds and small animals. Can be easily obtained while taking skins. Send address for particulars. Correspondence solicited. C. F. BAKER, Fort Collins, Colorado.

WANTED.—Collectors in each state and territory to collect butterflies and moths. Will pay cash or give in exchange insects, corals, shells, echinoderms &c. from all parts of the world. If you want to collect write for particulars. WERUM BROS., Toledo, Ohio.

WANTED to exchange, stamps with collectors. Those who have them to exchange send them and we will send a like amount, also we will give 12 cts. worth of Foreign Stamps for every 10 cts. worth of first-class bird's eggs in sets with data or we will give 15 cts. worth of first-class birds eggs for every 10 cts. worth of foreign or U. S. stamps catalogued at 5 cts. or over. MIDDLESEX STAMP COMPANY, 13 Oakland St. Natick, Mass.

JOB PRINTING to exchange for eggs, sets and singles to ex. for others. Natural History Books to ex. H. VAN TRUMP, Rochester, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—A fine \$17 guitar, new, for best offer of original sets with data, amounting to \$23 or over. Also a banjo self instructor for sets. Write and make offer. ERWIN KEITH Ottawa, Kans.

WANTED.—Books on Ornithology, and complete volumes of Auk and "Ornithologist and Oölogist" of Boston. Fine offers in sets or singles Birds eggs. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

FOREIGN STAMPS and cols. minerals, a few shells and Nicholson's Zoology, for standard works on Entomology, Write first to W. A. RILEY, Box 728, Greencastle, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—With collectors desiring some fine sets of St. Domingo, Grebe, Booby Gannet, Bridled Tern, Audubons Shearwater, Man O'War Bird, White-crowned Pigeon, Noddy and Sooty Tern, etc., etc. Send full lists at once, WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

EXCHANGE NOTICE.—To exchange, eggs in sets and singles, Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America" Incomplete copy, for eggs, and skins. B. H. SWALES, 1220 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.

OLD VIOLINS wanted in good or bad condition also new ones if they are fine. Have to exchange musical instruments, Fire arms, Birds Eggs, etc. P. P. NORRIS, Lock Box 99, North Topeka, Kans.

TO EXCHANGE.—Botany, contains 832 large pages and flora of N. A. bound in leather and cloth. In good condition. For climbing-irons, strapped and sent pre paid. Correspondence desired. H. T. GREENE, 100 Valley Rd., Montclair, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Cabinet sets of 30 species Spoon river unlonidae. 20 species univalves. Fine Helices. Birds eggs in sets. Wanted, anything interesting or curious. DR. W. L. STRODE, Bernadotte, Ill.

WANTED.—To exchange a few very desirable sets for single eggs. Collectors please send list of rare single, with price attached. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fine cabinet minerals of New England and Nova Scotia, for Birds Eggs, Thompsonite Natolite, Stilbite, Heulandite, Analeite, Laumontite, Howlite, Selenite, Pyrohisite, Lilac Wernerite, Boltonite, Actinolite, Sterlingite, Annite Cheistolite Xtals and many others. Correspondence desired. G. L. BRIGHAM, Bolton, Mass.

First-class BIRD SKINS. Mounted birds and Deer heads, 4x5 Detective Camera, "O. and O." Vols. 8, 9, 10 and 16 complete. Vol. 15 three Nos. missing. "Young Oölogist." Vol. 1 and 6 complete. Vols. 7 and 8 three Nos. missing; "Random Notes" Vol. 1 complete. Vols. 2 and 3 two Nos. missing; Davie's Egg Check list, first edition (new); and 80 numbers of Natural History papers some nearly complete Vols. will exchange for good revolver, telescope, type writer, books on photography, photo, supplies, banjo, sheet music, fishing tackle or other desirable articles. HOWARD H. MCADAM, Oak Bay, Charlotte Co., N. B.

WANTED.—Twenty-five (25) Pairs of common Doves, will give cash or Job Printing for same. Write, stating Price, Address WILL R. CURTIS, Lock Box 6, East Carlton, N. Y.

EXCHANGES and WANTS, Continued

FLORIDA EGGS.—Wholesale lot, 27 singles, species Mockingbird, Boat-tail, 1 Great Blue Heron, 11 sets comprising Black Skimmer, Anhinga, Louisiana Heron, Logger-head, Shrike, Boat-tailed Grackle and Laughing Gull. First-class, complete data, to exchange for water, chain, fountain pen, type or others. CHAS. S. McPHERSON, St. Petersburg, Florida.

A BANJO, black walnut neck, inlaid fingering, French head, nickled with 24 brass clamps. A fine Artist Solo b flat cornet, guaranteed perfect in tone. It is just 4 months old the 1st of April '92 and on account of ill health has hardly been touched. It is a 'Curtis' Model and cost \$35.00, is brass elaborately engraved. I will send with it a fine leather covered case, plush lined, worth \$4.50, a music rack, stand, mute, a shank, b shank, "rifle bored mouth-piece, silver plated," 2 bits, mouthpiece holder, a cleaner. Wanted Indian relics or most anything. This offer is good for a month. ALBERT PAYNE, Box 218, Greenport, Suffolk Co., L. I.

I have the following first-class eggs in complete sets with full data (A. O. U. No.'s) for exchange. Black Tern 7-2, 10-3; Barred Owl 1-1; Coot 1-9, 1-8; Caracara Eagle 1-2; Grebe 1-5; Meadow Lark 1-3, 2-1, 2-5, 2-3; Arctic Tern 1-3; Bobolink 1-5; Long-billed Marsh Wren 2-3, 3-4, 5-5, 7-6; Noddy Tern 1-1; Great Blue Heron 1-3; Lesches' Petrel 6-1; Florida Gullinule 7-5, 1-5, 8-7, 2-8; Sparrow Hawk 1-3; Least Bittern 2-3, 5-4, 5-6, 3-6; Cactus Wren 1-5; Yellow-headed Blackbird 7-4, 8-5, 15-6; Sora Rail 1-7, 1-8; Cliff Swallow 7-4, 8-5, 8-6, and many other sets. None but first-class sets wanted. CHARLES M. ELDRIDGE, 311 Chamber of Commerce, Chicago.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Cones' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Abion, N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the Oölogist, and for extra good offers anything I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Cones' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Abion, N. Y.

SINGLES, many with data, to exchange for desirable first-class singles. H. M. GUILFORD 139 N. Aldrich Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

NOTE.—Raven (*Corvus corax*) alive, to exchange for b st offer in birds, eggs, shells or curio. ED. VAN WINKLE, Van's Harbor, Upper Penn., Mich.

INDIAN WAR views from the battlefield of "Wounded Knee." Modern Sioux relics. Send for list. C. L. FREEMAN, Ft. Chadron, Neb.

WHO WANTS a Job Press and Fixtures for part trade, price \$15. Offer me Simplex Typewriter or what patent you have. Have Truck Litter for trade. P. O. Box 30, Charlestown, Jefferson Co., West Virginia.

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THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blisters on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Painful Digestion, Pimples, Rash of Blood, Sallow Complexion, Scalding, Sick Headaches, Sour Stomach, Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c, 1-8 gross 50 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.

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A new Stevens 22 cal. rifle, high finish, cost \$12.00 will sell for \$5.50.

My entire private collection of Birds, Eggs, Skins, Mounted Specimens and Shells. All specimens are A1, with full data.

List of Skins: Am. Bittern, Am. Coot, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Cala. Quail, Bob White, Mt. Quail, Yel. bell. Sapsucker, K. sh. Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Wilson Snipe, Brew. Blackbird, Cooper Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Yel. bill, Magpie, Evening Grosbeak, Art. 3 Toed Woodpecker, Cala Jay, Steller's Jay, Purple Grackle, Green Heron, Yel. Hammer, Least Yellow Legs, Gt. Yel. Legs, Cala. Pigmy Owl, Sparrow Hawk, Cala. Screech Owl, *Masio sabratns* (New Species Owl), Purple Martin, Wilson Phalarope, Fox Sparrow, Gt. Crested Flycatcher, Maryland Yell. Throat, Yell. Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, Orchard Oriole, Bobolink, Br. Thrasher, Cedarbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Am. Redpoll, Myrtle Warbler, Bl. and Yell. Warbler, Bl. Th. Green Warbler, Golden-cr. Kinglet, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Bl. Poll Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Bl. Th. Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bryant's savannah Sparrow, Horned Lark, 4. Am. Redstart, Arz. Hooded Oriole, White Bres. Nuthatch, Sanderling, Arz. Bl. Crested Flycatcher, Lapland Longspur, Bank Swallow.

Nearly all skins are in pairs, i. e., male and female of each.

All are fully and correctly labelled.

MOUNTED SPECIMENS.

Am. Herring Gull, Gt. Horned Owl, Willow Ptarmigan, Barred Owl, Green Heron.

SHELLS.

Sixty Specimens univalves and bivalves, all nicely labeled and cleaned.

LIST OF EGGS IN SETS.

Parula Warbler 1-1, Yell. Warbler 1-3, 2-3, 3-3; Yell. Billed Cuckoo 1-2; Song Sparrow 9 4; Field Sparrow 1-3, 1-2; Wilson's Tern 2-3, 1-3; Fish Hawk 1-2; Br. Wing Hawk 1-3, 1-2; Red-Wing, Bl. Bird 13-4; Chewink 3-4; Catbird 3-4; Blue Jay 6-4; Mockingbird 3-3; West. Meadow Lark 2-4; Phoebe 5-4; Vega Gull 1-3; Meadow Lark 2-4; Kingbird 1-4; Yell. Billed Cuckoo 1-2; Yell. Warbler 1-2; Red-tailed Hawk 3-3; Am. Gold Finch 3-4; Balt. Oriole 1-4; Audubon's Hermit Thrush 1-4; Trochontary Warbler 1-6; House Wren 1-5; Catbird 2-4; Common Crow 1-5; Richardson's Owl 1-4; St. Lucas Robin 1-3; Poor-will 1-2; Cooper's Hawk 3-4; Am. Eared Grebe 1-5; Cala. Blue Gray Gnatcatcher 1-4; Chickadee 1-5; Am. Robin 6-4; Barred Owl 1-2; Flicker 2-; Wood Thrush 2-4; Laughing Gull 1-3; Anna's Hummingbird 1-2; West. Bluebird 2-4; Mt. Bluebird 1-2; Bl-colored Bl. Bird 1-3; Oregon Ruffed Grouse 1-7; West. Chulpy Sparrow 1-4; Brew. Bl. Bird 8-4; Oregon Song Sparrow 1-4; Bank Swallow 1-2; Meadow Lark 2-4; White rumped Shrike 6-5; West. Meadow Lark; Sooty Grouse 1-8; Green Heron 1-1; Gt. Horned Owl 1-3; Cala. Murre; Bluebird 1-6; Br. Thrasher 5-3; Scarlet Tanager 1-2; Snowy Heron 1 2; Am. Herring Gull 1-3; Bank Swallow 1-3; Fla. Screech Owl 1-3; Prairie Hen 1-15; Cardinal 1-2; Mt. Quail 1-2; Oregon Towhee 1-4; Red-shafted Flicker 1-4; Magnolia Warbler 1-4; Bronzed Grackle 1-5; Oregon Junco 1 2; Night Hawk 1-2; Long-eared Owl 1-4; Marsh Hawk, 1-3; Traill's Flycatcher 1-4; Slate-colored Junco 2-3; White Th. Sparrow 1-3; Gt. Blue Heron 1-4; Am. Woodcock 1-2; Am. Flamingo 1-2; Louisiana Tanager 1-3; West. House Wren 1-5; West. Robin 7-3; Indigo Bunting 1-4; Red-wing-Bl. Bird 1-5; Yell. Headed Bl. Bird 1-4; Murre 2-1; Wood Pewee 1-3; Warbling Vireo 1-3; Least Bittern 2-4; Tree Swallow 1-4; Purple Martin 1-4; Am. Coot 1-3; Purple

Grackle 1-4; Am. Gold Finch 1-6; Ruby Th. Hummingbird 3-2; Wilson's Thrush 1-3; Long-billed Marsh Wren 1-6; Bl. Tern 2-4; Red-shouldered Hawk 1-4; Fla. Gallinule 1-9; Summer Redbird 4-4; Bl. Cr. Night Heron 1-3; Franklin's Gull 2-3; Pied-billed Grebe 1-6; Chestnut-sided Warbler 1-3; Blue grey Gnatcatcher 2-4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1-3; Carolina Wren 1-4; Bell's Vireo 1-4 and nest; Arctic Tern 1-3; Carolina Rail 1-3; Summer Redbird 1-3; Prairie Horned Lark 1-3; Gt. Crest. Flycatcher 1-4; Bobwhite 1-6; Horned Lark 1-2; King Rail 1-3; Road Runner 1-4; Least Tit 1-6; Raz. Bill. Auk 1; Com. Gullmote 1; Burrowing Owl 1-8; Br. Head Nuthatch 1-6; Cactus Wren 1-4; Little Blue Heron 1-4; Sh. Bill. Marsh Wren 1-7 and nest; Bl. Skimmer 1-4; Hermit Thrush 1-3.

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The entire lot of skins only \$20.00.

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The whole collection of eggs \$32.00.

The mounted specimens \$10.00.

This includes packing and delivery to express office, charges must be paid by receiver. Cash with order. Write at once for they will be sold by May first.

DR. A. G. PRILL, Springville, Erie Co. N. Y.

I WILL SELL first-class eggs as long as they last at $\frac{1}{2}$ lowest list price. Please mention duplicates. Letters answered. R. B. WHITEHEAD, Westfield, N. J.

WANTED:—Old Postage Stamps. Send 10c. for price list giving highest cash price paid for every U. S. stamp. V. L. WHITE, Mt. Morris, N. Y.

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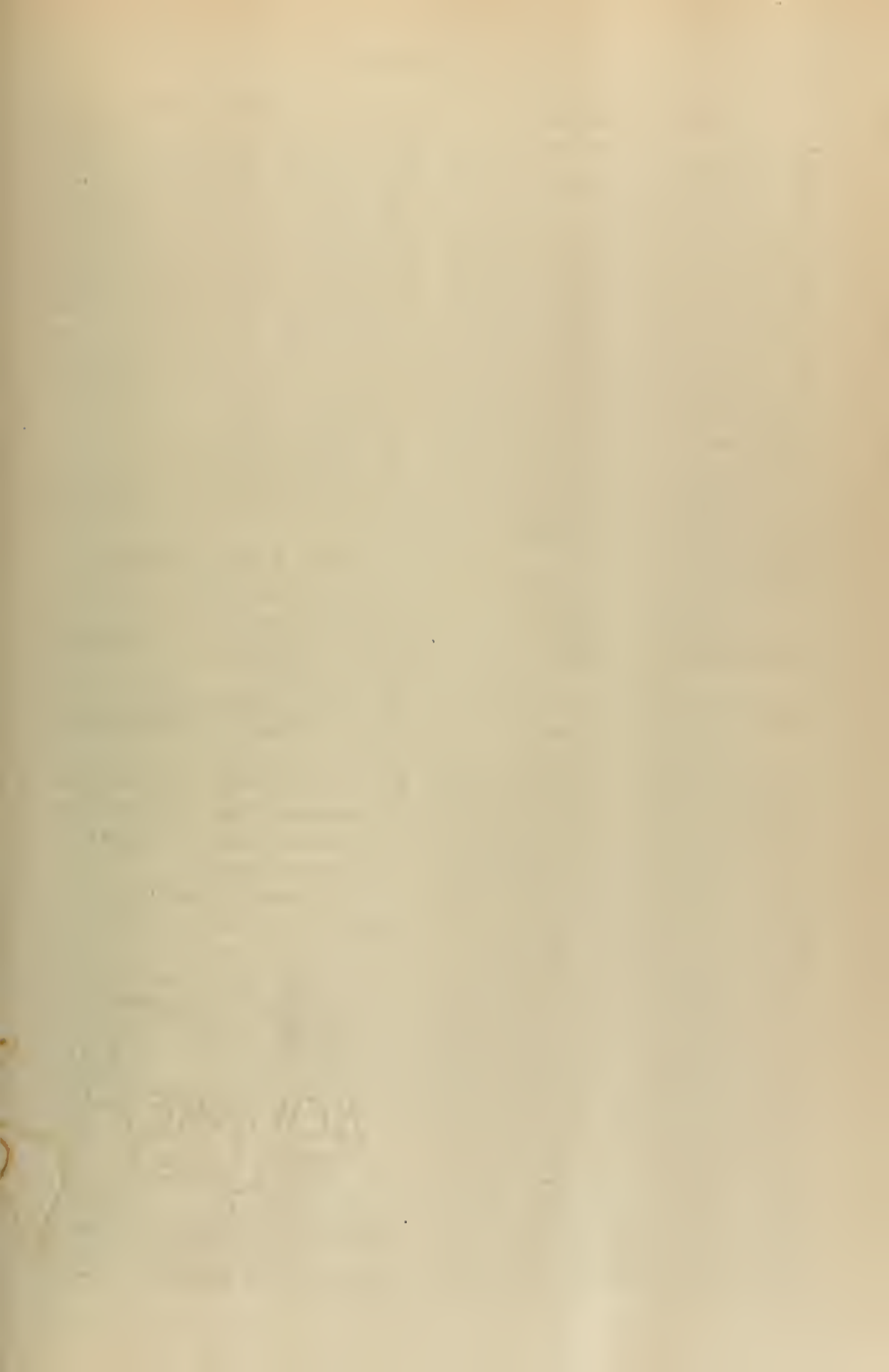
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FOR SALE BY





ENGRAVED BY H. A. CARHART, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, *Accipiter velox*, (female.)

From Photo of specimen mounted by A. B. Covert, Ann Arbor, Mich.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1892.

NO. 4

The Oriole's Nest.

A pair of Orioles built their nest,
On the spreading limb of the old elm
tree,
So near my bed-room window that I,
The process of building could plainly
see.

Skillful architects were they,
Working both as of one mind,
In the strength of unity,
Fit examples for mankind.

First they hung long strings of twine
From a slender crotched limb
For the framework of the house;
In artful manner weaving in

Fibrous rootlets, grass and strings,
And what all I cannot tell;
Went to make their pretty home
In a style to them known well.

Soon 'twas done, that pending nest
In the breeze so gently swinging,
And the builders perched near by
Their songs of joy and pride were
singing,

One by one five eggs were laid,
Handsome speckled gems were they,
Lined and blotched as though a child
With pen and ink had been at play.

Ere long these eggs were turned to birds.
Their parents' pride and care were
they,

Till in the joy of new found strength
They spread their wings and flew
away,

Now they're all gone to a warmer clime
Where in winter months they go,
And the nest now swings on the leafless
limb,
All filled with ice and snow.

M. D. COOPER.

Lanius Borealis on Deck.

That is to say, *Lanius borealis* is one of those characters that may be depended upon. He has a set time for appearing every winter, and when that set time comes around, he is generally "on deck." Most of our *winter visitants*

(notice, I distinguish between *winter visitants* and *permanent residents*) are erratic and irregular, but the Northern Shrike is as sure as the calendar, and that worthy piece of literature cannot cover the time between January 25th and February 5th, without bringing us the Shrike.

This is his particular time, but he is frequently seen at other times during the winter also. For example, in 1887, a pair of these birds remained in the outskirts of the village all through January and well along into February, when I lost track of them. Their beloved locality seemed to be along the main street leading into the country toward the west, and the English Sparrows which took up their abode about the farm houses just out of town, had occasion to keep even more vigilant watch of them, than I myself. I have also noted these Shrikes on November 11th and December 16th, showing that they are here in the early part of the winter as well. But as to their spending the entire winter here, that depends I think, on the kind of winter it is. In severe weather, they must go considerably further south than this. One thing is certain, however, their occurrence previous to January 25th, is not nearly so common as their occurrence after that date, for they may be depended upon about the time that January lapses into February.

This year, the first Shrike was seen Jan. 31st. They seem to be coincident with those bright, sunshiny winter days we always get about that time.

The notes of the Northern Shrike are I think, worthy of more consideration than they generally receive. They approach more nearly to a song, in my opinion, than the notes of the White-rumped species which spends the sum-

mer with us. Most ornithological writers say but little about the notes of the Shrike, passing over them as unattractive and unimportant; but to me, as I hear them from some tall tree-top of a winter's morning, they constitute a warble, which is, indeed, sweet, pleasing and somewhat continued.

Perched on the very topmost twig (as he always does) of some tall tree by the roadside, giving vent to his peculiarly entertaining warble, on some bright, crisp, February morning; he is, indeed a pleasant feature of our winter landscape.

But the most interesting of his performances, is to watch him as he pursues some unlucky sparrow, diving madly at him and generally catching him and pecking out his brains,—apparently from pure spite.

Be that as it may,—I know of no bird brains that we can better spare than those of *Passer domesticus*, and so I say “Long live the Shrike from the North.”

NEIL F. POSSON,
Medina, N. Y.

Horned Grebe on St. Clair Flats.

In the December *OÖLOGIST*, Mr. Davidson of this city criticises my article on the Horned Grebe and says that they do not occur in this locality. In a recent letter, Mr. J. Claire Wood, of this city, says “I have often watched these Grebes through a strong opera glass, and noticed that they frequent deeper water, are more expert divers, and faster swimmers than the Pied-billed species. Their nests are nearly similar, but the eggs average larger.” Mr. Wood is well acquainted with the ornithology of this region, and I cannot do better than refer Mr. Davidson to him. Nearly all authorities give the St. Clair Flats as a breeding place for this Grebe. Rev. Langille in “Our Birds in Their Haunts” speaks about

them there, and T. Mellwraith in the “Birds of Ontario,” found them there. The coming season, I hope to take a few more sets of their eggs from this vicinity.

B. H. SWALES,
Detroit, Mich.

Report of the Secretary of the W. N. Y. Naturalists Association.

On February 3, 1892 was held a meeting of the aforesaid society in the Court House at Rochester, N. Y. At the business meeting the following was disposed of.

T. R. Taylor, of 90 William St., Rochester was elected secretary and treasurer in the place of E. B. Peck resigned.

N. F. Posson, Medina; G. F. Gueff, Brockport and T. R. Taylor, Rochester were appointed a committee to draft objects of the Association for publication.

Moved that for one year members will be admitted on the recommendation of any active member. Passed.

In the evening papers from B. S. Bowdish, Talapoosa, Ga., Dr. A. G. Prill, Springville, N. Y. and E. H. Short, Chili, N. Y. were read. Exhibits were made by T. R. Taylor, Rochester, N. F. Posson, Medina and E. H. Short, Chili. Altogether we had a good meeting and hope to have a better one at Brockport, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1892.

T. R. TAYLOR,
Secretary.

World's Fair Notes.

The Province of Ontario, Canada, will make an extensive mineral exhibit.

Mr. S. J. Hunter, of Nevada, Mo., has a collection of over 11,000 varieties of woods, petrifications, etc., which he purposes exhibiting at the Fair.

A herd of live elk will be taken from Idaho to the Exposition. In the Montana exhibit will be shown about 100 specimens of wild animals and birds, native to that State, and set up by a skilled taxidermist.

A Vacation with the Birds

For the past three or four years I have been studying the ways of our birds. My summer vacations and the spare hours I chanced to have in spring and fall were spent in tramping over the country surrounding the village in which I lived.

With spy-glass and note book, I have enjoyed many a day in some secluded spot studying the habits of rare species; for this reason I have always looked forward with pleasure to the time when books could be laid aside and I would be free thus to enjoy myself.

The past summer, however, being tied down to my books, most of my time was spent in study in a rustic seat, which was placed under an arbor formed by a few fruit trees in the rear of our village lot. Here I whiled away most of the pleasant days, keeping an eye open, meanwhile, for any birds that might chance to visit me.

The very first day I was greeted by that mimic, the Catbird. There were two of them and as they made themselves very conspicuous I was led to believe a nest must be near the place. Near a fence, which ran close by, was an elder bush, in it I found a nest, rudely constructed of shreds of bark, weed-stalks, and dried leaves, which contained four young Catbirds. I could seldom make a move while sitting in my seat without the old birds seeing me; on such occasions they would utter their loudest cries, thinking perhaps, I might in some way harm their brood. The old, and I think the young, subsisted at first on insectivorous food, but as the young were getting ready to leave the nest, and for a period after they had left it, small fruits formed their principal food. The young left the nest one day in June, and what a commotion the mother bird kept up the while! It seemed as if she did all she could to tell the old eat some dainty morsels of food were to be had, for, sad

to say, one youngster paid the price of his mother's foolishness before I could interfere. The other three birds remained in the apple tree. They often staid in one tree for hours, and were fed continually by the old birds. They grew strong fast and in a short time could move around from limb to limb with comparative ease, but every now and then my eyes would be drawn from my book by a queer fluttering and chirping in the branches overhead, telling plainly that a young bird had aimed too high and missed its perch.

As the young grew larger, it was hard, sometimes, in the subdued light, to distinguish the old from the young, but, I do not think the young remained long after the cherries were gone which was about the 19th day of July. I saw them occasionally, though, until the fifth of August.

A pair of Wrens had a nest in a tin can which had been fastened to one of the largest limbs of a crab apple tree. During the first week of my stay a fight ensued between them and a pair of English Sparrows, the latter coming off victorious.

The sparrows tore out part of the old nest, as it nearly filled the can, and built a new one, but just as the young were hatched they were killed by some Bronzed Grackles. The Wrens, upon being driven out, built a new nest in a shed near by. They often visited me under the trees, and at such times would perch on the fence or a limb and with tail drooping and head raised they would pour out the most melodious music I have ever heard. When singing the male would almost "bubble over," it is a wonderful song for a bird of its size.

Once in a while the cat would spend an hour or two under the trees, but as soon as the Wrens became aware of her presence their music would be turned into loud scolding, which would last until I removed the cause.

A pair of Robins had a nest in an evergreen tree a few rods from my seat and the young, which were leaving the nest when I discovered them, gave me a great deal of amusement for a few weeks. Like the Catbirds, they were awkward when learning to fly: and often tumbled nearly from the top to the bottom of a tree before they could gain a perch, only being saved from injury by the dense foilage. They, the same as the Catbirds, had trouble with the house cat, but none, as far as I know, were caught by her.

The young were fed with worms from the garden, soon taking to cherries, however. Early in the morning and at sunset the old birds would sing me their finest strains, but after the first week or two it was only in snatches as it was getting very warm, they were ragged in appearance, and the young took a good deal of their time. I often heard the young at four o'clock in the morning and as late as eight o'clock in the evening, but as their wings grew in strength I would see less and less of them.

After the middle of July, I seldom saw them, but I thing on the 8th of August the entire brood paid me a visit, though I am not certain whether it was the same one or not.

The second day under the trees I noticed, while looking up dreamingly from my book, a nest placed in a crotch in the very top-most branch of one of the apple trees. On investigation, it proved to be a nest of that little beauty the Yellow Warbler.

It was a gem of bird architecture being composed almost entirely of gray hempen fibres, with a soft lining of willow and thistle down. It contained a full complement of eggs, but they had been incubated for a time, because a week later young birds were heard in the nest. The old birds were generally quiet, only uttering at times short whistle-like notes. Most of their food

was obtained near by and they were always conspicuous when moving about in the branches on account of the color of their plumage. When being fed, the young drew my attention by their chirping.

Not hearing them one day, I took a peep into the nest and saw the sole occupant of the nest was a Cowbird. My suspicion was aroused and on looking under the tree I found the dead birds. I was tempted to throw the Cowbird out at the time, but a day or two later he had justice meted out to him, when he furnished a meal for a flock of Bronzed Grackles. The Grackles tried to take the young Robins and Catbirds away before this, but the old birds fought so bravely they were forced to beat a hasty retreat each time. The Grackles, in their noisy manner, molested the birds in the arbor not a little visiting it often in flocks of ten or twelve. After the 4th of July I seldom saw them, probably because the young birds had flown.

So far, most all of the events I have recorded happened during the months of June and July; by August all of the birds, young and old, had left for parts unknown, most likely for cooler retreats in the country and I only received occasional visits from them.

On the 3d of August, however, I received a visit from two Black-billed Cuckoos. It was only by chance that I saw them at all. Their coat is a brown color, and as they were very still while in the trees it was almost impossible to catch sight of them from where I sat. Only once in the four days they staid among the trees did I hear their low notes.

At first I was at a loss to know what should attract these birds to my arbor, but on the last day I solved the riddle. A nest of canker worms had been playing havoc with one of our cherry trees and these birds had been having a feast on them.

Although these are not all the birds, that visited me under the trees, they are the ones, with the exception of the Cuckcoos, which shared the little retreat with me for a month and a half.

The Scarlet Tanager, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, the Baltimore Oriole, and many of the common birds, as Phoebe, Brown Thrasher, Blue-bird, and Wood Pewee, visited me occasionally but only staid a short time in each case.

To be sure during my entire vacation which ended on the 15th of August, I saw no species new to me, or even a rare one, yet it was one of the pleasantest outings I have ever had.

I saw more of bird life to the square foot than I have ever seen in all my trappings, and this all in a cluster of a dozen trees, situated within thirty feet of one of our princple village streets.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,
Wauwatosa, Wis.

The Ibises of Ledworth Lake.

Lying about fifteen miles south of the growing and prosperous city of Gainesville, the county seat of Alachua Co. Florida, is a body of water two miles long and about as wide.

Like many other Florida lakes this one has neither inlet nor outlet, except in the late summer when, being swollen by the numerous rains of the rainy-season the water of Levey Lake lying one half mile to the north overflows its marshy bank and the water finds its way through a slough into Ledworth Lake.

The lake is surrounded on three sides by a thick growth of hammock trees, among which are oak, hickory, magnolia, a few pines, and occasionally a cabbage palmetto. The woods on the south side however are much more open as the pine forest here comes down almost to the water. On all sides the trees are hung with tassels and long festoons of Spanish moss, which hanging graceful-

ly from the huge live-oak limbs, gives to the collector who views them for the first time, that sensation of pleasant expectancy which always accompanies one upon approaching a "new field."

The water of the lake as a rule is shallow and around the borders is a thick growth of bushes and tall grass, while out in the deeper water patches of bonnets and lily pads are everywhere in sight. Long stretches of prairie are found in places along the shore. On the south-west side in a gigantic pine is the domicile of a Bald Eagle which for years has there annually hatched its young and fed them with fish captured from a neighboring Osprey or victims from the ever present flocks of Coot or Gallinule.

Around this lake is the feeding grounds of thousands of herons and other water birds. Here it is that in July the Wood Ibis after having raised its young in the cypress swamps beyond the Suwannee, accumulate in vast flocks to spend the summer.

Here it is also that the White Ibis, leaving their breeding grounds among the dark cypress trees come to make mery with others of their tribe. While both varieties are usually met with in considerable flocks, the Wood Ibis by far outnumber their little cousins. In a single flock may oftimes be seen as many as two or three hundred. Once in July while camping near Ledworth Lake a flock of Wood Ibis startled from some cause, probably from the firing of a gun, suddenly took wing from a little island perhaps half way across the lake and the sound of their wings borne across the water was like the rumbling of thunder or the distant roar of cannon.

There must have been at least a thousand individuals in this one flock. Later in the day as a small detachment of the main body flew over me, I succeeded in bringing down one of the noble birds, but it fell in a marshy place and I was unable to procure it. They do

not to my knowledge nest anywhere within the limits of our County.

A nest found by a friend of mine in the latter part of March was placed on the horizontal limb of a cypress tree in a swamp in Levy County, about seventeen miles south-west of Archer. The nest was twenty feet from the ground and contained two young birds. He reported finding no other nests though a number of birds were seen in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

I was told by a "plume hunter" that in a cypress swamp about twenty miles from New Troy he had found hundreds of Ibis breeding in company with a colony of Egrets which he and some "brothers-in-murder" had almost annihilated for their plumes.

The Wood Ibis is known in many places of Florida by the name of "Iron-heads" and "Gannets."

The White Ibis when appearing in the summer for the first time is not that beautiful white bird with bronze tipped wings which we are so accustomed to see. In fact the young birds present quite a different appearance than the old birds. Instead of being white they are a dull brown color above, with a conspicuous white rump and white under parts, bill long and yellowish.

Sometimes the young will be found in company with the old birds but oftener perhaps they may be seen in small flocks by themselves. I have never found a nest of the White Ibis but they undoubtedly breed in immense numbers in the dark recesses of some of our cypress swamps. It is a pleasure to watch each summer for the appearance of the Ibis on Ledworth Lake, and not uncommon is it for them to bring in their company a Roseate Spoonbill. By watching a flock in this way it was that I was enabled to obtain my first specimen of this rare and beautiful bird.

T. G. PEARSON.
Archer, Fla.

Notes on the Whip-poor-will.

This very interesting bird is quite common in this locality. From the first of May to the middle of June the evening air resounds with the notes of this bird; after this they are less frequently heard. During this time they come into our yards and they will even alight on the roof of the house, utter a few notes and fly quickly and noiselessly away.

They seem to frequent river valleys rather than districts of high altitude. In a mountain town adjoining its notes are hardly if ever heard. A man that was a resident of that town for sixty years never heard the Whip-poor-will but once while he lived there.

One evening I thought I would count the number of times it uttered its call, *whip-poor-will*, without stopping. I accordingly crept up to a bird and prepared to listen. I was surprised at the result. It would frequently utter it eighty or a hundred times and once I counted nearly two hundred times the bird uttered it without a break. The bird kept flying from place to place but it did not get out of my sight.

On the 24th day of May, 1891, while walking in a small grove of pine trees along the bank of a river, a Whip-poor-will started from under my feet, flew a short distance, alighted on a limb and looked at me. I thought probably there was a nest near by, and began to hunt for it in earnest. There was a small pile of brush at my feet, and I thought it would be as likely to be there as anywhere.

I walked around it, stepping carefully so to be sure not to break the eggs.

I did not find them there, and made my circle larger, and so on until I came to the conclusion that there were no eggs there and started off. I had taken but a few steps when I happened to look down and there I saw an egg lying in front of me. Now the question

came to my mind whether I should take the egg or wait until the bird laid another and run the risk of finding nothing when I came back. I thought I had rather have one egg than none and I had rather have two eggs than one. I marked the spot and concluded to run the risk of losing the egg.

Two days later my twin brother and I returned to the spot and found the bird on the nest. We walked up within less than a rod of her before she flew; she alighted on a limb about a rod off and watched us, chipping, twitching her tail and moving her head back and forth. The eggs were creamy white, spotted, mostly at one end, with different shades of brown. Their dimensions were very nearly alike being about 1.25 by .87 inches. They laid on a bed of pine needles, with which the ground was covered, without an apology for a nest and in a little cleared place between two saplings.

May 31st two village boys accidentally found another nest while roaming in the woods and brought the eggs to me to have me tell them what they were and to blow them. I managed to trade for one of them; the other I could not get.

When I found my Whip-poor-will's nest I was not thinking of the directions which M. C. White gave for finding them, given in the April and May Oölogist, but I shall try that way next season, and I hope with success.

CLINTON D. HOWE,
Newfane, Vt.

The Black Rail in Franklin Co. Kan.

As comparatively little is said in our natural history papers concerning the nesting habits and eggs of this very rare and interesting little bird, perhaps my limited observations might be of some interest to the readers of the *Collector's Friend*—THE OÖLOGIST. On the 20th of June 1890 while collecting

different varieties of eggs in a swamp, my attention was attracted by a hissing noise near my feet, not unlike the noise made by a Brown Thrasher when startled from her nest, and immediately a little black bird, almost exactly resembling a "Mud Hen" only a great deal smaller, flew up out of the high slough grass and lit a short distance away. I knew by her action that she must have a nest close by, and I immediately commenced trying to find it. After searching about ten minutes I found the nest and it was the prettiest oölogical sight I have ever seen before or since. There firmly attached to the grass about eight inches above the water was the nest, about the size and shape of a large cocoon; and resembling the nest of the Meadowlark, except that the entrance instead of being in the side was about midway between the side and top. The nest contained ten eggs, very slightly incubated, cream colored, speckled chiefly about the larger end with bright reddish brown specks, some being as large as a pinhead and averaged 1.06x .80. My second and last nest was found on the 27th of the same month, in a swamp, distant about three miles from the first one, and contained six fresh eggs like those of the first, except that the spots were a trifle larger. The nest was deserted, having been washed over by high water, and some of the eggs were probably washed away.

I hunted for more eggs in the same and other marshes last season, but was not successful because of continued wet weather which kept the swamps constantly flooded.

I hope to be more successful this season as the birds are quite numerous in this particular locality.

I would like to hear more through the columns of the OÖLOGIST concerning this bird.

MIL0 W. KIBBE,
Princeton, Kansas.

Albino Eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren.

I wish to correct an unintentional error in the Secretary's report of the Ornithologists Association in which he quotes Professor Ridgway and Captain Bendire as pronouncing the white set of Long-billed Marsh Wren eggs which I took last spring as "a great freak of nature."

What they did say was "it was an abnormal set, and unusual," since the above was printed; several collectors have notified me that similar sets have been taken in this vicinity, a number of which are in the Smithsonian Collection. In writing this I wish to correct the wrong impression given Mr. J. C. Wood in notes in the OÖLOGIST for February he is evidently unaware that the coloring matter in freshly laid eggs can to a great extent be removed by washing and that nearly any divergence from the type egg may be produced by soap and water.

Variations in coloring and markings are found occasionally in all eggs and it would be incorrect to pronounce any such occurrences as "a great freak of nature" when they are found to occur so commonly.

E. J. BROWN,
Washington, D. C.

[In '90 we obtained a series of about one hundred specimens of the Long-billed Marsh Wren from one of the Professors of the University of Michigan, in this series there was at least half-a-dozen specimens that were either white or creamy, or dirty white, about one-half of which were very sparingly marked with a dark color. Most of these specimens, especially the unmarked ones were decidedly "abnormal" the shell being rough. Perhaps I might say undoubtedly these "abnormal" or "albino" sets were produced by birds whose first, and possibly second and third sets were taken or destroyed; some

enterprising oologist will no doubt solve this problem for us by a series of experiments during the ensuing season.

Our Friend Brown's remarks relating to the washing of eggs are not applicable to an oologist with the experience of Mr. Wood and this paragraph would have been stricken from the MSS. had we not considered it of value to our younger readers. Mr. W's washing the spots off these lightly marked specimens was simply experimental.—ED.]

The Chewink in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

I have been interested in the Chewink question of late in the OÖLOGIST. The bird is very rare here. In the spring of '87 I found the nest of the first birds of this species that I had ever seen. Later in the season I found another pair, evidently with young, in the same locality of the previous find. I have seen none of these birds since. In both of these cases the birds seemed to choose rough, scrubby uplands that had been only recently chopped over. They were within easy distance of low lands threaded by a small trout stream fringed with tag alders. When I found the nest of the first pair the female's alarm note brought the male in a bustle of excitement from among the alders some distance off. That was the only time that I noticed them frequenting the lower ground. Doubtless they did so, though for I was able to study their ways much less than I desired because of the distance they were from my home.

MARK MANLEY,
St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

Notes from Nova Scotia.

E. A. Samuels says that "the Semipalmated Plover breeds generally in the most northern parts of the continent." I have been so fortunate, though,

as to find two nests with full complement of eggs in each. The first one I found about five years ago, before I had commenced collecting. It was simply a slight depression in the sand, in a long sand beach which had been thrown up by the waves.

The second nest, found this last summer, was better placed, being situated in a small clump of trailing evergreens, which would completely have hidden it, had I not been searching on my hands and knees. In both cases the birds showed the greatest distress. In the last case the birds followed me fully a mile along the beach trying to lead us still farther from the nest, though the eggs were safe in my box. I have not the eggs with me at present, but I think they are almost identical to those of the Spotted Sandpiper. On the day of finding, July 1st, eggs were far advanced.

July 21st was also a lucky day for me. While walking along an old road, I saw a small stump in which was a hole where it looked as if a knot had been pulled out. Walking up and peering in I was astonished by the flying out of a small bird. On looking, there were five eggs. Not knowing bird, I left them promising myself a return the following day. Though rainy, I found the place and creeping up placed my cap over the hole. After some difficulty I caught the bird, which I recognized as the Hudsonian Tit. I secured the eggs and have them home at present.

I have also been fortunate in finding three nests of what I suppose is the Red-breasted Merganser. I do not know very much about the markings of the bird, except that it has a red or chestnut colored head. The eggs were laid on the ground, in one case under a small spruce, in other two cases among weens near fallen trees. The eggs are about two inches long, and are of a yellowish color. Perhaps you could tell me what they are for I cannot find out, not being able to shoot the birds.

A. C. JOST,
Wolfville, N. S.

Scientific Names, Their Use and Beauty.

When one has the charming self-confidence to give, deliberately, the wrong definition for a scientific term, he becomes amusing. In the November '91 OÖLOGIST I find the following:—

“He (the Towhee) gets his name, *Erythrophthalma*; *Erythro*s, Red, and *thalma*y, eyes, the Greek for “red eyes” etc.”

Now this is so palpably wrong that it is no petty criticism if one ventures to say, that *Erythrophthalma* is from *Erythro*s, Red, and *Ophthalmas* eye, a derivative from the simple root *Ops*, which primarily means, face.

This charming little blunder calls to remembrance the beautiful force and accuracy of the scientific terms used in Ornithology. The writer has never ceased to admire that union of learning with poetic insight which guided the venerable fathers of our dear science in the christenings of the birds; whom they studied not for fame, but for love.

It requires no learning and little effort to quote, in brackets, the scientific name of every bird that may be casually mentioned in a single article treating of bird life, but to give that name, at first, was a work of genius.

The trinomial system of nomenclature, is an admirable invention, and nice in its resources for classification. The Generic name gives the group of forms that are joined by a few striking and constant likenesses, the specific name marks the forms that are still more closely allied to one another, within this group, while the sub-specific title characterizes those that are separated, in their relationships by very few and often subtle points of difference.

There was a “reunion” of the “Smith clan,” the other day. Numerous among these were the “Smythes,” of Gargantua county, while among these, none showed a more striking uniformity of family likeness than the blonde “de

Smythes' of the town of Alba. Generic, "Smith," specific, "Smythe," subspecific, "de Smythe."

Let us go back to the birds: No scientific name was more beautiful—despite its cumbersome, which latter account, perhaps, for the labored flight of the bird, than that of the Black Tern, which name originated, I think, with Gmelin, "*Hydrochelidon*," gives us a picturesque, poetical name for the whole genus of "Sea-Swallows," "*Lariformis*" denotes the species that is "gull-shaped in structure; "*Surinamensis*" limits the sub-species connected by it. I fancy,—to the particular locality where it was first observed. One regrets that the present imperious demand for terseness should have stricken out the specific *Lariformis*—which is both poetical and precise, and substituted for it the plain prosaic "*nigra*" for, does not everybody know that this Tern is "Black?" I take up my A. O. U. check list and refresh my mind concerning some of the more beautiful "onomato poetic" names,—The Loon, "*Urinator inber*" the "Storm beaten Diver." What finer name for a bird which, when not in air, is always on or under the water!

Large-billed Puffin, "*Fratereula arctica glacialis*," what a sociable fellow this "Little Brother" must be in his "icy arctic regions."

"Crested Auklet" "*Simorhynchus cristatellus*"—a "snub-nosed" bird with a "little crest." (But *how* good Dr. C. would have railed, has he only thought of it, at the bare latinity of "*Cristatellus*," as he actually did at the execrable Grecism of "*Chondrestes*" (Lark Finch) which he would have told us, had not his book been already big enough, should have been "*Chondrestes*," or eater of grass seeds.)

Parasitic Jaeger, "*Stercorarius parasiticus*" a "noisy flatterer," the full meaning of the graphic name can be known only to those that are so fortunate as to be able to study this bird in his haunts.

Dr. Coes, who gives us a whole page descriptive of the Jaeger's manner of dress, would have conferred a favor had he given us a paragraph on the fellow's convivial and social habits.

Least Petrel, "*Hul-oku-pleua microsoma*," a "sea (dwelling) swift-winged, little body"—little, yet big enough to be the only one of the Petrel tribe to receive this Generic name, for the privilege of bearing which, who would not be a Petrel?

One thing, will the Doctor tell us about the Great Auk—We *know* that he was "wingless"—"*Impennis*," but why was he "*plautus*?"

Now, like the Auk, I must lay aside my quill. If the above thoughts have seemed neither pedantic nor obtrusive, perhaps the readers of the OÖLOGIST may hear again from

BETA.

Pointers on Making Bird Skins.

The exchange notice you inserted for me in January OÖLOGIST brought a great many letters and offers of exchanges. I have completed trades with some, and with others, am still negotiating. One trouble I much lament is the poor make-up of skins by most collectors.

The fountain head of trouble I believe to be in the books and papers giving instructions on collecting. I don't believe any man in this age of discovery and improvement, can safely claim to have such a perfect knowledge of practical bird skin collecting and taxidermy, that improvement in some detail is not possible. If there is such a person I would like to be informed of the fact. Being honest in the above statements. I don't feel presumptuous in attempting to point out what I believe to be faults in preparing skins, and will humbly describe as well as possible how I believe improvements can be made, which will render collections of skins far more valuable, instructive.

tive and especially so much more beautiful.

All books on taxidermy which I have seen give a few fixed rules to be applied to all kinds of birds, to that I take exception as well as many other points which I shall consider later. A person may skin a bird while it lies on a table, or suspended as best suits the operator, but don't cut away the leg bones below the knees, nor the wing bones or loosen the wing quills on any bird great or small,

Where it is necessary to remove flesh from wings, a gash may be made from outside and under the wing from where flesh may be easily removed. Leave all the skull possible. If you read books written by so-called high authorities (?) advising you to cut or break off half the leg bones, skin the wings to the outer joints and remove all bone at next joint, and cut the skull just back of the eyes, I would say don't do it. You might gain time, but what you saved in time would be deducted from the value of your specimens and large interest to boot. If you are ever tempted in that way, I would imploringly say don't. Next, How do you stuff skins? Why, fill them with cotton, be sure and stuff well the breast and throat so as to form a beautiful curve from bill to breast, then the skin is placed in a paper cone or on cotton with its bill straight out pointing in a perfectly opposite direction to its tail. Short-necked birds get their necks lengthened and long-necked species get theirs shortened. Birds having long wings have them pushed up among the feathers each side of their neck. All is lovely and harmony reigns why intelligent people will attempt to improve upon the living forms of birds I cannot understand. It can only end in attempt for we are not wiser than our Creator.

Specimens having their heads doubled back and throats distended with cotton always make me feel painful

and distressed and remind me of a scared toad or a bloated sheep I once saw which was lying dead with its back in a plow furrow. I will advance the claim for the art of taxidermy that its greatest triumph, is to perfectly imitate nature and acting upon this belief I have devised several methods and plans which possibly are not practiced by other collectors and whereby I am enabled to make perfect skins of owls and other species which are difficult to prepare.

Small birds I find most easily and nicely stuffed by taking a little excelsior, tow or jute and make a small roll of it between my hands, double one end over where it is small and cut it so as to leave in length a roll nearly as long as neck and body of bird to be stuffed, take doubled end between forceps and insert up birds neck and place doubled end of tow in the birds mouth, but not far enough to prevent mandibles from closing naturally, now with needle and thread, pass thread through nostrils and tie bill closed, thus the roll is held firmly in the birds mouth and the length of neck can be easily adjusted. Stuff the skin out to natural size, arrange wings and other feathers properly, and place in paper cone or any other convenient drying form where the skin will be kept in proper form until dry. If the bird is a crested species, turn the head to one side and erect the crest as in life. For long-necked birds such as ducks, waders, etc. I make an artificial body upon a wire, strong enough to make the neck stiff and prevent breakage in shipment. The body should be nearly as long as the natural, and as thick as the bird's back is wide. The artificial neck is next made, first fasten the end of a small wire in the body and wind it in about half inch coils around the neck wire until it is brought out as far as it is necessary to make the neck in length, and then wind back again to the body and cut off

the surplus. Cotton or tow may now be wound on this wire until there is sufficient to wind with thread, and have an artificial neck same size as the natural. Give the neck wire a three-cornered point, wind a little cotton on it to prevent its piercing the skin until it reaches the skull, then remove the cotton, and run the wire out through the top of the head. Next stuff skin natural and sew up. The neck can be bent to any natural curve. The mouth properly stuffed and tied shut. Wings, legs, etc., arranged properly and slick, label and place in dryer.

For ducks, etc., I prefer a bed of cotton as a drying form. For hawks and owls, I usually wind with strips of cotton or thread or place in paper cone, then bend the protruding neck wire into a hook and suspend from the ceiling. By this plan, very natural looking skins can be made of hawks and owls because the feathers of neck and head can be kept in proper position very readily. The foregoing is just an outline of some of my original plans and contrivances in skin preparing, and if requested, shall be pleased to go into further details and answer inquiries. I shall be pleased to draw out criticisms and discussions upon the subject of collecting, for I feel convinced that there is great room for much good to be done. I have had sixteen years experience as a taxidermist and can show several first premium tickets awarded me at different Provincial Exhibitions in Ontario. Can also refer doubting parties to the Blind Institute at Brantford, Ont, and also the Can. Geo. and Nat. History Survey at Ottawa, Canada. In both of which institutions rests, bird's and mammals purchased from me. I mention the above facts to show that I know something at least about the subject in question. My aim is to arouse collectors to endeavor to increase the value of collections not entirely by increasing the number of specimens, but to aim at

preparing their specimens in a superior manner.

Some may be more easily satisfied with the quality and condition of skins than I am, but I am willing to leave my opinions and plans to the verdict of the most eminent professionals.

Though rough or smooth

Let come what will,

May progress and improvement,

Be our motto still.

JOHN A. MORDEN,
Brent Creek, Mich.

Collecting on an European Islet.

There is a peculiar crispness in the air at sunrise in northern latitude; at least so I thought the 8th of June, 1889, as I came on deck. The first rays of day were lighting up the east, and the air was quite chilly.

We were making for a small triangular island laying some 50 miles from the French coast, now about seven miles away, hardly a puff of wind was coming from the west, and it seemed as if we would never get there, so we had some breakfast and got out a pair of sweeps, and soon had our light yawl bowling along. We anchored about 200 yards from shore, the noise we made started up hundreds of Guillemots and Herring Gulls, and while the Guillemots was around us, the Gulls circled and uttered their harsh cry. We were much amused by the Common Guillemots or Murres, on rapping on the gunwale of the boat hundreds would sail off their rocky perches, land in the water and there swim around many quite near the boat, on saying "bang" they would disappear like a shot coming up some 30 or 40 yards off. The only diver I saw was a Red-throated Loon.

We were soon pulling for shore, there was no place to beach our boat, as the shore was one pile of rocks from the size of a marble to that of a house

that had fallen from the 500 foot chalk-cliff; many were worn quite round by the waves: so we had to land by having Charlie rowing on a wave while we stood on the gunwale and jumped. We started up cliff with baskets, I made for a green patch about 100 feet up while my friend Fred made for a higher place I found no nests, but Fred yelled to come to him, when I got up to him he had his basket full, on top was a set of the finest Gull's eggs I have ever seen, the three was very round and almost olive-green, the spots were chocolate and the size of a dollar, he also had a set, 4 eggs and nest of the rare Rock Pipit which he gave me, he found them by accident he was climbing and slipped and put his hand in a hole to told himself, out flew the bird and he looked in and saw the nest.

We got the basket to the shore by passing from one to the other. I had Charlie row into a little cove and gave the basket to him, he placed it in the stern and tried to push off on the next wave, but in stepping back to do so he stepped on a loose plank in the flooring which flew up and hit the end of the basket upsetting it, only one of the eggs escaped, one of the fine set of Gulls. I was so mad about it I did not know what to do.

We went up again and took about 4 dozen more we only took fine sets as I had plenty at home.

All the nests were simply a pile of rank grasses. 18x8x4 inches.

The eggs varied greatly from a light pea-green to drab and dark chestnut, with markings of drabs, purplish drabs lilac and browns almost to black.

High up on the ledges we found many Common Cormorants nests mostly containing 6 dirty white eggs, nests were same as Gulls only lighter and more compact, some had young in, Fred saw a hole and started in but came out quickly saying it was the most awful smelling hole he ever smelt.

I took one whiff and believed him, it was a Cormorant's nest and the smell was only equalled by a good stale skunk.

We turned our attention to the Common Gullimots, Puffins and Razor-bills. No Puffins eggs were taken, they were in deep holes and crannies and were not worth the trouble. We had to use ropes from the top for the Gullimots and Razor-bills, the eggs were laid of course on the bare rock and ran through the usual shades of green to creamy pink, some with many marks of red to black and others hardly any. While suspended like Mahomet's coffin between earth or perhaps sea and heaven, I could not help watching the graceful flight of the Red-footed Falcon their young are much sought after, and fetch about \$25 a piece for falconry.

Two Ravens attracted our attention we found their nest in a cave half way up the cliff, it was built on the floor and was quite a large thing nearly three foot high and about the same width at base it had evidently been used for many years, as a new layer and patches had been often added. It was made of sticks and grasses.

It was late now so we packed up and started for the yacht, we had quite a load of eggs but did not shoot any birds as many had young.

Twenty minutes later we were beating down channel, I had only two hours sleep the night before so Charlie took his turn, and I was soon dreaming of the eggs I expected to collect the next two weeks.

HARRY B. SARGENT,

The Great Gray Owl.

This is the largest and perhaps rarest of all the American Strigidae, and is seldom found within the boundary of the United States, except in Washington and Oregon. I was fortunate to secure two specimens which were killed near

here in the winter of 1889, one of them I now have in my collection.

This Owl is found in great numbers in the northern and central parts of British America. It is a shy retiring bird living in the densest forests only and is seldom seen in the open. It is about 30 inches in length with eyes and feet greatly out of proportion to its size, it is a day bird like the Hawk Owl. Its principal food is small birds and animals, and when it lives near water; it subsists on fish and shell fish. It is called by the Indians of the Northwest "*Nuhl tuhl*" meaning heavy walker. It nests in high trees, the nest being composed of sticks and lined with down and moss. The eggs are two to four in number, and dirty white in color, they measure 2.25x1.78 hundredths of an inch.

S. O. BRUSH,
Milton, Vt.

Collecting and Collectors.

Many times my mind has been called to the fact that many eggs and birds are uselessly destroyed. I have on several occasions been in the field with collectors who persisted in collecting every egg they came across. I have also seen collectors who had hundreds of eggs of our common House Finch. How they ever prepared the data or how they will ever dispose of the eggs I do not know; but I do know that many birds have been uselessly destroyed by them. If one is collecting sets, what is the use of taking the only egg from a newly made nest, which has caused the parent bird much work and trouble? Or why do some collectors take eggs that are so far advanced in incubation that they can never be preserved? I would say to all young collectors never take an egg unless you intend to make good use of it; especially of the rarer species.

When a set is collected from a small

nest, the nest should be preserved with the set, as it is the very best kind of data and better than any book for reference.

Much care should be exercised in preparing the data. Always give good descriptions of the surroundings, also of the nest, if not preserved with the set. Every collector should carry some kind of a field note book, in which to write the data, when the set is collected. The data blank can then be neatly filled out at leisure. I offer this suggestion for I have known of collectors who would not write the data for several days after collecting the eggs, when they would write them simply by guess.

Every egg should be blown through as smooth and small a hole as possible, after which it should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water. This can be done by using a little patience and good instruments, and there is now little reason why anyone should not possess these requisites, if he be a true oölogist.

Now a word as to forming private collections and I will close. Let no set or sets creep into your collection unless they are identified beyond a doubt by reliable collectors. Also be sure that every egg is strictly first-class. In order to do this don't try to obtain first-class eggs from a collector whom you know prepares only second-class ones; but drop him at once and look for a collector or dealer who can furnish you with specimens which you can study with at least some degree of pleasure.

Now the collecting season is close at hand. Let us all strive to do better and more thorough work in the field, thus beautifying our collections and promoting the cause of our beloved science.

H. M. HALL,
Riverside, Cal.

A Collecting Trip.

On the 15th of May last year, my

chum R., and myself, started out on a collecting trip, at nine o'clock A. M. We tramped about a mile with no luck but a few nests of the Song Sparrow, until we came to a rotten Cottonwood tree, from which we saw a Downy Woodpecker fly. Upon investigating, we saw a hole about ten feet from the ground, and upon climbing up, I could not get my hand in, so I used my knife vigorously for a half hour, when I had the hole enlarged enough to get my hand in. I drew out five clear, glossy, white eggs, which were slightly incubated. We then started for a group of Cottonwood trees, about a mile away. Upon arriving there, we found a nest of the Baltimore Oriole, which contained five fresh eggs. In a vacant house near, we obtained a nice set of five eggs of the Chimney Swift. I let down our collecting-box, just below the nest and then fastened my knife to a long stick, and separated the nest from the chimney, when the nest fell into the box, which was filled with cotton. None of the eggs were broken. The nest was put on so tightly that part of the brick stuck to the nest. We then went to a crab-apple orchard, where we had found a number of nests the week before; and upon arriving there, we found a Red-eyed Vireo's nest, suspended from a small branch, at the top of an apple tree, R. climbed up and found four fresh eggs. In a tree near by, we a nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, which contained four eggs, slightly incubated. Last season the Grosbeak nests were very common; and I could have collected at least thirty sets. On a limb of an oak tree, fifteen feet up, I saw a Scarlet Tanager's nest, which contained three fresh eggs. The nest was made of small twigs and lined with small rootlets. About a block away, R. saw a nest of the Red-headed Woodpecker, from which we obtained five fresh eggs. Two years ago I found a Red-headed Woodpecker's nest, con-

taining two eggs. Taking one, I went back the next day; and found two eggs. I kept this up, taking one and leaving one until she had laid 23 eggs in 25 days. After leaving our Woodpecker's nest we sat down on the bank of the Mississippi River, and ate our lunch. While we were eating, I saw a Belted Kingfisher flying back and forth uneasily. After lunch we investigated and found its nest about fifteen feet from where we had been sitting. We dug for over an hour and a half, with the perspiration pouring down our faces, until we reached the nest, which contained seven fresh eggs. We then measured the hole and found it to be 7 feet 8 inches long. The nest was a mass of fish-bones, which smelled horribly. As it was then nearly 5 o'clock we wended our way homeward, and arrived there supper time, well pleased with our trip.

WALTON MITCHELL,
St. Paul, Minn.

The Ruffed Grouse Burrowing in the Snow.

We have all heard of the curious habit which the Ruffed Grouse indulges in during the winter months; that of burrowing in the snow for warmth. It was my good fortune to see this habit for myself while out rabbit hunting on Feb. 13. While going through a patch of woods I noticed about a dozen holes in the snow and seeing the marks of 'partridge' wings at the entrances came to the conclusion that they were the burrows I had read about. Farther on in the woods about fifteen partridge flew from the snow in front of me, while I stood open mouthed, watching them depart, and wishing it was the open season. I supposed they had all gone, so walked on a little farther and stopped. I heard a great commotion and looking down saw a partridge endeavoring to get from under my snow-shoe, and had I not been so surprised I could easily have caught him.

GILBERT B. FURNESS,
Ogdensburg N. Y.

ZOÖTOMY.

The Domestic Pigeon.

(Concluded from March number.)

Want of space will not permit us to outline any study of the skeleton, except merely to notice the skull. For specimens, you should have one of an adult, prepared by boiling for some time, and then carefully removing the brain and flesh; and one or two of nestlings of different ages, prepared without boiling, leaving the bones and cartilages articulated. The second will show the different bones or cartilages representing them, the location of sutures that are almost obliterated in the adult skull, and other points of interest which we leave the student to notice for himself. A few skulls of other birds and small mammals should be at hand for comparison. Notice how light the skull and other parts of skeleton are. The skull appears to be designed to protect a number of delicate organs; what are they and how is each protected? Note shape of brain-case and cavities for eyes; compare with other birds as woodcock, owl, heron, etc. The large bones back of, and between the orbits are the *frontals*. (When sutures separating bones cannot be seen in the adult skull refer to that of the nestling.) Back of the frontals are the *parietals*. Below the frontal and parietal is the *squamosal*; the opening for the spinal cord is the *foramen magnum*; find some other openings through which nerves leave the brain; below, ventral to, the foramen magnum is the *basioccipital*; above, dorsal to, it, the *supraoccipital*, and on each side the *exoccipitals*; above the supraoccipital, is a suture in the young skull and a ridge in that of the adult. Just anterior to the frontal are the *nasal* bones: anterior to the nasals on the upper part of the upper mandible are the *premaxilla*; these are ankylosed with each other in the adult skull. On

the anterior edge of the foramen magnum is a small rounded elevation the *occipital condyle*; notice how this fits into the cavity of the first vertebra, the *atlas*; the slender bones anterior to and below the orbits are the *jugal* bones; these are ankylosed with the maxillae in the adult. At the posterior end of the jugal is the *quadrate*; in the lower jaw-bone, forming the anterior part is the *dentary*; the ones articulating with the skull are the *articulars*; note the differences between these parts of the adult and nestling. The *auditory capsule* is an enlargement of the skull near the foramen magnum. By carefully removing the shell covering them, the *semicircular canals* may be seen; the anterior is the largest, the posterior is at right angles to the anterior; the other is known as the horizontal; in the nestling skull several "*-otic*" bones are to be found in connection with the auditory capsule; these are fused with other bones in the adult skull. You will find it very interesting to note how many bones in the nestling's skull have become fused with others in that of the adult and also how they vary in size and shape in the other skulls. The above named are, perhaps, the most conspicuous bones of the head. Of course the student will not stop here, but will with the aid of some good author, notice the peculiarities and locate, not only the other bones of the head, but of the entire skeleton. He will find the pigeon full of interest from the point of the bill to the tips of the toes, and a never-ending amount of profitable study may be had by comparing parts of its anatomy with corresponding parts of other birds, and these with others, noticing how they are variously modified and adapted to their particular mode of life.

JOHN O. SNYDER,
Waterloo, Ind.

Notes from St. Thomas, Ontario.

A few days previous to the 23d February this year being very mild and spring like, I thought a trip down creek, would not be amiss, to see if any of the early birds had been tempted by the weather.

On the above mentioned date, as agreed, my friend, Mr. Orville Foster, called for me about 6:30 a.m., and we started off for the day. The first sign of bird life we observed, was a flock of five Red headed Ducks, from which my friend shot one, and wounded another, which he was unable to obtain, on account of the creek being full of ice. A Winchester being my only weapon, the ducks passed safely by me.

I append a list below of the birds seen during the day. There is one bird, however, that deserves particular notice, and that is a specimen of the Greater Yellowlegs, which was shot by a boy, who was some distance ahead of us. As a rule this bird never appears until about the 15th of April. Another bird ahead of time, was the Bronzed Grackle, two of them being observed.

Bald Eagle, 1; Red-tail Hawk, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Red-headed Duck, 5; Am. Merganser, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Quail, 20; Meadow Lark, 3; Robin, 1; Crow, 2; Blue Jay, 20; Bronzed Grackle, 2; Snow Flake, 50; Flicker, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Redpoll, 20; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Song Sparrow 3; Junco, 20.

F. L. FARLEY.

 Prepare Your Specimens Well

Many young collectors when beginning to collect eggs, especially if the eggs are of a common variety, blow them hurriedly, making a large hole in the

side, and sometimes chipping the eggs, —these are good enough to exchange, they think, but they expect good specimens in return. Other collectors will send out incubated eggs as "first-class." They can be incubated and first-class— if they are blown properly, but the majority of collectors don't take the time to empty the contents out of a small hole. If your time should be so occupied that you cannot bother with blowing them in this way, don't send them away as first-class specimens but describe them as they are and, should the party care for them, its not so bad—he knows what to expect and is not disappointed.

Not long ago two local collectors were looking through my collection and made a remark that the specimens were neatly prepared. I then showed them a few sets that I keep in a separate case, that were received from a few well-known collectors. One set came from a "would be dealer". I asked them what they thought of that set—one said "the holes are larger than the eggs," the other remarked "the birds in them must have been old enough to fly." If the eggs are very much advanced in incubation, I would advise the young oölogist to let them hatch. They will do the birds more good than you—

I agree with Rev. Peabody as to his rule adopted (see November OÖLOGIST) when collectors send you eggs, not first class, they should pay for the return postage for a second-class set in a nice collection of eggs, spoils the effect of the whole thing to my eye.

In bird skins it is also well to take enough time and make a nice job. Better have a few fine specimens than many poor ones, so wake up during season of '92 and prepare your specimens correctly, then, when you send them out as "first class" you will have a clear conscience, for as the Dutchman says, "A clear conscience was more as worthy as a barrel of succeed."

CLYDE L. KELLAR,
Salem, Oregon.

February Prize Article Contest.

The articles in February OÖLOGIST were all very meritorious and we agree with the *eighty-three* (83) judges, who sent in their decisions, that it was indeed a difficult task to select and group five articles from so many excellent ones.

The articles winning the prizes and the credits received by each were as follows:—

1. Collecting on the Farallone Islands.—333.
2. Zoöotomy.—183.
3. A Day's Trip for Bald Eagle Nests in Florida.—166.
4. Partridge's and Their Relatives—158.
5. Our Winter Vistors.—108.

Nine other articles received credits ranging from 2 to 83 each, as one of these nine articles received as many credits as there were judges—83 we deemed it proper to award a 6th prize to the "Back-throated Bunting."

None of our judges gave their decisions *exactly* as the prizes were awarded—Four of them however, named the prize winning articles and to these four we awarded the first four judges prizes—awarding the first prize to the list nearest correct, and the others in like manner. In cases of doubt the earliest list receiving the benefit of the same.

Several judges named four of the winning articles, and the fifth judges prize was awarded to the one whose non-winning article received the greatest number of credits.

The successful judges, their recorded number, and the order in which they named the articles in their decisions were as follows:—

- 1st. No. 45.—C. C. Bacon, Nashville, Tenn., 1, 3, 2, 4, 5.
- 2nd. No. 5.—W. C. Morrow, Columbus, O., 1, 2, 5, 4, 3.
- 3d. No. 19.—T. D. Witherspoon, Jr. Richmond, Ky., 2, 4, 3, 1, 5.
- 4th. No. 72.—Briseoc W. Peyton, Natural Bridge, Va., 2, 3, 1, 5, 4.
- 5th. No. 78.—F. W. Hyde, Solon, N. Y., 1, 2, 3, 6, 4.

All the prizes were mailed the winners on April 1st.

Chewinks in January.

January 6, 1892. While out hunting I started a Chewink out of a brush-beap

in the edge of a large piece of woods, I shot the bird for purposes of identification and preserved the skin.

Two wood cutters in an adjoining piece of woods, told me that they had seen two more Chewinks a few days before. As the weather was quite cold and the ground covered with snow, I was much surprised to find this bird.

I would like to know if others have found the Chewink wintering as far north as this.

B. O. LONGYEAR,
Mason, Mich.

Ornithologists Association.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the January meeting, V. W. Cady, Muskegon, Mich., and Thos. W. Smithwick, Walke, Bertie Co., N. C., were elected Corresponding Members.

At the February meeting the following Corresponding members were elected: James A. Booth, Kalispell, Mont; W. F. Dealing, 1211 N. Aldrich, Ave. Minneapolis, Minn.; D. Frank Kellar, Reading, Pa.

The Secretary has mailed membership cards to all paid up members and they will please notice that at the date following the word "Expires," another payment of dues should be made.

It was agreed to take up the special study of the families *Corvidae* and *Icteridae* for some time to come.

Migration, food, nidification and especially economic value will be investigated and a partial report at least is hoped for from each member.

Our widely scattered membership can we think be made a valuable corps of observation.

Further conclusions &c. on this project will be given next month.

ALBERT B. FARNHAM,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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

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

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

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the Oölogist in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Apr) Oölogist which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Hagerup's "Birds of Greenland."

5th prize—Leverkuhn's "Fremde Eier Im Nest."

For the April competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars. The value of prizes offered this month is \$15 00.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the Oölogist was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than May 10th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of Oölogist and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the April competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a copy of "Recent Indian Wars," elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

World's Fair Notes.

It is the present expectation that every species of fish and other aquatic animal large enough to be seen, which is native to inland waters and to the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, except perhaps a live whale, will be exhibited in the Fisheries Department of the Exposition.

Instead of a reproduction of an Aztec temple Mexico will construct a typical hacienda, or residence of a wealthy landed proprietor. This will be decorated in a lavish manner with Mexican fruit and flowers and archaeological and ethnological specimens. The Mexican exhibit will illustrate the present condition and resources and products of the country rather than its past history.

In the Washington State exhibit will be included a representation of the methods used by the Makah Indians in catching salmon and other fish. The exhibit will include boats, lines, hooks, seines, harpoons, etc.

In Colorado's exhibit will appear a very complete showing of the flora of the state. Miss Alida P. Lansing, who has been in charge of the matter, gathered more than 1,000 varieties last summer, including fifteen or more which had never been classified.

The British Royal Commission for the Chicago Exposition is endeavoring to form a typical collection, illustrating British metallurgy for the British Section, and it is now applying to owners and managers of metallurgical works, asking for specimens of each of their principal metallurgical products, and also for specimens illustrating various processes. Dr. E. J. Ball, the instructor in assaying at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington has undertaken to classify and arrange the collection which when complete, will doubtless be fully illustrative of the condition of metallurgy in the kingdom. At the close of the exhibition the collection will be presented to an American museum.

The World's Columbian Exposition.

Send 50 cents to Bond & Co., 576 Rookery, Chicago, and you will receive, postpaid, a four hundred page advance Guide to the Exposition, with elegant engravings of the ground and buildings portraits of its leading spirits, and a map of the city of Chicago; all of the rules governing the exposition and exhibitors, and all information which can be given out in advance of its opening. Also, other engravings and printed information will be sent you as published. It will be a very valuable book and every person should secure a copy.

To The World's Fair.

Join the club that is being organized to attend the World's Fair at Chicago. You can pay for your ticket in weekly or monthly payments; the ticket covers railway fares, board, room and Exposition tickets. The United World's Exposition Company is the strongest in United States, apply to local agent or write the United World's Fair Exposition Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange Building, Boston, Mass

The Oologist for 1892.

The OÖLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OÖLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscriptions*. On January 1892, the OÖLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World.

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*Laughing Gull.....	20	Whimbrel.....	40	*Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	10
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Caspian Tern.....	50	*Billdeer.....	20	*Belted Kingfisher.....	20
Forster's Tern.....	10	Bob-white.....	10	Hairy Woodpecker.....	50
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*Arctic Tern.....	15	*Texas Bob-white.....	10	*Red-cockaded Wdpker.....	1 25
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Bobolink	20	Western Yellow-throat	25	Black-bird	10	
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Dwarf Cowbird	20	Long-tailed Chat	15	Spotted Flycatcher	10	
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Tri-colored Blackbird	20	*Curved-billed Thrasher	25	Jay	15	
*Meadowlark	12	*Cactus Wren	12	Magpie	15	
*Western Meadowlark	12	*Carolina Wren	15	Carrion Crow	15	
*Hooded Oriole	50	*Bewick's Wren	50	Hooded Crow	15	
*Orchard Oriole	10	Vigor's Wren	25	Rook	15	
Baltimore Oriole	10	Baird's Wren	25	Jackdaw	15	
*Bullock's Oriole	15	*House Wren	06	Starling	15	
*Brewer's Blackbird	05	Western House Wren	06	Goldfinch	15	
PurplGracile	01	Tule Wren	15	Greenfinch	15	
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White-rumped Shrike	08	Swallow	10	Hammerhead Shark	20	
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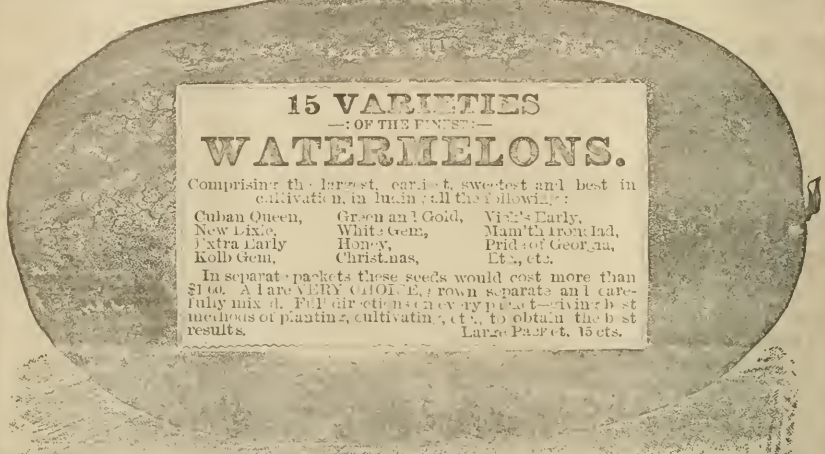


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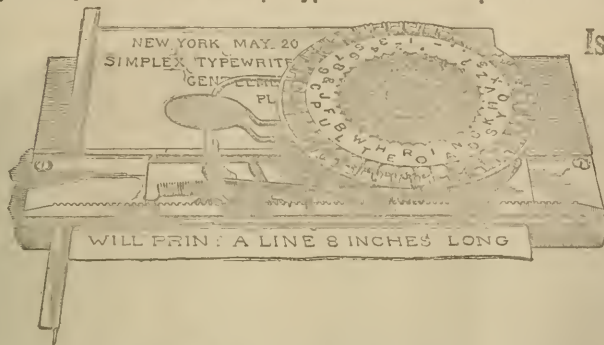
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OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1892.

NO. 5

NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* according to conditions stated thereon.

TO EXCHANGE.—Back numbers of Youth's Companion for common or fancy pigeons. **FRANK E. SWEETSER**, Danvers, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class bird skins and eggs for good rifle, collecting gun, telescope, or books on Ornithology, Oology or Taxidermy. **JNO. L. HOOPER**, Lake Mills, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—About 50 first-class bird's eggs in sets and singles and a copy of Wood's Natural History for works on Ornithology. **H. B. ASHBURN**, Gibbon, Neb.

TO EXCHANGE.—Five years Youth's Companion, '87-'91 inclusive, on a Star safety razor, new, and minerals, for minerals, fossils, etc. Letters answered; address **D. A. WHEELER**, Ashburnham Center, Mass.

I HAVE about a thousand stamps, many rare ones, to exchange for a pair of climbing irons or works on Ornithology or Oology. **L. P. WILLIAMS**, Redlands, Cal.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—One Howard camera with sea beans and shells from Florida. Periwinkles. Lake Erie correspondence desired **LAWRENCE RYCKMAN**, Brocton, N. Y.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—A single barreled, breech-loading shot gun. Bargain. **R. W. PATTERSON**, Box 247, Parkersburg, W. Va.

SILK COCOONS.—I will give 3 silk cocoons (white, yellow and green) for each and every Indian arrowhead or stone implement sent me. **W. W. SHELLEY**, Hesston, Harvey Co., Kans.

STAMPS.—I want collections or lots; which I will exchange eggs in sets or singles. All answered. **JESSE MILLER**, 181 Dallas St., Houston, Texas.

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred turtle and snake eggs. **FRANK H. LATTIN**, Albion, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—with reliable collectors, Eggs in sets or singles with data. **GEO. L. CALDERWOOD**, Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., California.

WANTED.—Trade connection in first class eggs from other parts of country. Have three live Great Horned Owls for first class sets. **JOHN LARSEN**, 3 Elm St., Ann Arbor, Mich.

WANTED.—To exchange birds eggs, in sets, with collectors throughout the United States. **L. W. NICHOLS**, Somonauk, Ill.

CALIFORNIA EGGS—in sets with data and singles to exchange for sets with data. Also wish to exchange eggs for tennis racket. **HARRY R. PAINTON**, College Park, Cal.

WANTED.—Rough Skeletons of mammals, (six badgers) birds, and reptiles. I pay cash or exchange specimens of all kinds. **CHARLES E. HITE**, Osteologist, Burlington, New Jersey.

OÖLOGISTS ATTENTION.—Your correspondence is solicited for this season in regard to exchanging of bird's eggs between our localities. Address **GEORGE N. UPHAM**, Coffeyville, Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine sets of following (A. O. U.) species: 59, 207, 293a, 289b, 311, 319, 313, 335, 339a, 424, 110, 477a, 602, 586, 573, 718a, 706, 707. **THOS. H. JACKSON**, West Chester, Pa.

TO EXCHANGE.—A revolving shot-gun, 38 Cal. 5 shot, value \$4.50 will exchange for bird's eggs, skins, or mounted birds. What offers. **S. L. HALEY**, Phillips, Maine.

I HAVE quite a number of different articles to exchange for birds' eggs or climbing irons. Send list and receive mine. All letters answered. **SIGMUND H. HULL**, New Milford, Conn.

WANTED.—Plants of *Solanaceae*, *Viola rotundifolia*, *laureolata*, *primulaefolia*, *blanda*, *palustris*, *Selkirkii*, *villosa*, *rostrata*, *Unkenbergii*, *striata*, *canadensis*, and *Violetis* except *cuculata*, *sagittata*, *delpinifolia*, *jedata*, *tricolor*, and *odorata*. Will give other wild plants herbarium specimens, carboniferous fossils, or entomological specimens. **JNO. BRIDWELL**, Baldwin, Kan.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—A \$10 magic lantern for an Oologist's outfit or eggs in sets. H. A. HESS, 152 E. New York St., Indianapolis, Ind.

WANTED.—*Fine* bird skins only, for which I will exchange for 60 days, handsome geodes for such as I can use. Send full lists at once to C. K. WORTHEN, Naturalist and Taxidermist, Warsaw, Illinois.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fossils and minerals for eggs, Indian relics, Davie's 'nests and eggs', or pair of Lattin's climbers, etc. MORTON CULVER, La Salle, Ill.

WE WISH to exchange eggs, skins, and mounted birds for eggs, skins, minerals, coins, fossils, and curios. All correspondence answered. W. A. & W. E. BRYAN, New Sharon, Ia.

A 22 CALIBRE revolver, 70 numbers of The Youth's Companion, books, novels, etc., to exchange for a self-ejecting revolver or other things. S. KLINTBERG, Box 340, Plattsmouth, Neb.

\$25 WORTH of birds' eggs to exchange for mandolin, banjo, or other musical instruments or will sell to the highest bidder. B. H. BLANTON, Frankfort, Ky.

NOTICE.—I make a specialty of collecting first-class original sets with full data for 2-5 list price, cash. Parties desiring to purchase fine sets for their collections please write and get my lists. W. E. DRENNAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

TELESCOPE!—4 joints, brass; value \$3. Will exchange for best offer of first-class eggs in sets with data. Also have sets of California Shrike to trade. Make an offer. All letters answered. C. BARLOW, Santa Clara, Cal.

BARGAIN.—My collection of 125 varieties, including 20 sets with full data, and nice cherry and glass case, for sale for \$15.00! Less than 1/2 catalogue. Begun in Nebraska, closed in Virginia; eastern and western varieties, hawks, gulls, terns. Carefully packed and sent at purchaser's expense. A. C. TOWNSEND, No. 1620 15th St., Washington, D. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—Youth's Companion, 1891, unbound, for small telescope, minerals, or book on Entomology, Polyphemus and Cecropia. Moths for minerals. HARRY E. ORR, Xenia, Ohio.

SOME FINE microscope slides, rare, specimens, Human and animal sections, hydroids, Diatoms, Globigerena, etc., for skins, eggs, books, optical instruments. JNO. O. SNYDER, Waterloo, Ind.

21LB. BULL TERRIER—20 months old, white, with black eyes, handsome and gamey; Pit games and eggs for hatching (Col. Grist strain), pair duckwing game bantams, 2 blue ck'd Antwerp cocks, 1 blue fantail cock, 1 blue owl hen, 1 moorhead, 70 No's. Scientific American, pair climbers, or pearl-handled, double action 32-5 shot revolver, for eggs, showy named shells or curios, live, 1st or 2d class mounted, pictures of or works on birds or animals, or anything interesting or ornamental. MILO E. BILLS, 66 Lansing St., Auburn, N. Y.

WANTED.—A good 16-gauge collecting gun. Will give 3 1/2 times its value in 1st class birds' skins. H. W. MENKE, Garden City, Kan.

WANTED.—Copies of Davies' Eggs and Nests. (cloth); Ridgways Manual, and Coues' Key, latest editions. State lowest cash price, condition, and number of copies. I wish to correspond with experienced collectors in this vicinity. HARRY B. SARGENT, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

EXCHANGE.—Florida Burrowing Owl 1-5, and two singles for common eggs. Nothing wanted that is listed over 35 cents. Terms of exchange, value for value. Pl. H. care of W. B. CAULK, Terre Haute, Ind.

COMMON EGGS WANTED AT ONCE.—I want in quantities of not less than 50c. worth the following *first class* common eggs: Robin; Mockingbird; Bluebird; Crow; Bronzed and Purple Grakles; Pheobe; Bank, Cliff and Barn Swallows; Song, Field, English and Chipping Sparrows; White-rumped Shrike; Cowbird; Black-throated Bunting; Yellow Warbler; Mourning Dove; and California Towhee. For any of the above species I will allow *full rates* in exchange for sets of Noddy 1-1 at 75c., Eggs or Sets of Limpkin at \$1.25, Forster's Tern 15c., Blue-winged Teal 30c., Am. Magpie 2c., Davie's "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds," paper \$2.00 or cloth at \$3.00. This offer holds good until *June 10 only*. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, *edition*, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

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We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

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FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

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The Oologist for 1892.

The OÖLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OÖLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscriptions*. On January 1892, the OÖLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World

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EGG DRILLS.—Our drills are equal to any in the market. Short-handled drills we make a specialty. Collectors will find them more convenient and less expensive than the long-handled ones. Our drills are made expressly for our trade from the best stubbs steel. The lengths of handles are as follows: Short, 2 in.; Medium, 3 in.; Long, 6 in.

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No. 6. Medium handle, fine cut, burr 4-32 in.	.20

Our medium and long-handled egg drills are the finest in the world. They are made with a fine, clean cut burr, fine point, nickel plated and engraved handle. Best style, extra fine steel. We can furnish either long or medium handle of any the following sizes at prices quoted:

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Collectors who have used it say they will never again blow eggs in the old tiresome, laborious and wind-exhausting method.

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PINK WOOL COTTON.—For lining trays, cabinets, etc. Comes in strips 12 in. wide.

Extra quality, 12c per foot, 30c per yard or 90c per roll of 3½ yards.

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Samples of all colors, both grades, 2c. ▲

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1892.

NO. 5

Acanthes Linaria.

This little specimen of avian life is not confined to America but is also a native of the Eastern Hemisphere.

In this country it is a common but erratic winter visitant in the northern tiers of States, though Dr. Cooper records seeing it but once in Washington Territory. I think without doubt that in regards to numbers of birds that frequent this locality—central Minnesota during the winter months the Lesser Red-poll (*Acanthis linaria*)—(LINN.) stands pre-eminent. Though not so large and conspicuous a bird as the Evening Grosbeak, which I hope to be able to say something of in a future article, it is very noticeable, because so highly gregarious and by its apparent lack of timidity in the presence of man. Hundreds often congregate in a single flock and they manifest so little fear of human habitation that frequently they will come even to the door step for crumbs.

Taken individually and at a little distance the Red-poll is not a bird of prepossessing appearance, and if you were not an ardent lover of ornithology or failed to hear its faint, sweet song it would undoubtedly be passed by without special thought. But at nearer sight you find that this apparently plain little bird is given, though sparingly perhaps, of one of the most brilliant and beautiful colors in nature. The corona or crown is a bright metallic carmine or red. The adult male is quite brightly marked in the breast with rose or crimson, but of a somewhat more subdued tint than that of the vertex, this color being diffused in softer and lessening degrees as it advances upward over jugulum and gula and is finally lost in the cheeks which, gener-

ally preserve a few faint traces, as do, also, the sides where the rose merges downward and is gradually blended into the marking of the underparts. Obsolete traces of roseate may some time be found elsewhere over the plumage, but nowhere is it so constant as on the breast, excepting of course, the crown which, alike in young and old, is always red.

Many a time I have watched them in the garden when, alighting on a weed top. I am afraid that is not saying much for my gardening accomplishments, just appearing above the snow, they would peck away at the seeds for a moment, then flit to another and another, and in their constantly changing positions the sun-light would glance upon their red forms and be reflected therefrom almost as brilliantly as from the gorget of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Whether on the ground or among the shrubbery, they seem always bustling and busy, and will teach the observer the lesson that Solomon saw in the ants.

Audubon says they occasionally nest in Maine. But their favorite breeding grounds are much farther north in that belt known as the Fur Countries, when in a low tree or bush, they construct a rough, bulky nest and lining it with feathers make a warm, cosy abiding place for their future hopes. The eggs of this species are described as having a ground color of light blue with a slight tinge of greenishness, spotted and speckled, chiefly at the larger end, around which the markings sometimes form a confluent ring, with various shades of brown.

Sprites of the North, and but transient visitors, they leave us and return to their northern fastnesses before spring has much advanced.

L. DART.

Black-Throated Gray Warbler.

Dendroica nigrescens. (TOWNS.) 665.

Hab., Pacific Coast Region.

This Warbler is a summer resident of Linn County, Oregon, and is by no means abundant. It inhabits the dense fir thickets, near the openings in the forests.

It requires care to even approach the birds, as it is very shy, and will slip out and away from its nest, while you are still some distance away, without even uttering a note. Then if you carefully conceal yourself, in the course of 15 or 20 minutes, the bird will return, in the same sly and stealthy movements.

It prefers the smaller growth of fir and dense thickets of willow. The nest is placed in some small fir, generally not over five or six feet high, and is made of fine grass, profusely lined with feathers. The eggs are four in number of a greenish, pinkish white, spotted at the larger end, with shades of cinnamon, and lilac-gray. Average size, 68 x 53.

Myrtle Warbler.

Dendroica coronata, (LINN.) No. 655.

Common on the Pacific coast of Oregon. Known as Yellow-crowned, or Yellow-rumped Warbler. This bird arrives at Sweet Home on, or about, April 20, generally in flocks of six or twelve, which feed in the openings and roads until breeding season, when they pair and each look for a suitable location, which is generally in some fir bush, not over 12 feet high. The nest is composed of fibres, fine grass, and occasionally a few feathers.

I have often seen the birds feeding in the single fir tree in my yard during migration season, but during the building season are not as conspicuous.

The eggs are from 3 to 5 in number

of a creamy white color, spotted and blotched, forming a wreath at the larger end, with shades of brown and lilac. Average size 65 x 50

DR. A. G. PRILL.

Bird Notes From Oregon.

AN EARLY SPRING.

Although Oregon has the name of being a rainy State, the weather bureau at Washington, D. C., will show that average rainfall is not so great as many suppose.

The weather for the past Winter has been very mild with no snow, (except a few flakes) and with this in view I have prophesied and early collecting season and am now more certain of it.

While some of you in the East have been having snow and blizzards, Oregon—or rather the Willamette Valley has had on one of her sweetest smiles of sunshine.

Wild flowers have been in bloom for several days as have also Wild Strawberry blossoms.

Migrants are beginning to return to their summer homes. The Violet-green Swallow arrived earlier this year than for several seasons. The Cedar Waxwing was ahead of its usual time also.

Rusty Song Sparrows, Western Robin and Bluebirds are choosing their mates, and I will not be surprised to see them carrying straws, etc. at any time.

Oregon Chickadees begin nesting in April, but I will look for them to begin this year, the latter part of this month. Collectors in Oregon should begin to get their collecting "traps" together and keep an eye open for the early breeders.

I look for a good season, and if my time is not too much occupied, I shall spend many pleasant days among the birds.

CLYDE S. KELLAR,
Salem, Oregon.

March 12, '92.

The Woodpeckers.

In this family are some of the most beneficial as well as the most interesting of our birds. Few birds are better known, for they not only attract attention by their peculiar notes, but when nearly all other birds are silent they make their presence known by tapping almost incessantly upon the limbs and trunks of trees.

When doing this they are not always in quest of food, but seem to delight in drumming upon dead trees.

This drumming is probably done for the purpose of attracting the attention of others of their kind, as well as for amusement.

It is most frequently heard just before a rain or thaw in the early spring.

Although the notes of the Woodpeckers are comparatively few in number, yet they cannot all be said to be destitute of the power of song.

The Flicker probably has command of the greatest number of notes.

Many families of our birds are adapted to catching insects in the air and upon the foilage of trees and plants, but the Woodpeckers alone are adapted to capturing those insects and larvae that lurk beneath the bark and in the wood of trees, and which if left unchecked in their ravages would do untold injury.

In construction, few birds are better adapted to their habits of life. The shape of the body, the formation of the feet, the stiff pointed shafts of the tail feathers, the chisel-shaped bill, and the long dagger-like tongue with its peculiar arrangement of muscles all adapt them to their manner of living.

Although the greater number of species are confined to the woods and forest, many of them visit our orchards and yards, and undoubtedly save many valuable trees by ridding them of destructive insects.

When they become aware of the presence of an insect, they find its exact

location by means of their acute sense of hearing, and by tapping upon the outside of the tree with the bill. When thus located, it takes but a few strokes of the powerful bill to expose it to view, when it is easily secured by means of the long extensile tongue.

From their habit of puncturing the bark of living trees, a number of species have erroneously acquired the name of Sapsuckers. For what purpose they do this, I am unable to say; but it is not for the purpose of securing the sap as many suppose. Their object may be to attract insects to feed upon the sap that they may be more easily captured, or to induce them to deposit their eggs in the crevices left by the healing of the bark, they may return and devour them or the young insects.

A few of our Woodpeckers are not unfrequently seen in towns and cities, sometimes even nesting there.

The smaller species often accompany the Chickadees, Nuthatches, Kinglets, etc.

Taken altogether they form a very efficient army for the destruction of insects. The Woodpeckers are not all strictly insectivorous.

A few species, among which may be mentioned the Red-head, seem to prefer fruit and grain when it can be had.

The nest is usually an excavation made by the bird in a dead limb or the dead trunk of a tree, but sometimes a natural cavity is used.

The eggs are thus secured from the depredations of the Crows and many other enemies, but are sometimes destroyed by the squirrels. I have frequently seen it stated that the Woodpeckers remove the chips to a distance from the excavation to avoid discovery but by frequent observations I have found that statement untrue of the species resident here. In the winter time they pass the night in excavations. The eggs are pure white in all species, and are from three to nine in number.

They sometimes become so stained

by the habits of the birds as to appear almost black.

The Woodpeckers do not put forth much effort for the protection of their eggs and young.

It is true the Flicker, perched in the top of some neighboring tree asserts very emphatically that he will "kill you" if you do not let his nest alone, and the little Downy frequently reproaches an intruder upon his domestic affairs for their "cheek," and other species make their objections to one being too close to their nest known by various well-known notes, but they seldom or never attack one with their bill and wings as many other birds do.

Six species are resident here, and two or three are known as migrants.

The Hairy Woodpecker is quite common resident. This species is one of the most beneficial of the family. They search for insects almost continually from morning until night, and do not seem to have any special feeding time as many other birds do.

I have known one of them to almost completely divest a large dead hemlock tree of its outer bark in less than a week's time,

In such cases I cannot say that the work was all done by one bird, but never observed more than one to be present at a time. Their food consists almost entirely of insects with now and then a berry thrown in by way of change.

As soon as the young are fully fledged they accompany the old birds nearly everywhere they go and are fed by them until fall.

The young never seem to be satisfied, and no matter how well fed, are constantly pleading for more.

They commence nesting about the middle of April. The nesting cavity is frequently excavated in a beech tree, which seems to be a favorite with many species. The eggs are usually five or six in number.

The Downy is a common resident. It has very much the appearance of being a small edition of the Hairy, but upon close examination will be found to differ in plumage as well as size.

The habits of the two are almost identical, only the Downy is a little the more familiar of the two. They are by no means uncommon visitors in our towns and cities where they may be seen searching diligently for insects upon the shade trees. Their delight is to nest in dead limbs of apple trees in orchards. They sometimes nest in dead limbs of shade trees along the side of village streets.

When nesting in the woods, beech and ash trees are most frequently selected.

The entrance to the excavation of this species is as round as if cut by the aid of a mathematical instrument and no larger than will barely admit the bird. The eggs are from four to six in number and usually become much stained as incubation advances. When more than four in number, one or more are frequently undersized.

The Hairy and Downy are the Sapsuckers with us.

The Pileated Woodpecker is the rarest of the species, resident here. They are said to have been common here at one time, but as the timber was cleared off they became rare, and now are only to be found in small numbers in those pieces of timber farthest removed from habitations.

They are very shy retiring birds, very difficult to approach, it being almost impossible to secure a specimen if once aware of your presence. From their habit of searching among fallen logs for food they have acquired the name of Logcock. They are also called Woodcock. They feed on those insects and their larva found in dead and decaying timber, and berries, such as those of the gum, dogwood, etc. This species can readily be distinguished from all

others found in the Northern States by their large size, being about seventeen inches in length.

They prefer dead hickory trees for nesting purposes, and the nest is usually situated at a considerable distance from the ground. They commence nesting early in April, and from what information I have been able to obtain I think the usual number of eggs is three or four.

The Red-head is a common summer resident, but is rather rare in winter.

Several years ago this species was abundant, but they have decreased greatly in number the last few years. I cannot give any satisfactory reason for this.

It is true that they receive considerable attention from the small boy with a gun, but that is not the only reason for their decrease.

The Red-head is one of the best known species of the family, for it is he who claims the privilege of sampling our choicest fruit and grain. The finest ears of corn, the juiciest cherries and the mellowest apples, he seems to regard as his by right, and never neglects to secure his share of them.

Unlike most of the family he is a little inclined toward laziness, and prefers a meal of nice fruit, followed by a nap in the sunshine, to digging for a living. When so disposed they are as expert at catching insects upon the wing as the true Flycatchers. I have observed them to sit for hours in some elevated situation, ever ready to capture any insects that chance to cross their field of vision.

When other food is scarce they not unfrequently visit the corn-crib for corn. They often carry away more than they can consume, and secret it in various nooks and crevices for future use.

Nevertheless, their bad qualities are more than balanced by the good, and the small quantity of fruit and grain that they consume is amply paid for by

their presence and the number of noxious insects that they destroy. They commence nesting about the middle of May.

Trees that stand in open fields bordering on woods are preferred for nesting purposes. The eggs are almost invariably five in number.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is rather rare and is mostly seen in winter.

They usually confine themselves to the woodlands, and feed on the various insects to be found there together with dogwood berries, etc. The nest of this species is rarely found here.

A nest found by the writer a few years ago, contained four nearly fresh eggs about the middle of May. The nest was an excavation in a dead limb of a beech, and was situated at a height of about thirty feet from the ground.

The Flicker is the commonest of our Woodpeckers. Only a few remain through the winter.

At the commencement of the breeding season, their call is to be heard in all directions. Unlike the rest of the family they feed much upon the ground. When obtainable ants seem to be their favorite food. They are also very fond of wild cherries and green corn. In winter they subsist upon berries and such insects as are to be found at that season.

The bill is not as well adapted to excavating in wood, as in other species and they prefer to obtain their food by other methods. The nesting cavity does not show the fine quality of workmanship that that of the little Downy does. They commence nesting about May 1st and sometimes consume from ten days to two weeks or more in completing the excavation. They are not very discriminating in the selection of a nesting site, and I have found them nesting in stumps at a height of not more than three feet from the ground. They sometimes nest in natural cavities of trees.

A pair have nested in a natural cavity of a butternut tree near this place for six years at least.

The flesh of this species is sometimes used for food, but it is rather highly flavored with ants.

The usual number of eggs is seven, but nests containing nine, and even eleven are sometimes found. When a set contains more than seven they frequently show a great variation in size.

W. H. OLNEY,
Poland, Ohio.

Phainopepla, or **Black-crested Flycatcher.**
(*Phainopepla nivic.*)

Hab.—Mountainous regions of the southwestern provinces of the United States and northern Mexico; south to Orizaba, Cape St. Lucas, plateau of Mexico.

Description. Male—Entirely glossy bluish-black; the inner webs of all the primary quills with a large white patch, the outer margins slightly edged with ash as also are lateral tail feathers externally.

Female.—Brownish-ash above, lighter below; the white of inner web of quills obsolete, the greater coverts and quills edged externally with whitish, the anal and crissal feathers edged and tipped with the same. The lateral tail feathers with narrow edge of white externally toward end.

Both sexes with a lengthened, pointed, narrow occipital crest. Tail almost fan-shaped and rounded. Length, 7.60; wing, 3.80; tail, 4.35.

This interesting bird, the only known species of the genus *phainopepla*, partakes both in appearance and habits of the characteristics of the Wax-wings and Fly-catchers. It was first observed in the United States in 1852, when Col. McCall secured a specimen in California. It loves the secluded retreats of wooded mountain sides or the timbered borders of mountain streams. In habits it is somewhat gregarious. It subsists upon insects and berries which grow upon a species of mistletoe.

Near Santa Barbara, Cal., this species occurs in small numbers. Last year these were materially increased by migrants, which had found their way through the rocky defiles of the coast range mountains, from a more southern but perhaps less salubrious clime. In my rambles last spring I stumbled up-

on a spot frequented by these birds.

Back of the city of Santa Barbara flows a small stream that finds its source high up in the neighboring mountains. Its course, is one of remarkable beauty and grandeur, such as only rugged mountains can afford, is marked by falls, rapids and pools in ever-changing variety. Surging through narrow clefts, dashing among boulders and over precipices, and resting here and there in dark, quiet some nooks, the crystal waters wend their wild but brief career to the deep. This rugged, untamed district is clothed in dense vegetation. Grasses and sedges, vines and shrubs, with their interlacing tendrils, render progress slow and difficult. A host of mighty trees, whose sturdy trunks towering beside the granite walls often furnished the only means of descent to the waters murmuring in the gorge far below, skirt the stream, and throw the tangled growth beneath into a shade that is not penetrated by the mid-day sun. As the stream nears the city it enters a valley, which, notwithstanding a few human habitations, seems to linger in its pristine wildness. This valley is the favorite resort of birds of many species. Save when the discordant shrieks of a hawk silences momentarily the festive choristers, or night induces a quiet rest which is broken by the occasional strains of a Thrasher's mid-night song, this pleasant dell echoes and re-echoes with the many melodies of the sylvan choirs.

I spent many an hour in this valley last spring in company with the birds, studying their habits or listening enrapturedly to their joyous songs. As I was whiling away a few hours in this favorite spot on the 15th of last May some boys brought me for identification a set of eggs which they had just taken. I could not identify them. The boys then guided me to a tree not far away and picked from the grounds a small mass of weeds. It was a flat, mis-shaped, loosely fabricated affair. This was

the nest. It had been situated upon a horizontal branch of the tree about ten feet from the ground. Meanwhile the birds made their appearance. Both possessed crests; the male, a dashing, restless fellow, was of a bluish-black color, and as he flew I noticed a white patch under each wing. The female was of a duller hue but quite as restless as her mate. I supposed they were *phainopepla nitens* and subsequently found my conjecture correct. I resolved to visit the place on the following day.

Early morning found me again in this retreat. By the stream several species of Humming-birds, whose resplendent plumage flashed in the gleam of day, darted hither and thither among the blossoming plants eulling their nectarean food while poised on murmuring wringlets before the varied-hued flowers. In numbers the Anna's probably excelled, yet the Allen's was numerous, a few Alexander's, or Black-chinned were noticed and an occasional Costa's, which had wandered into this retired nook, was recognized by its violet gorget. From a neighboring upland came the cheery whistle of the Meadowlark while in the vale there surged a flood of melodious song, the rippling accents breaking high up the sides of the adjacent mountains. Warblers and Wrens in well tuned lays, Thrashers and Mocking-birds in extravagant medleys, and Finches in joyous songs joined in this happy orchestra of the woods, while the tentative warblings of the Towhee, the querulous notes of the Pewee and the mournful coo of the Dove broke occasionally upon the ear.

Hopeful of making the desired discoveries, with eyes alert, I proceeded slowly along the valley. My way led through a patch of caeti; while in the midst of these a startled Mourning Dove fluttered noiselessly from a cactus at my side; upon one of the thorny leaves I found her nest and eggs. A moment later a House Finch betrayed

her nest by a precipitous dash therefrom after a scramble among the spiny leaves, I found her nest and five eggs. A second set of the latter species together with a set of the California Towhee were taken from oak trees in the vicinity.

A male Phainopepla next attracted my attention by his strange antics. He fluttered about a tree that was set some what apart from the others uttering all the while a sweet bell-like note. As there was evidently something of interest to him upon one of the lower branches of the tree. I immediately constituted myself a committee on investigation. When I drew near I saw its nest upon a horizontal branch about twelve feet from the ground and to my joy found in it two fresh eggs. While I was after the nest the male flew from tree to tree uttering its peculiar note. The female appeared upon the scene just in time to witness the destruction of her home and immediately joined her mate in his mournful demonstrations. During my subsequent search I noticed about a dozen of the birds but secured no more specimens.

About ten days later a fellow oologist and myself visited this avian haunt. Nature was exultant under the genial semi-tropic sun, the air rang with the melodies of the merry choristers of this wooded dell; now and then a Turkey-Buzzard on sable wings swept silently over the little valley, or a Western Red-tail, reconnoitering for its prey, rose in expansive circles higher and higher in the unclouded firmament. Among the gay-liveried inhabitants of the valley that rendered themselves conspicuous in their sportive flights were a number of this species.

The Phainopepla is of a restless, irrelative, suspicious disposition. When perched it glances fretfully about uttering all the while its sweet, bell-like note and now and then giving its ample tail a nervous jerk. In form it is slender and active, the long tail and crest are

prominent features. On the wing it is light and graceful, and in these evolution, the white spots on the wings, visible only when the wings are spread, are very noticeable. At times it dashes, in an irregular course, high into the air in pursuit of some insect; or pretending to enter upon a protracted flight, it mounts to a considerable elevation where in fluttering along in the ethereal blue it forms a pretty sight, but suddenly its course is checked and with a few downward sweeps and extravagant flutters it disappears in the foliage of a distant tree.

During the few hours we spent in this delightful place we secured four sets, two of two eggs and two of three eggs each; several other nests were found but either on account of the inaccessibility of the nests or the advanced stage of incubation, no eggs were obtained. The nests were located either in crotches or on horizontal limbs at an elevation varying from eight to twenty feet. The first nest was found in a willow; the others were placed in oaks.

The nest of the *Phainopepla* is a curious structure composed of soft, light-colored vegetable fibres into which are woven a few grasses and stems. It is flat—the depression being very slight and measures about four inches in diameter.

The eggs are oddities. The ground color is creamy white or grayish, speckled over the entire surface with dark brown and blackish. The coloration varies sometimes. In a set collected by the writer, was an egg on which the spots were congregated about the larger end, while in the same set the other egg (the set numbering two) was heavily spotted all over and had a long black dash down the side. The complement of eggs is two or three; their average dimensions are about 90.x.69.

In conclusion, I may say that the *Phainopepla* is one of the most interest-

ing birds that has passed under my observation. Its attractive appearance, eccentric habits and odd nests and eggs render it, to me at least, a most interesting bird.

H. C. LILLIE,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

After Golden Eagles.

On the 29th of February last my friend F.A. Schneider and myself started out in quest of Golden Eagles or rather their eggs. Equipped with a good pair of climbers, and a strong suit of old clothes, we started on our ride of ten miles into the mountains. We had gone about six miles and were passing a large live oak tree when my friend cried out:—"Hold on there! wait a minute."

I pulled up and he jumped out and proceeded to climb the oak. I didn't know what he was after, but as he is not in the habit of climbing trees for nothing, I waited expectantly and in a few minutes I was pleased and surprised to see him descend bearing the dainty nest and eggs of an Anna's Hummingbird. He had seen the bird fly from the tree and rightly supposed a nest to be there. We continued on into the mountains and were soon scouring their sides.

After walking but a few miles we discovered our first eagle's nest situated near the top of an immense pine about seventy-five feet high. The tree was situated near the top of a mountain so that the nest overlooked a rocky gulch. Deciding that the nest contained eggs I strapped on my climbers and commenced the ascent while my friend sat down comfortable at the foot of the tree and gave advice. The first limbs were about forty feet up and they were rotten but I was aided much in climbing by a slight incline of the tree toward the canon billow.

As I reached a point about half way

up out popped Mrs. Eagle, giving me a full view of her coal-black under parts, and gracefully soared out over the canon enabling me to see the sheeny copper color of her back and wings.

Now fully assured that the nest contained eggs. I pushed on with new vigor and soon reached the top. There I was doubly thrilled—first at sight of two beautiful eggs reposing so innocently in the nest and second at the yawning abyss which now lay directly below me.

Thinking it the safest way I lowered the eggs in a small cloth bag which I had brought for the purpose.

They were cream colored, blotched with light brown and measured 2.69 x 2.18 and 2.68 x 2.12 which is rather small I think.

The nest was about five feet in diameter made of oak sticks and lined with long dry grass. After blowing the eggs that they might be more safely carried, we hunted around for some time and managed to find another nest but sad to relate it was empty. I was consoled however, by finding several empty, but fresh nests of the Western Red-tailed Hawk which we remembered and put down for our next trip.

While returning to our conveyance we noticed a number of the pretty little Californian Bush Tits and searched a few moments for nests but failed to find any, and so concluded it to be too early for them. We returned home well satisfied in a tired but most jubilant mood.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD,
San Jose, Cal.

Among the "Blue-jays."

Of all the birds that frequent the woods, the streams and the meadows of this dear old state, at least of this part of it. I do not know of a single species that I like better than this diminutive specimen of bird life.

Although a number of birds begin

building before the "Blue-grays" come (which is about March 20th). I never feel that the collecting season has really begun until I hear their well-known notes coming from the top of some tall gum or pine, as they are rather timid about coming down in low trees until later in the season.

At this time they have a rather discontented note, but a little later, when Mr. Bluegray begins courting his best girl, his notes, though subdued, are very sweet and musical and much more contented.

By the by, dear reader, are all the birds mated off in mating season? Or, are there some who can find no mate? Did you ever see an old maid or an old bachelor among the feathered tribes? I am quite sure I never did.

But I am wandering from my subject. If you listen very attentively you will hear him singing. He don't seem to be singing to anybody but himself, as he hops around among the branches of that oak, engaged in hunting insects. I expect the secret of his happiness is that he is engaged in another way, or perhaps is already married.

But the busiest time of his life is when he is preparing a home for his family. We will watch that one over there in that gum tree. See how he is tugging at that stubborn piece of lichen but he perseveres until he pulls it off, and then away he flies to his nest on yonder oak limb.

He jumps on the nest, re-arranges what his mate has just put there, changes his own piece several times 'til he gets it just right and then down he darts to the ground to gather some fine grass within two yards of where we stand watching him, then back to the nest again.

The next minute we lose sight of him in a clump of briars, but soon see him return to his nest, with his bill full of spider-webs, which he proceeds to stick on the nest here and there.

Then perhaps, we will see him fly

down to that swampy spot and return laden with fern-down which he gathered from the stalks of ferns. This material he puts on the inside for a lining but there is very little difference between the lining and any other part of the nest.

And all this time he has not eaten a mouthful, that we can see, nor have I ever seen him eat in building time, though I suppose of course he must eat on the sly.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has some curious ideas about building, as the facts from my note book will show.

On April 5, 1890, my brother and myself were out in the woods looking for nests. I found my first Blue-gray nest of that season in a black gum tree, and a little while afterwards he found another nest in the same tree within three feet of mine, which was being built by the same pair of birds.

I had never heard of such a case before and was naturally very much astonished, but there can't possibly be any mistake about it, as I would watch one bird put material on one nest, then get more material and put it on the other nest, and its mate would do the same thing.

They kept this up until the nests were about half done when they quit the nest I found completed the other.

When I went to collect the nest, something must have fallen into it, as I found two broken eggs and one good one, which I have now.

Another peculiarity about them is that they will start a nest in one place and then tear it up and build another nest of the same material.

I found a Blue-gray building a nest in a small pine on April 18, '91. Seven days afterwards I went back to see how she was getting along and caught her tearing up her old nest and carrying it to build a new nest about 100 yards distant, in a much larger pine. I also know of two other instances.

The Blue-grays quit a great many nests before they finish them. It has been my experience that finding three nests when building, I get one set of eggs.

They build at all altitudes, from six to sixty feet above the ground. They don't seem to care much for their surroundings either, as I have found nests in the depths of the woods and in a peach tree in a front yard out in the country; in lonely swamps and almost directly over a public road.

I don't suppose there is any use describing the eggs of the Blue-gray, for I expect a majority of my readers (if I have any) have one or more specimens in their cabinets, but some may not know how many eggs generally make up a set.

In this locality the average number is five, often four and very seldom six. I have never found a set of six myself, but they have been found in this locality by friends of mine.

Blue-grays are pretty common about here, and their nests are very easily found, owing to the fact that they build and do nothing else for a certain time, so that if you find a Blue-gray during that time you are pretty apt to find a nest also.

But methinks I see this article retreating to Mr. Lattin's waste basket in ignominious flight, so I waste no more time on it.

ALBERT R. HAYWARD, JR.,
Columbia, S. C.

Treatment of Cases of Ivy Poison.

Seeing in a back number of the OÖLOGIST an article in reference to the poison sumach, I thought it might be of interest to some of the readers to hear my experience with the poison Ivy.

Poison ivy is a plant which gives the oölogist no end of annoyance; no matter how guarded he may be during his visits into the country, he is sure if his

excursions are frequent to have poison continually on some part of his face or arms.

Of course there are exceptions: there are those who will not take it only in cases of great exposure; while there others who can hardly go near the vine without receiving ill effects from it.

There are diverse remedies coming from different sources, but most efficient cure which has come to my knowledge is a solution of 1 part of baking soda in four parts of strong ammonia, diluted with four parts of water. The ammonia or soda would each independently effect a cure but the ammonia would cause the parts effected to fester, while the soda would have the opposite effect but with less dispatch.

The effect of the combination, however, is such that, if the poison is taken when it first appears, will kill it in two or three applications. It is best during treatment not to become over-heated more than is necessary as this is a condition very favorable to the progress of the rash.

Sugar of lead is a remedy which is highly recommended by some persons, but it does not possess the strength required in severe cases. A cure may be effected by cleansing frequently and thoroughly with warm water and strong laundry soap.

The most difficult organs to treat for this disorder are the eyes. The solution mentioned would be very injurious to the sight; the only resort therefore is salt and water. This should be made weak at first, until the eyes become used to it. They should be bathed frequently, and never rubbed.

Often when they are very much swelled a poultice of bread and buttermilk will be found to have a very soothing effect.

This poison vine grows over a very large expanse of the United States, but if collectors would make it a point to destroy every plant they meet with, it

would soon become appreciably scarcer.

GEO. T. HERRINGTON,
Lawrence, Kan.

A Trip After Beach Birds.

My cousin and I had long been talking of taking a trip to Ipswich Beach, in order to obtain some specimens of the Beach-birds. It was on a Saturday before Labor Day; cloudy dark, and the wind was north-east, when we boarded the train for Ipswich. On reaching the station, we started to walk to the beach which is a long five miles from the town. We had proceeded about two miles toward our destination, when in turning a bend in the road, we came in sight of a large bird perched on an oak tree. By careful managing my cousin secured him just as he flew. He proved to be a fine specimen of a Red-tailed Hawk, (*Buteo borealis*).

We reached Lakeman's Beach, as it is called, at about nine o'clock a. m., and immediately dug a pit and set our decoys.

It was a fine sight to see the coasters go by, and watch the waves dash against the hard white sand, with a noise like a peal of thunder. This place is on the open sea, with no land nearer in the east than Europe. Back of this beach, which by the way is about five miles long, is about half a mile of sand hills, in the hollows of which are pools of water and cranberry beds, and where the Black Ducks are numerous in spring. This is also the place where a specimen of Baird's Sparrow was first taken in the east. Back of these sand hills are miles and miles of marsh land, intersected by numerous rivers and creeks, and dotted here and there with wooded islands.

But to go on with the trip; we killed fifteen Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers on the beach, and then went over to the marshes. We obtained a

boat, and rowing among the creeks, soon started a flock of Pectoral Sandpipers, from which we obtained six. After rowing about for some time and seeing nothing, and as it had begun to rain, we decided to start for home, which we did after mooring our boat and shooting a Spotted Sandpiper. We reached home about dark, thoroughly soaked, but having had a good time, and adding some specimens to our collection.

F. A. BROWN,
Beverly, Mass.

Not Unusual.

Editor of Oologist:

I had a little experience yesterday which I expect nearly all oologists have had, but as I have never seen any of them in your paper I thought I would write you mine. Yesterday my partner came to me and said he knew where there was a Hawk's nest and as he couldn't get off from his business, he would like for me to go and climb to it.

About four o'clock I started out on horse-back with a couple of companions, and we found the tree without much trouble for he had described the position very accurately. We all got down and hitched our horse and then the fun began. The tree was a white oak about four foot through and it was about twenty feet to the first limbs. I did not carry my irons for I didn't think I would need them, but I did. After about fifteen minutes of pushing and punching with a rail or two I finally succeeded in reaching the the first limb. From the first limb to the second was about ten feet and I had to throw a rope over it and pull myself up and while I was straining and pulling and the dust and bark was falling in my eyes and shirt bosom, the boys on the ground were encouraging me with such remarks as this, "It is nice and cool down here."

"That don't make me tired a bit."

"What must I tell your mother," and such as that. The last was when I had got pretty well up. Then they began to speculate as to how many bones I would break if I were to fall, and how they would break the news. I expect I made some remarks to them that had more strength than brotherly love in them, but they didn't have any effect on them. But I was fully repaid for all my work when I found three fine eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk in the nest. I let them down, and arrived safely on the ground, after being nearly an hour and thirty minutes climbing the tree.

Will some of the other friends please give their experiences?

W. W. B.,
Mayfield, Kentucky.

Some of Our Louisiana Birds.

One of the distinctive Southern birds is the gaily colored Painted Bunting, (*Passerina ciris*). He generally makes his appearance in this section of the country somewhat late, in the latter part of March or April; but he is a business bird and begins the work of nest building shortly after his arrival.

With the assistance of the female he puts together a rather pretty structure, generally in the upright forks of a bush or on the limbs of a small tree. The nest is composed of grass, rootlets, small twigs, and paper when it is handy. Then the female deposits her eggs while the proud father sits on adjoining twig and sings with all his little might. In due time the younglings are hatched but they resemble in no wise the gaudy colors of their father, but instead are of the olive type of coloring of the female. The nest is very often placed in orange trees, and I have seen them, though rarely, in very tall trees. The eggs of the Painted Bunting are generally four or five in number and are of a grayish

white, specked and spotted with reddish brown. They run in long diameter from .73 to .81 and in short diameter from .56 to .62.

The male bird does not obtain his full plumage until the third year, when he is certainly the handsomest plumaged small bird we have. They are much sought for here as cage birds, especially by the French element of the population who call them "papes" or as it is Americanized "paps." They are generally trapped through the pugnacious disposition of the male, by placing a stuffed Painted Bunting inside of the trap-cage, in a defiant attitude. The male sees him, and accepts the challenge and alighting on the outspread wing of the cage, is immediately trapped by its closing on him. They are kept in confinement just like canaries, and in fact are often crossed with them. They are soon tamed after being caught and readily become use to cage life.

The family of warblers in summer is somewhat limited with us, but to watch that beautiful little bird the Blue Yellow-backed, or Parula Warbler is an amply recompenses the lost. This handsome, active little fellow arrives here about the middle of March, and spends his time during March and part of April, by wandering through the brush and briar, and among the flags and rushes, like the Maryland Yellow-throat. But as soon as the warmer weather of the latter part of April arrives, he taketh unto himself a wife, and flies away to the woods in search of a suitable nesting place.

Here long festoons of the gray Spanish moss hang from every limb. Ah, there is just the one, and the newly wedded pair soon weave and twist it into a desirable form, with a small hole at the side for an entrance. The eggs are duly deposited, some four or five in number white and ground color, with spots of various shades of brown, ranging in size from .62 x .42 to .70 x .48.

The Parula Warbler probably lays two sets of eggs in this southern latitude as there are instances of eggs having been taken in July.

The Bartramian Sandpiper is in some parts a rather common migrant, but of late years has become somewhat scarce. It is highly esteemed for the table here, and generally commands a high price. The flesh is certainly delicious and any one who has tasted a "Papabote," for such is the name give them here by the French, will affirm my statement. The Bartramian only occurs as a spring and fall migrant, never remaining here as it breeds much farther north.

Davie gives the eggs as "pale clay or buff-spotted with umber and brown. . . . four in number, sizes 1.70 to 1.90 by 1.28.

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, in some parts of this state especially the southern, is a very common bird. Its flesh is highly esteemed by the Creoles, but they eat anything that has wings. A rookery of these herons which I visited (not a thousand miles away from the city, by the way) consisted of about an acre of cleared ground in the midst of a cypress swamp. This place had been thickly grown up with willows and here the Yellow-crowned, Little Blue, and Louisiana Herons held forth in company with the Anhinga or "Nigger Goose" as it is locally called. And such a chorus of squawks, and screams and squeals arose from that place that you couldn't hear yourself talk.

Every willow had two or three nests in it, and there must have been several thousand birds in the rookery. And now in conclusion let us speak of the egg of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, as space is limited, and we must not impose on the editor. There are generally from three to six eggs in each nest, and they are of that blue tint peculiar to all herons. They vary greatly in sizes, ranging from as small as 1.60x1.14 to as large as 1.77x1.22, but it is next to

impossible to get a correct average on this account.

"QUISCALUS" (A. B. B.,)
New Orleans, La.

"A Step in the Right Direction."

True to its principle, the OÖLOGIST has instituted another grand step in the right direction; namely: the publishing of frauds, and the debarring them from advertising in or *contributing* for that paper. Any one who could come into the sacred circle of science and covering himself with the holy cloak of "love of nature." perpetrate dishonesty on others, proves himself guilty of the vilest of hypocrisy, and despite all protestations of penitance and reform we are bound to regard him with distrust, until by a long period of faithful, earnest study and labor, he has proved that his reform is genuine. This may seem severe, but he has been guilty of a heinous crime and it is but right that he should do penance accordingly.

It is as might be expected; one who will thus cheat his neighbor does not hesitate to steal material for those cheap literary (?) productions wherewith he hopes to win a false fame.

Witness that one who has recently been so thoroughly exposed that it is superfluous to further mention his name in a recent issue of a paper which is far too good to be thus corrupted, publishes an article of which all the meritorious parts are taken; without one word of credit being given, direct from a publication of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Another culprit says "I am sorry, I will do so no more if you will not punish me" and then comes out and ranks in the foolish style of a spoiled child who has been punished just enough to be made angry without correcting its naughty spirit. It is time that such as these were entirely expelled from the ranks of honest collectors. We can

stand it to be duped and defrauded, but it is a disgrace to us if we permit our noble science to be dragged in the dust. "My house shall be called the house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves."

It behooves us to support well the paper that has set us the right example.
B. S. BOWDISH.

A Winter Acquaintance.

Although winter in the Northern States is a season of cold and snow, it is not without its charms to the ornithologist. What if the birds have fled—the birds that made milder seasons vocal with their songs—there is still left a hardier race that leads a merry life in out snowy woods, careless of the rigorous weather that sends the others southward.

The cheeriest of these winter residents are the sturdy chickadees. Who ever saw a sad or quiet chickadee? When the wind howls the loudest and the air is full of whirling snowflakes, they may seem somewhat subdued as they send from one pine thicket to another, but a light-hearted "cheep," now and then, betrays the fact, that the depression is only apparent. Like many people it requires a few trials and buffetings to bring out all that is best in their natures.

The bird lover need never stay indoors for the want of something interesting afield. Not the least of a winter day's pleasures is to be had in watching the chickadee. How they sport and scramble about the tips of the branches! The dark pines and hemlocks—reminders of summer in a wilderness of white—are their chosen haunts. Pass that way on some bright morning and see how cheerfully they take things, even finding time to play or to investigate that curious animal, that, warmly wrapped up, comes plowing through the snow on two legs to visit them.

When the snow falls lightly and the evergreens hold so much of it that the light in the woods is dim, it is worth going miles to see the chickadees flitting about the laden branches and shaking the snow down in clouds—shoveling their paths, as it were, for truly their thoroughfares are drifted up at such times.

Yet on a mild sunny morning in winter the chickadees are seen to the best advantage. Their spirits seem to rise with the temperature. Leaving their common song they attempt a warble; and the attempt is not to be despised. It is expressive of contentment and happiness and might be represented as "*Chee-dle-wa chee-dle-we,*" delivered in a liquid tone with an occasional extra "*wa*" at the end. Sometimes the last syllable be omes "*wank*" with a distinctly nasal sound which the birds have doubtless learned from long association with their friends the Nuthatches.

The birds appear to be rather gregarious, moving through the woods in loose flocks and continually calling to each other. These flocks are probably the same family parties that we saw in autumn wending their way along some aerial path through the treetops and gleaning food as they went. By this time the young have learned to say; "*Chick-a-day-day-day*" like their elders; but then they invariably pronounced it "*cheek-a-day-da*" in a querulous voice unlike a chickadee's. It was doubtless the young, also, that were lisping "*c-r-e-e-p*" as if afraid to fly.

As the breeding season approaches, the birds call "*c-pha-be*" in a high clear whistle, much louder than one would expect from so small a bird. The whistle can be perfectly imitated and never fails to excite the birds who immediately begin searching for the author of the call. In spring they may be decoyed almost within reach by this means; but in late summer the call only sets them to vociferously repeating

"*chick-a-day*" with endless repetitions of the "*day*" as if they had forgotten how to stop.

WILLARD N. CLUTE,
Binghamton, N. Y.

From Wisconsin.

Bird migration is in full blast here now, March 8th the temperature and sky springlike, the snow melting, and the streams and ditches running over, Wild Geese flying northward, and the Robins and Bluebirds tuning their throats for their songs of spring. Wednesday morning ditto. But before noon a blizzard struck, snow was whirling and whizzing before the sharp gale from the wild and wooly west, the little streams didn't trickle, the Robins and Bluebirds didn't sing, the Wild Geese acknowledged themselves geese, and not another spring bird was seen until the 24th. The blizzard in the north and northwest was terrible. March 24th Robins and Bluebirds were quite numerous and on the 25th I saw Robins, Bluebirds, Blackbirds (Bronzed Grackles) and heard Killdeers and Meadow Larks, and saw a great many pairs of Prairie Horned Larks. To-day the 26th some boys told me they saw eight Prairie Chickens going west (or bust). Geese and Ducks plenty.

GEO. W. VOSBURG,
Columbus, Wis.

Are Crows Beneficial?

Mr. Trostler's remarks on "The Crows Around Omaha" in March OÖLOGIST are interesting, but he is laboring under a delusion in believing that Crows are more beneficial than otherwise.

For the information of those Ornithologists who have not read "The Food of Crows" by Walter B. Barrows, Ass. Ornithologist, U. S. Dep. of Agriculture, 1

quote from his report (Agr. Dep. Report 1888. Pp. 498—534) the following

“SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE FROM ALL SOURCES.

It appears, therefore, from a careful consideration of all testimony, published and un-published, that—

I. Crows seriously damage the corn crop, and injure other grain crops usually to a less extent.

II. They damage other farm crops to some extent, frequently doing much mischief.

III. They are very destructive to the eggs and young of domestic fowls.

IV. They do incalculable damage to the eggs and young of native birds.

V. They do much harm by the distribution of seeds poison ivy, poison sumach, and perhaps other noxious plants.

VI. They do much harm by the destruction of beneficial insects.

On the other hand—

VII. They do much good by the destruction of injurious insects.

VIII. They are largely beneficial through their destruction of mice and other rodents.

IX. They are valuable occasionally as scavengers.

The careful examination of large numbers of stomachs, and the critical study of the insect food of the Crow may change materially the present aspect of the question; but so far as the facts at present known enable a judgement to be formed, *the harm which Crows do appears to far outweigh the good.*”

Personal experience confirms the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Barrows.

COLEOPTERIST.

W. D. R.

Fredericksburg, Va.

Spring Openers.

It is believed by many that birds and animals are good weather prophets, and that their migrations are to an extent governed by the coldness of the

winter which is to follow, know when winter is over. To a certain extent, they do know, I think, when it is likely to rain, but that they know whether a winter will be severe or not is a mistake, in my mind, and know no more about an approaching cold wave than I, until it has become evident. I have seen splendid examples of their ignorance this Spring, and watched with much interest their movements Northward, and then returning South, in the face of a cold wave.

Robins and Bluebirds have been migrating Northward since the first of Feb., and I've seen thousands of Robins pass over in one day, only to be driven back the next. They go in strings and droves like Blackbirds, but return dashing into the trees suddenly. Bluebirds fly in smaller droves, sometimes a hundred in a flock. The deep ravines and sunny hillsides furnish splendid retreats for them during such cold spells, and here they remain for perhaps a week at a time, feeding on Dogwood and Black Gum berries.

Robins rarely sing with us here, yet on a bright clear morning, favorable for migration, these hillsides and hollows fairly ring with their metallic clatter and the Bluebirds fall in line with a “forward forward” for the North.

Even Nature herself seemed to have been caught unawares this last cold snap, and not only were birds driven back by thousands, but some were nesting, and fruit which was blooming, and the more tender plants were killed. The earlier part of March was warm and sunny, and it seemed as if spring was here. It turned cold on the 14th and by the 16th there was eight inches of snow and thermometer 12° above zero, and remaining so for nearly a week. I went to the Bluebirds' nest, in the old stump down by the spring, and found it contained four eggs, though Mrs. B. was not to be seen. When it moderated a little, a few days later I returned to the nest and to my

surprise found her setting on the eggs. Thinking it useless for her to set on frozen eggs, I decided to remove them, and tried to "shoo" her off, but she would not "shoo," and with all the pounding and jarring on the stump, and poking with sticks, I could do, I could not persuade her to come out, so I left her to her folly(?). As my wife and I happened by the other day, hunting wild flowers, we peeped in the stump, and to our great astonishment, beheld three young birds. A Mrs. Nut-hatch was caught in a like predicament, and I presume several others.

I did not learn what became of the Yellow-rumped Warblers during this cold spell, but they are here in force now, along with Black and White Creepers, Bewick's Wrens, Chippies, and to-day April 1st., a Dove cooes mournfully. Turkeys have gobbled since early in Feb. and will continue till about May 1st. Then their meat is strong and tough, and the females are busy nesting. There are few places better than this to study migration, and from now on, each day will bring some new arrivals.

C. E. PLEAS,
Clinton, Ark.

The Wood Ibis.

(*Tantalus loculator*.)

Is found in considerable numbers throughout South Florida, and can be found in droves of from about a dozen to one hundred, usually in the more remote cypress swamps and extensive marsh districts, but sometimes in close proximity to settlements.

They are large and handsome birds standing about four feet high, of the purest white except wing tips which are black, the head, and about six inches of the neck is covered with a tough skin devoid of feathers.

Such is the general appearance of the

bird, but it is more especially of its nesting habits of which I wish to speak.

It was the 23d of March that I started with a friend to hunt for a rookery of which we had heard, we traveled all day with horse and buggy, and put up at a farm house for the night. We were out bright and early the next morning, and after a tiresome drive of several miles through dreary flatwoods and mazes of ponds, we came in sight of the coveted cypress as such a place is called.

The lake or pond was about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long and $\frac{1}{8}$ mile wide, quite deep and clear, and was surrounded with a wide fringe of cypress trees heavily laden with Spanish moss.

Out in the center of the lake was a small island about one hundred feet in diameter, with about three feet elevation above the water. There were several large cypress trees besides a thick undergrowth of bay trees. What a sight met our gaze from the shore, the trees on the island were white with the Ibises standing close together on the limbs, besides a number of American Egrets, Florida Cormorants and Anhingas.

The Ibises were nesting and we could see a number of the birds sitting on their nests. Most of the nests were on the island, but we found two trees near the shore, one had five nests and the other seven.

After looking over the field I proceeded to climb the first tree, a large cypress, the nests were placed fifty feet from the ground and were saddled flatly on the top the top of a horizontal limb. One limb had four nests in a row and were so close together that their edges touched. A typical nest was eighteen inches across by five inches deep outside, only slightly depressed inside, made of coarse sticks lined with moss and green bay leaves. The eggs were chalky white and nearly always blood stained, the average set is three

but we found sets of two and four, size about 2.75x1.75.

We made a raft after several hours hard work and proceeded to the island where most of the nests were built. There were about twenty nests of the Ibis, besides several nests each of the American Egret, Florida Cormorant and Water Turkey or Anhinga. The Ibises and Cormorants nested in the tall cypresses while the Anhingas and Egrets were content to take the lower bay trees.

We took several sets of Ibis and Cormorant and one set of the American Egret and there sat down to rest and watch the birds.

It was a grand sight to see the great drove of Ibis high up in the air sailing around in great sweeping circles, following each other in regular procession.

It is a curious sight to see the Wood Ibises sitting on their nests with necks drawn in, and at any distance the nest can scarcely be seen, and it gives birds the appearance of sitting there asleep.

A great pest of all rookery birds is the Crow, and if an Ibis leaves the nest for an instant down comes the black devil with a scream of delight and grabs an egg by sticking his bill into it and flying away. The Ibis seems to be very much afraid of them and I have seen a crow almost take an egg out from under one of them and they would croak and draw back their bills as if to strike, but never did.

As we left the lake homeward bound I took a last look at the beautiful scene and rather regreted that I had been a party in breaking up precious treasures.

WILLARD ELIOT,
Tampa, Fla.

Nesting Dates.

In all works on oölogy accessible to me, there is a marked deficiency as to nesting dates. I therefore invite the

sending of data of this kind from all collectors in Mich., Wis., Ia., Minn., and the Dakota's—and covering the following species. Send all the data you have, and all you note this season. The results will be only tabulated and published, credit being then given to whom credit is due.

All Swimmers, Waders, and Raptores Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Nuthatch, Gallinæ, Sparrows, and Vireos. The Chickadee, American Redstart, and Long-billed Marsh Wren.

Be accurate and circumstantial. I cannot take time for any correspondence.

P. B. PEABODY,
Owatonna, Minn.

Ornithologist Association.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the March meeting of the Association the following Corresponding Members were proposed and elected;

Edward W. Hensinger, 315 King William St., San Antonio, Tex.

William B. Caulk, Terre Haute, Ind.

At the April meeting C. J. Gillis, 1524 28th St., Washington, D. C., was elected an active member.

The Secretary has received a list of birds of Grand Forks Co., North Dakota, from Rolla P. Curra, No. 25 O. A.

He enumerates 102 species as occurring within the county limits to his certain knowledge.

The undersigned saw a short time since a rare bird for this locality, the Pileated Woodpecker.

They are now very seldom seen so near large towns.

A. B. FARNHAM,
Sec'y and Treas. of O. A.

A complete collection of Ohio birds, including every variety known to live within the boundaries of the state, will be an exhibit at the Exposition.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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

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

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

Careless Patrons.

Scarcely a day passes but what we receive letters from our patrons containing errors in some form, many of which we are able to rectify ourselves, but the following are too much for us. They will be attended to upon receipt of deficiency of address:

F. H. Brooke, ——— No Address
Frank Harrington ——— “ “

————— Meadville, Pa., No Name
————— Mexico, Mo. “ “
————— Barnesville, O. “ “
————— Knoxville, Tenn. “ “

Packages addressed to the following persons have been returned us during the past year, either through errors of our own or insufficient address:

A. F. Gross, 108 W. 62d St, New York.
Albert J. Brown, Oakland, Cal.
Edgar D. Brown, Austin, Tex.
A. P. Gwynne, Ft. Worth, Tex.

MARCH CONTEST.

Seventy-five (75) Judges.

Prize winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. Some of Our Thrushes. 283.
2. Notes from Southwestern Ohio 147.
3. Incessancy of the Yellow Warbler's Song. 128.
4. Notes from the Virginia Coast. 119.
5. Zoöotomy. 75.

Eleven other articles received credits ranging from 9 to 68 each.

The successful judges, their recorded number, and the order in which they named the articles in their decisions were as follows:

1. No. 6—O. E. Crooker, Helena, Montana; 1, 3, 4, 2, 5.
2. No. 53—Alex. D. DuBois, Springfield, Ill.; 1, 4, 2, 3, 5.
3. No. 12—m. H. Myles, Hamilton, Canada; 2, 3, 5, 4, 1.
4. No. 52—Bert H. Douglass, Burlington, Kan.; 2, 3, 5, 4, 1.
5. No. 60—J. C. A. Meeker, Bridgeport, Conn.; 3, 4, 2, 5, 1.

The above judges were the only ones naming all of the prize winning articles.

Prizes were mailed the winners on April 25th.

The "Yellow Warbler's Song."

The article on the "Incessancy of the Yellow Warbler's Song," in the March OÖLOGIST with its rather startling array of figures proving *Dendroicet's* indomi-

table happiness and contentment, brings to my mind a rather sad little incident which came under my notice during the autumn of 1890 while I was residing in Ontario County.

I do not remember the exact date, nor have I the note book at hand which records the whole instance, but it was quite late, nearly all of the migrant birds had left us for their winter resorts, when one day, strolling in an orchard, I chanced on a Yellow Warbler with a broken wing, from all appearance freshly wounded.

With some difficulty I succeeded in capturing him, and took him to the house where I intended keeping him until he should be better. However, he refused to eat all food which I could provide for him, and fearing that he would starve I set him at liberty. For a month or more he staid around the house, unable to fly more than two or three feet, yet always cheerful and full of life.

What he lacked in wing power he made up in capabilities for hopping. A large grape vine spread over one side of the house and festooned its self about my window. One morning while sitting in my room, I heard some cheerful remarks in a rather high pitched key, nevertheless sweet, and social (what a pity I did not understand the language) and looking towards the open window from which the sound proceeded I saw little *Dendroica* perched on a sprig of the grape vine, surveying me with evident wonder and curiosity.

Without doubt the remarks he had addressed to me were questions and he probably thought me very unsociable. However, he was not discouraged with this interview for thereafter he made daily visits to my window and there he would sit and watch me with the greatest of curiosity while I wrote, dividing his attention between this and his breakfast (it must have been a slim one at that season) which he gleaned from

the leaves, and during this occupation he never failed to keep up a running fire of rather absent minded sounding remarks. He never sang, but these questioning tones were more entertaining, because they were more musical unlike anything I ever heard from a Warbler.

Gradually his visits became less and less frequent and finally ceased and I saw him no more. It is doubtful if in his crippled condition he could either migrate or stand the winters weather, but let us hope the little musician still lives.

It strikes me that Brother Posson in his enthusiasm over those "3420" songs makes one rather reckless suggestion. What is commendable in a bird may be *condemnable* in a human. He says, "O what a lesson for us of the genus homo to learn. If we would only look on the bright side of things and do a *little more singing*, etc."

In his cheerful and ever contented disposition we can not do better than to imitate our little songster, but were some of us, at least, to sing 3420 songs per day, I am afraid that instead of the world being "3420 times happier" it would be that number of times more miserable.

B. S. BOWDISH.

Wilson's Snipe.

(*Gallinago wilsoni*.)

The sprightly little Wilson's or Jack Snipe arrives in this vicinity from about April 15 to May 10th, and are at times very abundant.

They are of a very fickle and nervous disposition in many respects, especially in the selection of feeding ground. They delight in low marshy and moist ground but at times, they will take a fresh and frequent high bushy meadow, and will even (as I, myself have observed) poke or bore into the ground in the same

manner as the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). Their favorite feeding grounds in this region, however are on marshy meadow land, where cattle are pastured, or in the interior about fresh water springs, environed by oozy swamps and thickets of willow, huckleberry or wild rose bush, where they feed all day and at night migrate farther northward, toward their breeding grounds.

They remain with us about six weeks and journey northward slowly, to British Columbia to breed, where they pair and, the female lays a reddish-brown or yellowish-ash colored egg, about 1.50x1.06 inches in size. The eggs are sometimes spotted, sometimes blotched or streaked with darker brown, the nest being a slight depression in a low swampy meadow.

During a stroll across the meadows north of this city yesterday, returning from a fruitless trip after Hawks' eggs, I saw several "wisps" of Jacks feeding and piping their shrill *tweet tweet* sociably mingling with the Meadow-larks.

While passing through here, and I suppose everywhere else, thousands of the little fellows are slaughtered for the table, and are considered, by many, the most delicate of our feathered game and as to their wholesomeness, I can testify, myself, for although I preach "do not kill our birds," I have dropped a few to my gun when I was out alone and the temptation too great.

A little later in the season I will try to describe Bartram's Sandpiper (*Bart-ramia longicauda*) and their habits, as they breed here and stay here all summer.

Hoping I have not made the above tedious and uninteresting, I am yours in Oölogy and Ornithology,

ISADOR S. TROSTLER,

April 18, 1892. Omaha, Neb.

Notes from Southern Wisconsin.

While walking across an open meadow,

on March 28, 1892, I suddenly flushed a Prairie Horned Lark (*O. a. praticola*), which, after flying a short distance, hopped and fluttered along beside me in a very suspicious manner; on examining the place I discovered the nest, a small, round hole sunken in the ground and lined with dry grasses, which contained four eggs. They were so heavily speckled that the ground color could hardly be seen, the whole effect, however, being a greenish gray. The nest was situated on a side-hill, facing the south, in a large field. I did not take the eggs, as we now have a law, protecting the nests and eggs of nearly all species, and if there is anything I believe in, it is the whole set of "game laws." The eggs must have been laid some days then, for on returning to the place, April 2; I found that it contained four very small, young birds, which seemed to be all head, of which a large per cent was eye. The Larks were very abundant in the meadow and I have no doubt but that there were more nests.

The spring migration is well at hand, and Robins, Song Sparrows, Bluebirds, Grackles, Red-wing Blackbirds, Martins, etc., are common. The following are the dates on which some species were first observed for this spring:

Horned Lark, February 13.

Canada Goose, March 5.

Robin, March 7.

Purple Grackle, March 24.

Bluebird, March 26.

Song Sparrow, March 29.

Red-wing Blackbird, March 30.

Purple Martin, April 1.

Flicker, April 2.

Fox Sparrow, April 9.

Hermit Thrush, April 15.

The Fox Sparrow is not common here and occurs only during migrations, in greater numbers in the fall.

The Ducks did not seem to come around our way in as large numbers as usual, although many were shot, most-

ly Blue-bills. Loons are common on Delavan Lake, but not many are shot. On April 17, while walking along the shore, I noticed the foot of a bird sticking out from a hollow stump. On examination it was found to be a dead Loon which had probably been shot by gunners last fall, and being wounded, had crawled in there to die. I think the Loons bred sparingly around here as I have noted them on Delavan Lake during July in pairs, but I have never found a nest.

NED HOLLISTER,
Delavan, Wis.

From West Virginia.

I think egg collecting has become (with many) a mere nest robbery, for what there is in it, of dollars and cents. Unskilled boys and even negroes are preying upon the nests of our lovely feathered inhabitants for pecuniary gain.

This is not what high-toned collectors for personal scientific knowledge started out to do, and which such honorable gentlemen do. They collect for a cabinet of preserved egg-shells, oölogically defining in the eggs what ornithology taught previously in the birds—viz.—I have learned, for instance, all about the class of Thrushes, so that I know them by their scientific and common names; know their habits, and their habits, their voices and their regimen. Their colors and their structural fabric: then, if I know this, I ought to know also their eggs, when I see them, and all that science teaches me, oölogically about them; but if I only take their eggs to trade on something classed more utilitarian, I am neither a northy ornithologist or oölogist, but a mere bird's nest robber for pay, and am classed by true naturalists as a pot-hunter is among its among sportsmen.

If this aggregation of nest robbery does not receive the frown of true oölogists:

between the House Sparrow and nest robbers, the feathered beauties will soon be as a tale that has been told. I think when a gentleman has a set of any species in his cabinet, he should stop on that species, or at most he should be restricted to procuring one set for a feeble friend.

V. M.

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (May) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Hagerup's "Birds of Greenland."

5th prize—Leverkuhn's "Fremde Eier Im Nest."

For the June competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars. The value of prizes offered this month is \$15.00.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than June 10th. Write on the back of a

postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the April competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

World's Fair Notes.

In the Government exhibit will appear all the relics, which are obtainable, of various Arctic exploring expeditions.

Ostrich eggs artistically painted in a prize competition, are to be a feature in the exhibit made by Cape Colony, South Africa.

The directors of the celebrated Ward's Museum at Rochester, N. Y., have decided to expend \$25,000 in making at the Exposition a display of specimens from all parts of the establishment. The value of the exhibit will exceed \$100,000.

Baron de Jeune's valuable collection of prehistoric relics, it is believed, will be secured for exhibition at the Fair. It comprises many rare specimens from caves in France. DeMaret, who made the collection, spent twenty-five years in the work.

Karl Hagenbeck, famous for his ability in taming wild animals, is devoting his time in Hamburg to a group of lions, tigers, jaguars and hyenas that he expects to bring to the Fair. This group consists of 50 animals, all to be keep in one big cage. Hagenbeck has already spent a fortune on the group.

Costa Rica has one of the largest and

finest archaeological collections in the world, showing many Columbian relics and historic data relating to the discovery of America. This collection goes to Madrid this year for the Spanish Exposition and will afterwards go to Chicago.

THE ODELL
TYPE WRITER.

\$20 will buy the ODELL TYPE WRITER with 78 characters, and \$15 for the SINGLE CASE ODELL, warranted to do better work than any machine made.

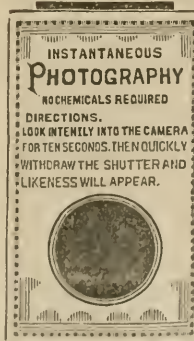
It combines SIMPLICITY with DURABILITY, SPEED, EASE OF OPERATION, wears longer without cost of repairs than any other machine. Has no ink ribbon to bother the operator. It is neat, substantial, nickel-plated, perfect, and adapted to all kinds of type writing. Like a printing press, it produces sharp, clean, eligible manuscripts. Two or ten copies can be made at one writing. Any intelligent person can become an operator in two days. We offer \$1,000 to any operator who can equal the work of the DOUBLE CASE ODELL.

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For Pamphlet giving Indorsements, etc., address m2t

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Clearance Sale.



Any person sending us 12c before July 1, 1892, we will send prepaid the following articles, viz:

Mexican Resurrection Plant, Instantaneous Photograph Camera (will be sold separately for 10c.) 2 Japanese Napkins, 1 Leaf from Japanese Book, 1 pkg. Scrap Pictures, 10 varieties of Foreign Stamps, Coupon good for 25c on an order of \$1.00 or over.

The entire package will be sent you by return mail, prepaid for only 12c.

We have in stock a lot of desirable Novelties and as we are going out

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Send at once for catalogue and list of stock on hand.

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Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting.

A Complete Hand-book of 362 pages for the amateur Taxidermist, Collector, Osteologist, Museum Builder, Sportsman and Traveler.

Illustrated with Twenty-four Plates and Eighty-five Text Pictures.

—BY—

WILLIAM T. HORNADAY,

[For Eight Years Chief Taxidermist of the U. S. National Museum.]

It goes without saying that this is the best work in the market for the use of the Naturalist, since the author is at the head of his profession, and he has spared no time nor trouble to make the book complete.

It not only covers all the ground as a text-book for the beginner but any Taxidermist will be repaid by a perusal of its pages, and once read, it will lie on the work bench, as a companion to the scissors and skinning knife, for it is as indispensable to one who desires to be a WORKMAN, as the frame work of the specimen itself.

PRICE, \$2.50.

Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y.

2d Hand Books:—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire *at once* good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. I have a few *good* slightly soiled or second-hand copies of Davie's "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds" last edition, paper, will send *prepaid* for only 75 cents per copy. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

Will You Join Us?

But a few tickets left to complete the club to attend the World's Fair on the United World's Excursion Co. plan. Payments monthly or weekly; this is the strongest company in America, apply to Local Agent or write United World's Fair Exposition Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange B'ld'g, Boston, Mass.

That "Easter Supplement."

In the neighborhood of April 1st or later, we mailed YOU an "Easter Supplement" to our regular catalogue which gave big discounts on orders, sent in by May 1st. These two special offers applied in particular to BIRD'S EGGS, GLASS EYES, INSTRUMENTS and SUPPLIES, used by collectors in the various branches of Natural History, MINERALS, SPAR JEWELRY and FISHING TACKLE

We have decided to extend the time on these offers to JUNE 15th.

Remember that every offer and quotation made in the "Easter Supplement" holds good until, JUNE 15th: but at that date, will be cancelled.

Faithfully, FRANK H. LATTIN.

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N. B.—We have branch colleges in Buffalo, N. Y., and Detroit, Mich. Scholarships good in any of the colleges belonging to the Caton system.

Has Your Subscription for The Oologist Been Paid for '92?

If not, you no doubt received the circular-letter mailed you on or between the dates of March 21st to 24th. At the bottom of this letter, in order to obtain a prompt renewal or settlement, I made a

SPECIAL OFFER.

I will hold this offer open to you until June 15th, and trust you will see fit to give the matter your immediate attention,

Faithfully
FRANK H. LATTIN.

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OÖLOGIST.



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VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1892.

NO. 7

NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated therein.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Latin" *must be* based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—First-class singles not in my collection in exchange for a set of 6 Screech Owls and a set of 7 Chickadees, First-class. HARRY STRATTON, Toulon, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fine first-class singles for first-class sets with data. CHAS. A. PROCTOR, Hanover, N. H.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A live young Red-tailed Hawk taken from nest in April. For particulars address C. C. BACON, Bell, Christian Co., Ky.

I HAVE four pairs of white Japanese bantams also three tame Sparrow Hawks to exchange for first-class singles. Sea birds preferred. FRED HUBBARD, Lock Box 174, Geneva, O.

SEND list of 1st class sets and receive mine of paper, eggs, stamps, minerals, and relics. Many common sets wanted. Also Davie's Key to exchange. WALTER A. LOVETT, Oxford, Mass.

I HAVE rare eggs of this locality to exchange for books, back volumes of magazines, some government reports, microscope and other articles. H. G. HOSKIN, Beloit, Colo.

WANTED.—Some one to purchase an Evan's Foot Power Job Press, in good working order. Cheap, a bargain to the right person. Write for particulars, O. J. ZAHN, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

EXCHANGE.—Have sets and singles of many western eggs to exchange for eastern singles. Would like to exchange several of a kind with each party. Basis of exchange, Latin's Handbook, HERBERT KELLEY, Detroit, Calif.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Hummers, Water-Thrushes and Hawks, for Ostrich. Sea Eagle or Southern eggs. Other eggs for exchange. J. C. CRAWFORD, Statesville, N. C.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Latin" *must be* based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. Nos. the following sets for original sets with data: 219 6-7, 5-6, 3-7, 2-8; 221 2-4, 4-5, 4-6, 3-7; 316 1-2; 412 1-4; 477 3-5; 488 3-4, 1-5; 498 1-3; 590 1-3; 567 1-4; 581 1-3; 755 1-3; 761 1-3, 1-4; 704 1-2; 776 1-3; 77 2-2; 214 2-4; 202 3-2, 5-3, 10-4, 3-5; 190 1-1, 191 1-4. E. R. & R. C. BENNETT, 883 Clybourn Ave., Chicago, Ills.

CALIFORNIA Traveler and Naturalist, Napa City, California, will accept good specimens, tools or other articles in exchange for subscriptions. Also minerals, printing and curios for exchange.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class birds eggs of this locality for desirable eggs in sets or for Taxidermist Tools in good order; address O. J. ZAHN, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

WANTED.—To exchange first-class, carefully identified sets; for like sets. Reliable collectors send lists and receive mine. FRANK CRAIG, 622 23d St., San Francisco, Cal.

FIRST-CLASS EGGS in sets, many with nests, to exchange for same. Original data with each set and only such wanted in return. Send list and receive mine. J. WARREN, JACOBS, Waynesburgh, Pa.

Sets of (A. O. U.) No's 12, 13a, 15, 47, 65, 92, 115, 163, 207, 314, 318, 319, 320a, 373d, 377a, 410, 414, 429, 496, 512, 586, 695, 615, 703, 707, 712, for others equally as rare and desirable. JAMES P. BABBITT, 12 Hodges' Ave., Taunton, Mass.

Large variety of fine skins and sets and singles for skins not in my collection. Want singles with data all correspondence answered, A. W. HANAFORD, 21 Olive Street, Grand Rapids, Mich.

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATIN, Albion, N. Y.

EXCHANGES and WANTS, Continued

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—First-class set, with data, of 6 1-7. Will give following singles: 6. 77. 300. 387. 495. 652. and 735. (5 of 495). J. S. GRIFFING, Cutchogue, L. L. N. Y.

EXCHANGE.—Sets of this locality for other first-class sets, with data; also rare and common singles for sets, or large or showy singles. RAY L. WILBUR, Riverside, California.

A GOOD Collecting gun 38 smooth bore Shells 2 in. long, gun 3 ft. long, 5 lbs, for best offer of eggs in sets with data. send list. J. F. MCGINNIS, Box 244, Iowa City, Ia.

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TO EXCHANGE.—A 4x5 Anthony Photo Outfit with everything, complete, New, worth \$20. For 1st class eggs in singles. Send list to W. A. CRANDALL, Webster City, Iowa.

I HAVE a rare collection of 500 Bird Eggs to sell for \$10 cash or exchange for sea bird eggs. Send for List. PAUL MCGINTY, Box 150, Athens, Ga.

SETS TO EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. Nos., 12 1-1, 16 1-1, 29 1-1 1-2, 30a 1-1, 49 1-3, 59 1-3, 79 1-1, 120c 1-3 1-4 @ \$1.50, 122 1-3, 123b 1-3, 1-4, 337b 1-2, 360 1-4, 373c 1-2 1-3 1-4, 378 1-5 1-6, 431 1-2 and nest on twig, 413 1-7, 458 1-4, 464 1-4, 466 1-3 1-4, 474b 1-3, 476 1-4 1-5, 1-6 1-7, 499 1-4, 510 1-5, 530 1-4, 581d 1-4, 591b 1-4, 596 1-3 1-4, 599 1-3 1-4, 627 1-4, 715 1-5, 725a 1-3, 733 1-6 1-7, 743a 1-6 1-7, 758 1-3 1-4 and 767 1-4. The above are in 1st class original, and positively identified sets; nearly all were collected by me. Have singles of all the above except 59. 337b, 627 and 767; and in addition have singles of 47, 54, 58, 294, 417, 475 and 531. Want to exchange with reliable collectors, for 1st class well identified and original sets. Lattin's 1890 list as basis. FRED A. SCHNIEDER, College Park, Santa Clara Co., California.

25 second-class arrow heads, five Nos. "Outing," and "Livingston's Travels and Explorations in Africa." for U. S. stamps. SAMUEL H. ROBBE, Belleville, Wayne Co., Michigan.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers anything I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

FOR SALE.—The following first-class sets with data post paid on receipt of cash: Black-headed Grosbeak 1-3 @ 10c., Cala. Thrasher 1-3 @ 7c., Black Pewee 1-3 1-4 @ 5c., Least Vireo 1-3 @ 40c., Heerman's Song Sparrow 1-4 @ 5c., Arkansas Goldfinch 1-4 @ 6c., Arkansas Kingbird 1-4 @ 4c., Cactus Wren 1-3 @ 6c., Burrowing Owl 1-5 @ 10c., Cala. Screech Owl 1-2 1-4 @ 25c., Lewis' Woodpecker 1-5 @ 25c., Am. Sparrow Hawk 1-5 @ 12c., Road Runner 1-4 @ 12c., Lawrence's Goldfinch 1-4 @ 0c., Black-chin. Hummer n-2 @ 35c., Anna's Hummer n-2 @ 30c. The first order of over \$1.50 will receive a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawk's eggs. Address at once M. L. WICKS, Jr., Los Angeles, Calif.

A NEW \$100 International Type-writer and a \$75 Life Scholarship of the Euclid Avenue Business College, good at either Detroit, Buffalo or Cleveland. Will exchange for best offer. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class original sets with data of this locality, for same of other localities, also good 22 cal. target rifle for sale or exchange, make offers. Send list and receive mine. L. J. DRENNAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

2d Hand Books:—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire at once good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

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92	" " " "	June 1893

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrears, at their earliest convenience, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

'56"—\$1.25. '62"—\$1.00. '68"—75c. '74"—50c. Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the OÖLOGIST your indebtedness to us is 25 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books June 1, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1892.

NO. 7

A Quawk Town.

For several years it has been my desire to visit the swamps in the northern part of this, Henry, county and this year I took a few days vacation and made my visit.

Old hunters told me about a "Town" of some kind of birds, where there were hundreds of nests and my friend, Keener, promised to take me to the place if I would come over.

I arrived in Annawan about sundown and we started for his home in a few minutes.

I soon began to see numbers of *Am. Bitterns* and after a while he showed me a flock of "Quawks" on the way to their feeding grounds, and as the sun went down and we went along the sand hills I could see them everywhere.

When nearly at his home "Doc" showed me one lying in the road. It was a Black-crowned Night Heron.

Next morning we went around one end of the swamp to get a boat and I saw great numbers of *Herons* flying about a grove, and at that time thought they were nesting there.

After getting our boat we "poled" through the marsh—Doc poled and I encouraged him. We found a number of *Yellow-headed Blackbirds*, *Coots*, *Gallinules* and *Grebes* nests, but it was not until we had gone some 3 miles that the *Heronry* came in full view.

It seemed to me as I stood up in the boat and saw their white necks in the grass that 5000 wasn't too big a guess for the number there.

We soon got in the town which was a large space where the birds had tramped down the grass to the top of the water, which was from 2 to 3 feet deep, the grass—a coarse kind found in

marshes—growing to the height of about 3 feet above the water at this time.

This made a kind of floor and on it the nests were scattered all about.

The nests were platforms from 2 to 6 in. deep, almost flat on top, so flat that many eggs had rolled off into the water, generally composed of green rushes and the stalk of the marsh grass. But some of them were very substantial affairs, made almost entirely of twigs and quite large sticks, brought from the grove where I first saw the birds flying and from which we could now see them coming with sticks in their bills.

Very few of the nests contained eggs at this time as the town had been thoroughly robbed a week before and all the eggs taken, 120 dozen I was told.

We only got one set of 4 and a few of three—most of the nests containing 2 or 1.

On the 8th I again visited the town and found several sets of 4 and a number of 3.

From what I could see I think 3 is about the full set and that 2 is common. 4 is rare and I did not see any with more than 4. The eggs were all fresh or incubation was so slight as to be scarcely noticed.

The eggs are dark greenish blue when first laid and in a set it is easy to pick out the first laid by the variation in color as they fade to a light greenish blue shade very quickly.

The eggs in a set sometimes show very great variations in size and shape, and the sets of 4 will average smaller than sets of 3. I think.

A set of 3 measures 2.10x1.48, 1.97x1.48, 2.04x1.53 another measures 2.25x1.50, 1.92x1.47, 2.00x1.49.

A set of four: 2.09x1.51, 1.95x1.50, 1.97x1.52, 1.87x1.40. Five eggs average 2.09x1.47.

A large number of the birds left the "town" as soon as disturbed and seemed to have no further interest in it—settling down about a mile away and remaining there as long as we were in the swamp. The "boys" called them the "bucks".

The birds did not seem to take any particular interest in their nests—keeping so far away we had difficulty in procuring specimens.

The feeding ground of the Herons are sometimes as much as 20 miles away.

They come regularly to the marshy sloughs and the lake a mile from Kewanee which is over 20 miles from their nesting place.

They reach here shortly after sundown. That these birds can fly fast I know as I saw a pair of Herons keep up with an express train for a distance of over 5 miles. A Heronry is not a sweet smelling place on a warm day I can assure you—both the eggs and the birds have a disagreeable odor—and the decaying matter makes it worse.

A. C. MURCHISON,
Kewanee, Ill.

The Hairy Woodpecker.
(*Dryobates vellosus*)

The Hairy Woodpecker is a common summer resident in this vicinity. Although it sometimes escapes observation by its retiring habits, I think it to be as common as the Downy Woodpecker (*D. pubescens*) here. In speaking of its retiring habits I do not mean that it frequents the deep woods alone, but merely that it is not seen in orchards and open groves near houses as the Downy often is. The plumage is much the same as the Downy's, the most conspicuous difference being the lack of the white on the back, so noticeable in the Downy Woodpecker.

The favorite nesting place of the Hairy here is in live poplar trees, the nest being dug in the body from ten to

forty feet high. So marked is their preference for these trees that of five occupied and many unoccupied nests, noted this year, all but one were placed in poplars. The exceptional one was placed in a dead but sound maple stub. I think that this preference may be accounted for by the fact that while they prefer strong, live trees, they naturally like the wood soft enough to dig easily, and also by the fact that a dead or spongy heart is very often found in these trees, in which the perpendicular passage may be dug with comparative ease. The nests are often dug in from the north or west side of the tree, probably to escape the summer storms. The entrance passage extends in about six inches to the perpendicular passage which is about ten inches deep, enlarging at the bottom.

While opening a nest at least one of the birds usually stays near by, flitting about and rapping on the neighboring trees as if in sheer nervousness. The eggs are four to six in number. A set of six taken June 8th, average in measurement .87x.67. They were taken from a nest, placed as usual, in a poplar tree and about ten feet from the ground.

W. E. AIKEN,
Benson, Vt.

Birds Found Breeding in Bertie Co., N. C.

Below I give a list of the birds of which I have taken eggs during the springs of 1891 and 1892, together with a short description of the nests, measurements of eggs, etc.

1. Green Heron. *Ardea virescens*. Common summer resident, nesting in bushes and small trees from 8 to 30 feet up; nest a shallow platform of small sticks loosely laid together; the complement of eggs is four or five, more often four; a set of five, taken May 16th, '91, present the following sizes: 1.49x1.11, 1.53x1.12, 1.48x1.10, 1.52x1.09, A set of 4

eggs taken May 2, '92 measure 1.46x1.12 1.52x1.15, 1.47x1.14, 1.55x1.12.

2. Chuck-wills-widow. *Antrostomus carolinensis*. A tolerably common summer resident. A set of two eggs taken May 14th, '91, measure 1.43x.97 and 1.47x1.00; these were laid on bare ground in the woods.

3. Chimney Swift. *Chaturap pelagica*. Common summer resident. A nest taken June 20th, '90, was made of small sticks glued together and placed in a chimney of an occupied house. This contained five eggs, which measure .76x.51, .74x.51, .72x.51 .70x.48, .76x.51.

4. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Trochilus colubris*. Common summer resident. A nest with two eggs was taken May 9th, '91.

5. Kingbird. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. A common summer resident. Nests in the tall sycamores and oaks, and sometimes in apple trees. Nest made of almost any convenient material, lined with fine grass. Eggs, three or four; a set taken May 25th, '91, measure .90x.70, .94x.72, .92x.73.

6. Acadian Flycatcher. *Empidonax acadicus*. A common summer resident. Nest suspended usually at end of a swinging beech limb, but sometimes in oak and hollies, from 8 to 25 feet up, usually about 10 feet from ground; some nests are made of various kinds of material, such as small sticks, grass, fine black moss, etc., while the greater number are made entirely of green moss. The birds seem to prefer to nest along the edges of the small swamps. Eggs, usually three in number, but sometimes only two. A set taken May 21st, '91, measure .71x.55, .70x.54, .71x.54. Another set taken May 19th, '92, measure .75x.54, .77x.54, .78x.54.

7. Chipping Sparrow. *Spizella socialis*. Common resident. Eggs three or four. A set taken May 25th, '91, measure .67x.51, .71x.52, .71x.52, .76x.49.

8. Cardinal. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Tolerably common resident. A nest

taken April 30th, '92, was made of weed and vine stems, dry leaves, reed, grapevine bark, lined with fine grass stems, and was placed six feet up, in a holly bush; this contained three fresh eggs which measure .99x.73, 1.01x.73, .96x.72.

9. Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea*. Tolerably common summer resident, but I have seen but one nest, this was found June 1st, '91 and contained three incubated eggs. The nest was made of leaves and reed shucks, weed stems, etc., lined with fine grass, laced in the forks of a small oak bush 2 feet up. Sizes of eggs: .70x.49, .72x.52, .70x.51.

10. Summer Tanager. *Piranga rubra*. A nest with three eggs of this species was taken May 9th, '91, from an oak tree about 15 feet up.

11. Purple Martin. *Progne subis*. Very common summer resident, arriving the latter part of March. Nest in bird box and made of twigs and leaves. Eggs four, five or six in number. A set of six eggs taken May 20th, '92, measure .98x.72, .99x.72, 1.00x.72, .94x.70, .91x.71, .94x.71.

12. Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Common summer resident. Nests in holes in banks along Albemarle Sound. A nest taken May 19th, '92, was of grass and dry green leaves placed in a hole two feet deep in a bank. This contained seven fresh eggs which measure .77x.53, .73x.51, .71x.52, .72x.52, .74x.53, .74x.52, .72x.52.

13. Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireo olivaceus*. A common summer resident. A nest was taken June 4th, '92, which contained three eggs. This nest was made of bark, rotten wood, moss and spider webs, lined with grapevine bark, suspended 7 feet up, below forks, at end of a dogwood limb. Sizes of eggs .80x.57, .79x.56, .79x.56.

14. White-eyed Vireo. *Vireo noveboracensis*. A common summer resident. A nest with three eggs was taken June 22d, '91.

15. Pine Warbler. *Dendroica vigersii*. A common summer resident, nesting in pine trees, usually at elevations of fifty feet or more from ground. A nest and four eggs were taken April 29th, '91. This nest was made of weed stems, pine straw, chicken feathers, spider webs and other fibres, lined with hair and feathers, and placed 50 feet up on a horizontal pine limb, 5 feet from body of tree. Sizes of eggs .71x.54, .73x.54, .73x.53, .72x.53.

16. Prairie Warbler. *Dendroica discolor*. Common summer resident. I found a pair building April 30th, '92. The nest was completed by May 3d, and the first egg laid the 7th. The set of four was completed and taken May 10th. This nest was made of grass, reed leaves and bits of spider webs, and lined with hair and feathers, placed 2½ feet up in forks of small maple bush. The eggs measure .70x.48, .67x.49, .67x.48, .66x.51.

17. Oven-bird. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Common summer resident. A nest was found May 19th, '92, which contained four fresh eggs. The nest was of skeleton leaves, pine straw and fine grass, lined with hair and fine leaves and was placed in shallow hole in the ground on a hill near a swamp. The eggs measure .75x.63, .74x.63, .73x.61, .74x.61.

18. Louisiana Water-Thrush. *Seiurus motacilla*. A common summer resident along the small branches and swamps. A nest was taken April 22, '92, which contained four eggs. The nest was of leaves which were taken from the mud, and coarse grass, lined with finer grass, moss and a few very fine black roots, and imbedded in side of a mossy bank, 1 foot above small stream of water. Sizes of eggs, .78x.58, .77x.58, .78x.60, .77x.59.

19. Hooded Warbler. *Sylvania mitrata*. A very common summer resident, arriving the first of April, our most common warbler. During the month

of May and the first part of June, '91, I took ten nests with eggs of this species and have seen four nests this spring. Of the fourteen nests, eight contained three eggs each and the others four. The nests are placed in low bushes from 1½ to 4 feet up, and are made of partly decayed leaves, strips of bark, etc., lined inside usually with a fine black moss. A set of four eggs taken May 18th, '91, show the following sizes: .72x.49, .71x.49, .70x.49, .70x.49. Another set taken May 11th, measure .67x.53, .70x.53, .66x.53, .66x.53. A third set of 3 eggs taken May 16, '92, measure .67x.52, .70x.53, .71x.53.

20. Mockingbird. *Mimus polyglottos*. A tolerably common resident. Nests placed in grapevines and orchard-trees, and made of sticks, cotton, weeds, etc., lined with fine weed stems. A set of four eggs taken May 28th, '92, measure .97x.73, 1.02x.76, .98x.74, .98x.74.

21. Catbird. *Guleoscoptes carolinensis*. Common resident. Nest in briars and bushes. A set of four eggs taken May 21, '92, measure .90x.67, .90x.67, .89x.66, .91x.67.

22. Carolina Wren. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. A very common resident. A nest taken May 5th, '91, was of leaves moss, bark, etc., lined with hair, and placed in bow of small boat, lying on shore of Albemarle Sound. This nest contained five eggs, which measure .76x.59, .79x.60, .77x.59, .77x.59, .76x.59.

23. Brown-headed Nuthatch. *Sitta pusilla*. A common resident. Nests of strips of bark, pine seed, leaves, wool, etc., placed in holes, picked by the birds in dead stumps, usually pines, from 2 to 25 feet, or more, up. Eggs five, sometimes six. A set of five eggs taken April 29th, '91, measure .60x.46, .58x.46, .60x.45, .57x.46, .57x.46.

24. Carolina Chickadee. *Parus carolinensis*. Common resident. A nest taken May 4th, '92, was made of moss and fine shreds of bark, lined with a cottony fibre, placed 8 feet up, in a hole picked in the top of a dead ash stub,

standing over water. The eggs, five in number measure, .58x.47, .57x.48, .57x.47, .56x.48, .57x.48.

25. Wood Thrush. *Turdus mustelinus*. A common summer resident. A nest taken June 6th, '91, was made of leaves, straw and a layer of mud, lined with fine roots and placed in a beech-tree 10 feet up. The eggs, three in number, measure .92x.71, .94x.71, 96x.72.

26. Bluebird. *Sialia sialis*. Common resident. Nests in bird boxes, holes in trees, tin cans, etc. A set of six eggs taken April 24th, '91, measure .86x.66, .85x.65, .84x.64, .86x.65, .85x.64, .84x.64.

THOS. A. SMITHWICK,

Walke, Bertie Co., N. C.

California Bush-Tit.

Psaltriparus minimus californicus.

Description.—Tail long, feathers graduated. Above of a dark olivaceous-cinereous; top and sides of head dusky brown; whitish brown darker on sides. Sexes alike. Length 4 in.; tail, 2.25; wing, 1.90
Hab.—California.

The Bush-Tits are among the smallest of North American birds. The species found in California is somewhat smaller in size and lighter in color than that from Oregon and Washington. The territory of both species overlap in northern California.

The California Bush-Tits are noisy, fearless, industrious birds; wandering in loose flocks they glean their humble fare from tree and bush uttering all the while their cheerful *tweet, tweet, tweet, twee*, and are so intent upon their occupation that all danger is disregarded. If perchance an intruder ventures in their midst they cease for a moment their occupation and gaze upon the stranger with evident curiosity but when they perceive that no harm is intended they continue their work as noisily and industriously as before.

Although they often wander into orchards bordering the cities yet they are strictly rural residents and love the

quiet wooded canons and hill-sides of the retired, uninhabited districts of this genial clime and here we meet with them in our country strolls. They usually move in small flocks but in spring domestic duties necessitate the breaking up of these happy little groups in order that the little creatures may begin the construction of their pretty arboreal homes, and subsequently, rear their little broods.

The home of the Bush-Tit is a model of bird architecture, it is securely hidden in the dense, drooping foliage of a tree, purse-shaped with an entrance on the side near the top. Its average measurements are as follows: length 8 or 9 inches; width, 4 or 5 inches. The materials used are wool, lichens, plant-down, twigs and feathers.

The breeding season begins about the middle of March and extends through April and May. The eggs number from five to nine, are pure white in color and measure about one-half inch in length.

H. C. LILLIE,

Santa Barbara, Cal.

Nighthawks in Binghamton, N. Y.

It is a fact worthy of note that the Nighthawks that frequent our city each summer are very unequally distributed. In the suburbs and open country adjacent, where one would expect to find them, they are comparatively few in numbers, but about the business portion of the city they are scarcely less noticeable than the English Sparrow.

With this change in habitat they have apparently changed their habits and are less Nighthawks than ever. Every morning, and all day long on cloudy days, they are abroad, and even at high noon on sunny days the light seems to be no disadvantage to them if they choose to move about. True to Nighthawk traditions, however, the

birds have a preference for the twilight or evening.

When not flying about they usually may be found sleeping on some chimney-top or unfrequented roof. In such places the careful observer may see much of Nighthawk nature that does not come to the surface elsewhere. During their waking moments they sedately parade up and down their retreats and show capabilities for doing nothing that a tramp might envy.

Since they pass so much time upon the roofs, I concluded that they nest in such situations, but had no chance to verify this until this year. On June 10th, through the kindness of Mr. N. E. Severson, I was able to secure a set of two eggs from the flat roof of a building in the heart of the city.

The roof was of gravel and so much did the eggs resemble it, that it required a search of ten minutes by four persons to find them. There was no sign of a nest—scarcely a hollow. The eggs do not differ from those found in the fields. Upon blowing they were found to be nearly fresh. The birds were not at home when we called but were seen circling near the building several times during our stay.

WILLARD N. CLUTE.

Omaha Crows Again.

In reply to "Coleopterist" (in May OÖLOGIST) I will say:

1st. That Government reports are not always correct in every particular as has been proven before now. *Humanius est errare.*

2d. I have examined the stomachs of a number of Crows, and find as I said in the March OÖLOGIST, that they contained mostly offal and animal matter, and especially has that been the case with young birds.

"Coleopterist says that "the Crow is valuable occasionally as a scavenger." I say and can prove that they are good

scavengers at all times, and if he will pay the expenses I will send him unopened stomachs in alcohol so that he can make personal examinations of them.

However as I said in my previous article on this subject, the Crow of this vicinity seems to have some different habits from the Crow of parts of Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania and very likely their qualities as scavengers differ also.

I do not mean to say that the Crow does not do any damage, but only that "He is not as black as he is painted."

Faithfully Yours

ISADOR S. TROSTLER,
Omaha, Neb.

An "Owly" Find.

A few days ago, a friend of mine, Geo. H. Jenkins, and myself, went after Burrowing Owls' eggs. We found two holes. One contained 11 eggs, and a young Owl besides the old pair. Most of the eggs were highly incubated. The other hole seemed to be endless, but just as we were about to give it up, we saw the old female. One more stroke with the spade and I could reach them. I reached them! I got a handful of owls instead of eggs, as I had expected. I piled them out and reached in again. More Owls. Again. The same thing. I pulled out Owls, *Owls* and more OWLS.

Fourteen young Owls, and two old Owls came out of that hole. The young ranged from about two days old up to almost full-grown owls, and presented a conical sight, sitting in the grass. There can be no doubt but that they were all of one family, as there were no other Owls within two miles of there.

MERLIN C. JOHNSON,
Aberdeen, So. Dak.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y.

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

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MAY CONTEST.

Sixty-nine Judges.

Prize winners and credits received by each article were as follows:

1. The Woodpeckers.298
 2. Phainopepla, or Black-crested Flycatcher.284
 3. Some of Our Louisiana Birds. ...148
 4. "Among the Blue-grays".136
 5. The Wood Ibis. 76
- Ten other articles received from 1 to 29 credits each.

Twenty-eight of the judges named the prize winning articles and five named their exact order, to these five the judges prizes were awarded.

The fortunate jurists were as follows:

1. No. 19—Albert Garrett, Lawrence, Kansas.
2. No. 37—F. E. Atwood, Chelsea, Vt.
3. No. 52—W. H. LaPrade, Jr., New Orleans, La.
4. No. 59—John A. Collins, Jr., Fall River, Mass.
5. No. 68—A. R. Hutchinson, Gaines, N. Y.

All prizes were mailed on June 22d.

Sitta Canadensis in Montana.

On June 3rd of this year it was my good fortune to find a partially incubated set of six eggs of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, (*Sitta canadensis*,) near Helena, Montana.

The nest was in a cavity, excavated in a decayed pine stump, some three feet from the ground. Below the entrance, which was perfectly round, and just large enough to admit the bird, the stump was smeared, for several inches down, with pine pitch, which I found to be still somewhat soft and sticky. I understand that this is a trait peculiar to this bird, but what their object can be I am at a loss to understand. Can it be that this pitch, by becoming soft from the heat of the sun, serves to prevent small insects such as ants, woodticks and other vermin, from invading the nest? Such insects, in endeavoring to walk on the pitch, would invariably stick fast and they could then be devoured by the birds at their leisure. However, this is only a conjecture, and I would be glad to receive some information upon the subject.

I had hard work to induce the female to leave the nest and only succeeded by enticing her out with the end of my pocket-handkerchief. She made a dash at it, and, upon my pulling it away quickly, she followed it clear outside. Once out, I made it a point not to allow her to return. On the bottom of the

cavity, which was some five inches in depth, the birds had placed a large quantity of loose wood fibres for a nest.

There was such a large quantity of them that at first I thought the excavation was only two or three inches deep.

This mass of fibres, with an occasional feather, formed a soft fluffy cushion and the eggs, which were a very light cream, spotted with reddish brown, were partially covered by the ends of the fibres which overlapped them. As the bird was entirely new to me, I was forced to shoot one, which proved to be the male, to make identification certain.

I had no trouble in tracing him by "Cooes" and I now have the satisfaction of possessing, probably, the first set of eggs of this bird ever taken in Montana.

O. E. CROOKER,
Helena, Montana.

A Few Notes on the Red-tailed Hawk.

The Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo borealis* is a resident wherever found. In this locality it is the commonest of our large hawks. The bird begins laying the last of February. Last year the first set was taken here on the twenty-eighth of February. This year we began looking for them much before that date, but although many nests were examined, no eggs were taken until the thirteenth of March, when out of eighteen nests, old and new, one was found to contain an elegant set of two slightly incubated eggs.

Col. Goss, in his admirable "Birds of Kansas," says that the number of eggs laid by this bird is "three or four." I have never heard of a set of four eggs being taken here, and only occasionally of three eggs being taken; and I think that nine times out of ten, two will be found to be the usual complement. At least this has been my experience. This year, I have found a set of one egg, but I think this was due to a wind-storm, which had blown out a previous nest of

the Hawks. For it was probably the same pair which we had seen two weeks before, building a nest in a giant sycamore a half mile down the creek; and upon returning, fully expecting to find an elegant set of eggs, we found a few sticks on the ground to tell the story of our shattered hopes. But what oölogist has not suffered similar disappointments? Why relate experiences which we all have had? But to return—the Hawks had probably repaired to the nearest nest and finished their set.

I have found the nest at various heights, as for instance—39 ft., 52 ft., 55½ ft., 65 ft., 66 ft., 76½ ft. and 86 ft. These are all actually *measured* distances.—The first case was in a densely wooded district, and no high trees were accessible; but the others were in districts where trees a hundred feet high could easily have been found. From these figures it will be seen that the Hawk prefers a nesting site from fifty to seventy feet from the ground.

One incident has led me to believe that the placing of "dummy" eggs in the nest, after taking out an incomplete set, is useless. Last year, a Red-tail's nest was found, containing one fresh egg. This egg was taken, but we had no "dummy" to leave and we supposed of course that because of that, the Hawk would leave the nest; but two weeks later, two more eggs were taken from the nest.

One peculiar thing was noticed in this year's collecting. Much has been written about the persistency with which the Red-tailed Hawk occupies the same nest year after year; but our experience this year has been that in the first place, to our knowledge, not one nest from which sets were taken last year, was occupied this year; and in fact, one or two nests which were unmolested last year, were unoccupied. Quite a number of old nests were blown out of the trees during a two days' wind-storm; but it was long past

time for these nests to have owners. From these various experiences, I am inclined to believe that the Red-tailed Hawk does not occupy the same nest so much as is commonly believed. I would like to hear from others on the point, whether the Red-tailed Hawk occupies the same nest after it has been disturbed the previous year. I will have a wide field to work next year, and hope to be able to decide more about this point.

ALBERT GARRETT,
Lawrence, Kansas.

The Hummingbird in S. C.

The Ruby-throated is the only member of the Hummingbird family that we have in South Carolina that I know of. I have heard persons say that they have seen Hummingbirds that did not belong to the Ruby-throated variety, but it is very likely that they were mistaken.

It is a common sight in the city to see Hummingbirds darting around among the flowers in the yard; or while sitting in the piazza, to see one within a few feet of you poised on musical wing before some potted plant.

Although we see them much oftener in the city than elsewhere, they only visit the city on excursions of pleasure, as they have their real home and breed in the woods.

I have been very lucky in finding Hummingbird nests, having found ten in the last four years, while I do not know of another collector in this vicinity who has found more than two in that time.

My first nest was found in 1889, and I found it by watching the birds fly from a large poplar tree where they were feeding and then following in the direction they flew. A friend was with me and we saw the bird as she flew to her nest in a good-sized pine tree, about 40 feet up. This nest was built in a curious position. A small

twig grew straight down and about half way had two cones growing together one on each side of the twig as is often seen. The birds built on top of one cone, the nest being fastened along its side to the twig. I tried very hard to get this nest and set but it was far out on a small limb, so I only succeeded in getting the nest, breaking the eggs and nearly breaking my neck.

In 1890 I found two nests. While walking along through the woods I heard a Hummingbird, so I kept perfectly still and presently saw her fly to a sweet-gum tree and light on her nest, which was just begun. When the time came for getting the nest, it had disappeared, and I found out afterwards that a party of negroes found it and tried to get it, but broke the eggs in the attempt.

I found the second nest, of that year in very much the same way, but it was in a small slender gum and contained one egg when I found it. On account of the tree being so slender, I could not climb it without its bending so far over as to spill out the eggs, so I propped it up with a forked sapling and then climbed it. Altogether I had a good deal of trouble getting it, as it was so far out on the limb that I had to cut the limb off and while I was cutting, I had to keep from shaking out the eggs and also hold up my whole weight by wrapping my legs around the tree, which being small made it very tiring. But I got my first set of eggs out of it which repaid all my trouble.

Last year I found four nests. The first was in a pine tree which was very hard to climb, but I finally got up and tried to get the nest but failed as it was too far out. The next was in a pine too, about 30 feet up, but she left it after she had laid one egg. The third was in a small oak tree on a limb about six feet from the ground and directly over a path that was not used much. I got a nice set of two from this nest. The fourth

was way out on a limb of a large long-leaf or yellow pine, and as I had very little time, I didn't try to get it.

I have found three nests this year, which I think is doing pretty well, considering the limited time I have for hunting. On May 11, while walking through a small group of pines, I heard a Hummingbird and after finding her, I soon found the nest, as she went back to it after a few preliminary darts here and there. But it was about fifty feet high and very far out on a limb, so I didn't think there was much use trying to get it. The next evening, May 12th, I started out rather late and went in a different direction, and while walking along, heard a "Hummer" and saw her dart past me and fly out of sight among the trees. I thought that looked suspicious so I stopped and waited. She soon came back and lit on a pine near by but was very restless so I began to look around for the nest. In a few minutes I saw it on a swinging hickory limb about eight feet from the ground. The limb was a little troublesome to pull down, but it wasn't long before I had it cut off and the eggs packed safely in my box. I then continued my walk.

About 200 yards further on, I was going along among some hickory trees when I heard another "Hummer" and saw her fly out and light in a pine tree. From past experience I was quite certain that I had flushed her from her nest and that she would go right back to it, but seeing a Wood Pewee acting suspiciously I left the Hummingbird and watched the Pewee. After watching her about fifteen minutes I found her nest in a pine tree and then went back to watch the Hummingbird but I could not find her. Ordinarily, I wouldn't have taken my eyes off that bird for a second until she went to her nest or flew away, but this time I felt strangely, but perfectly, confident that I would find the nest, so I didn't mind leaving her. I knew about the place

she flew from at first so I retraced my former route but didn't see or hear anything of the bird. I then went over it again hitting the limbs with my stick and this time was rewarded by hearing her fly from among the trees. As I didn't see exactly where she flew from I didn't stop to look but followed the bird until she lit in a pine tree about forty feet distant and began to plume herself. After watching her about ten minutes she flew around among the trees a little while and then settled on her nest. It proved much more difficult to get than the other one as it was about twenty feet high and near the end of a limb six feet long, but it was a hickory tree so I succeeded in bending it around and getting both eggs and nest safe.

From the numbers we see about the flowers and gardens in the spring and summer, I judge they must breed quite numerously in this part of the state, but they are of such small dimensions and fly so swiftly that it is very hard to find their tiny nests, which are made of cotton, thistle-down, fern-down, willow-down and other vegetable "downs" covered on the outside with fine lichens daintily stuck on with spider-web and caterpillar-silk.

From my observations they seem to prefer the pine as a building site as, of my ten nests, five have been in pine trees, two in gums, two in hickories and one in an oak. Six of them were in high ground and four in low ground. Eight of them were in clear woods, free of underbrush,

The only note I have ever heard them utter is a peculiar little "cackle" as it is called, used principally when they chase each other through the air with such swiftness that the eye can scarcely keep pace with them.

A. R. HEYWARD, JR.,
Columbia, S. C.

WORLD'S FAIR NOTES.

A solid gold brick, weighing 500 pounds and worth \$150,000, will be exhibited in the Mines and Mining building at the World's Fair by a Helena, Mon., mine owner.

The high school of San Diego, Cal., gave a grand Fourth of July celebration and will devote the proceeds toward making a complete collection of San Diego fish for exhibition at the World's Fair. The specimens will be preserved in alcohol and properly labeled, etc.

The ethnological exhibit at the World's Fair will include many curios from the Charlotte Islands.

A schooner is now being fitted out at Halifax to go to the arctic regions to get ten or twelve Esquimo families, fifty or sixty persons in all, for exhibition at the World's Fair. Dogs, fishing implements, utensils; and everything necessary to show Esquimo life, will also be procured.

May OÖLOGIST announced that ostrich eggs, artistically painted in a prize competition, were to be a feature in the exhibit from Cape Colony, South Africa. This competition has been held. Nineteen contestants, mostly young women, participated, and furnished designs which the Cape press praises highly, as being very artistic and beautiful. Each contestant submitted half a dozen beautifully decorated eggs, all of which will be exhibited at the World's Fair. The subjects of the paintings include flowers, birds, animals, landscapes, public buildings, etc. The gem of the whole collection, painted by Miss Van Reenan, winner of the first prize of £7 10s, is reported to be a fairy figure standing on a vine leaf drawn by a butterfly, with underneath the words "To Chicago."

Will You Join Us?

But a few tickets left to complete the club to attend the World's Fair on the United World's Excursion Co. plan. Payments monthly or weekly; this is the strongest company in America, apply to Local Agent or write United World's Fair Excursion Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange Bld'g, Boston, Mass.

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the others are made.

For the five articles in *this* (July) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the August competition we will give a similar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rebashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than August 10th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this month's competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

JUST OUT!
The Standard Catalogue

—OF—

North American Birds Eggs

—COMPILED BY—

FRANK H. LATTIN,

—ASSISTED BY—

Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, J. Parker Norris, Esq., and
Capt. B. F. Goss.

It gives the Common and Scientific name of every North American Bird according to the A. O. U. Nomenclature. It also gives the A. O. U. Numbers as well as those of both Coues' and Ridgeway, and last but not least it gives the value of eggs of *nearly every* species, over one hundred of which never appeared on any printed list before.

It is not a personal catalogue of any one Dealer or Collector, as there is not a Collector in the entire World who has or could furnish all the species whose values are given, and there is not a Dealer who could furnish over, from 50 to 75 per cent of the species priced.

The Catalogue is printed on extra quality of paper and contains 53 pages, size $3\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in.

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TESTIMONIALS.

"It is very neat and will prove a great convenience to collectors as a standard of value."—J. PARKER NORRIS.

"In nearly all cases the prices given are about what they should be." CAPT. CHAS. E. BENDIRE.

"Am immensely pleased with it, the prices are equitably compiled,"—(J. M. W.) C. L. RAWSON, Norwich, Conn.

"It's a little dandy, best I ever saw, have looked it all over very carefully and think you have the prices well regulated."—K. B. MATHES, Chicago.

"I consider it the best standard of American eggs ever issued."—FRANK HARRIS, La Cresent, Minn.

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FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.



O O L O G I S T Y .



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1892.

NO. 6

NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

FOR SALE—A collection of Birds Eggs, sets and singles. Will sell for best offer. Send for list—DANA C. GILLETT, Barre Centre, Orleans Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Birds eggs and tobacco tags for same, tags preferred. Send lists. All letters answered. H. W. PRENTICE, Utica, LaSalle Co., Ills.

I HAVE Birds Eggs, 333, 337, 375, 368 to exchange for books. Coues' Key and Herbert Spencer's works especially desired. JASPER BROWN, Norway, Iowa.

BICYCLE. PRINTING OUTFIT. - 24 inch Safety Bicycle, ball bearings, fine condition. \$18. Printing outfit consisting of Model Improved Self-inking Press, 10 fonts type, etc., \$20. Eggs, Stamps, Coins, for Eggs, Climbers, Dyer's Nests and Eggs. F. E. ATWOOD, Chelsea, Vt.

EGGS, Tax. Manual, Collecting Box 18x12x5 opens like satchel imit. mah. brass handles, and ten other articles for sets with data of grouse eggs. ARTHUR G. POTTER, 405 So. 25th Ave., Omaha, Neb.

TO EXCHANGE.—Harper's Young People 1 year; Forehand and Wadsworth's 38 calibre revolver; books, etc., for birds eggs and skins. Letters answered. B. E. BABCOCK, Box 660, Westboro, Mass.

WANTED.—A human skull in good condition and, if possible, with full set of teeth. State *cash* price wanted. O. E. CROOKER, Box 1058, Helena, Mont.

TO EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. numbers 30a, 2-1; 32, 1-1; 58, 1-3; 80, 2-4; '55, 2-2; 202, 1-3; 211, 1-6; 219, 1-8; 286, 1-3; 337, 1-2; 375, 1-2; 378, 3-1, 1-5, 1-6; 420, 2-2; 467, 1-3; 406 no data 5-1; 501, 2-4; 523, 1-7; 552, 2-4; 587, 1-2; 595, 1-4; 598, 1-3; 608, 1-3; 622, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6. WM. H. FISHER, 14 W. North Ave., Baltimore, Md.

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NOTICE.—To exchange, books, telegraph instruments, eggs, postage stamps, arrow heads, axes, cigarette pictures, coins, etc., for guns, rines, shells, stamps, oologists and taxidermist tools, climbers or any of the things mentioned above, also \$30. worth of desirable eggs to exchange for 12 gauge brush loader, Parker or Sott make preferred, 100 fine arrow heads to exchange for a Giant sounder telegraphic instrument Great bargains. Address, ARTHUR DUGAN, West Point, Miss.

I HAVE the following 1st class sets and singles to exchange for sets or mounted birds. A. O. U. 723, 1-3; 692, 1-5, 1-3; 17, 1-3, 1-4; 703, 1-3, 1-4; 575a, 1-4; 563, 1-4; 333, 1-2; 477a, 1-4 Slugs, 729, 622, 703, 477, 583, 452, 390, 333, 289, 732, 581, 622a, 755, 501, 506, 445. All of my sets have data. Write at once to W. C. PICKENS, Livingston, Ala.

TO EXCHANGE.—An electric motor complete with connectors, ect., coils are 11-x15-8 inches, it is made so that it can be used as an electric magnet or an induction coil, is in perfect running order, and has been used to run a fan, also about 1/2 lb. fine copper silk and cotton covered wire, for first-class eggs in sets. HARRY B. SARGENT, Prospect Houe, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

ELECTRIC Door Bell with outfit (battery &c) First cost \$5. Now lies at the express office in Los Angeles, Calif. Will give to any one who will pay the Express charges (\$2.40) now due on the same. If you want it remit at once and I'll order the Express company to deliver to you. If you will not pay cash, make offer in specimens or *anything* and I will pay the \$2.40. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Thirty varieties of central Illinois eggs, for eggs of other sections of country. CHARLIE WELLS, Atlanta, Ills.

WANTED: A first-class set of 602a. Will give in exchange first-class singles. W. H. A. HOLMES, 106 Jay St., Albany, N. Y.

EXCHANGES and WANTS, Continued

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—First-class single of Whooping Crane. Will give \$5 worth of first-class sets with data for same. ERNEST H. SHORT, Chill, Mon oc Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class sets or singles of Southern Birds Eggs, with collectors throughout the country. E. A. McILHENNY, Avery, La.

COLLECTORS ATTENTION.—Exchange wanted in Birds Eggs and Birds skins. Full sets and original data. Correspondence solicited. All communications answered. D. FRANK KELLER, Naturalist, Reading, Pa.

A NEW \$100 International Type-writer and a \$75 Life Scholarship of the Euclid Avenue Business College, good at either Detroit, Buffalo or Cleveland. Will exchange for a high grade Safety cushion-tired Bicycle. Must be new or as good as new. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I HAVE a quantity of duplicate singles and sets, including several first and second class Hawk's eggs, which I wish to exchange for Seabirds eggs and others. Sample bottle of tanning liquid sent prepaid for 25 cents worth of eggs. J. E. HOUSEMAN, Box E., Aylmer, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE:—A Shattuck breech loading, single barreled, 30 inch, 12 gauge shotgun, used two seasons, nine dollars new, for eastern eggs in sets or skins, first-class with data. W. H. LAPRADE, Jr., 297 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, La.

WILL COLLECT local specimens of any kind, in exchange for desirable bird's eggs in sets. Address, FRANK H. NUTTER, Room 500 Sykes Block, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

EGGS—212, 214, 474b, 495, 497, 498, 613, 616, 539, 538, 501, 605, (A. O. U.), and others in full sets, with nests if desired, in exchange for eggs. MERLIN C. JOHNSON, Aberdeen, So. Dak.

NOTICE.—I desire as soon as possible a number of complete sets of the following, A. O. A. Nos. 7, 11, 117, 182, 183, 204, 206, 281, 294, 332, 362, 364, 416, 417, 431, 743a and 746, also others; for above I will give the best of exchange in fine desirable sets, of either American or Foreign eggs, or will purchase some for cash if terms meet my approval. Those having any or all of above numbers will do well to communicate with me. I also have eggs of the Ostrich, Rhea and Emu for sale or exchange. C. W. CRANDALL, Woodside, Queens Co., N. Y.

I HAVE the following first-class eggs in complete sets with full data (A. O. U. No's) for exchange: Caracara Eagle $\frac{1}{2}$, Great Blue Heron $\frac{1}{2}$, Black Tern $\frac{1}{2}$, Noddy Tern 1-1, Arctic Tern $\frac{1}{2}$, Am. Sparrow Hawk 1-5, Bobolink 1-4 1-5, Sora Rail 1-6 1-7 1-8, Virginia Rail 1-6 1-8 1-9, Am. Coot 1-6 1-7 1-8 1-9 1-12, Florida Gallinule 1-6 1-7 1-9 1-10, Long-billed Marsh Wren 1-4 1-5 1-6 1-8, Least Bittern 1-4 1-5 1-6, Yellow-headed Blackbird 1-4 1-5 1-6, Barred Owl 1-1, Black Skimmer 1-5, King Rail 1-7 1-9 1-10, Meadow Lark 1-4 1-5 1-6, Spotted Sandpiper 1-4 1-5, Bartram's Sandpiper 1-4, Leaches' Petrel 1-1, Cackles Wren 1-5. None but first-class sets wanted. CHARLES M. ELDRIDGE, 314 Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, Ills.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

EXCHANGE.—Several sets of (A. O. U.) 373, 337 and others for books on Oology. Taxidermy or eggs 151, 305, desired. Cash given for books. What offer? ORAH K. WILLIAMSON, Edwardsville, Kansas.

TO EXCHANGE. Fine sets of eggs with complete data. (A. O. U.) 49, 120c, 122, 190, 194, 203a, 311, 319, 325, 335, 341, 368, 409, 410, 419, 421, 487, 512, 573, 594, 70, 707 and many others. D. B. BURROWS, Lacon, Marshall Co., Illinois.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Violin, case, music stand, instructor &c., worth \$15. \$10 cash or will exchange for Field or powerful Opera Glass. State size, make, cost, condition &c. No postals. All letters answered. G. L. PERRY, Wilmington, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—One pair Caracara Eagles, three months old, for best offer of first-class sets with data. Write, A. H. W. NORTON, Box 918, San Antonio, Texas.

WANTED: Kodak or other Camera, also good collecting gun, will give first-class clutches of Sea birds, Plovers and Hawk's eggs. W. RAINE, Hayden St., Toronto, Canada.

FOR EXCHANGE.—One thousand arrow points. I will take in exchange first-class sets of eggs, or Oregon points, Obsidian preferred. Points must be fine and perfect. JOHN MINCHIN, Fleming, Cayuga Co., N. Y.

WANTED:—Works on Taxidermy. Have for exchange 200 stamps, many rare ones, 2d hand revolver and a good saw glass. No postals. EDW. THOMPSON, Box 24, Hockessin, Delaware.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Magic Lantern for best offers in eggs. I also want to exchange eggs in singles for those of other localities. WALTER FERRIS, Ellingham, Kan.

I WILL EXCHANGE the large size Patent Ink Erasing Pencil, which will erase Ink from paper in two seconds, for 75 cents worth of 1st class eggs in sets, old coins, or Indian Relics. I also have 2000 California eggs, mostly 2nd class and I will mail you three dozen assorted specimens for one dollar's worth of any of the above named articles. Address GEORGE SWING, San Bernardino, California.

FOR SALE.—Extra fine sets of eggs of the Chestnut-bellied Scaled Partridge, taken by myself on the lower Rio Grande, Texas. I will make very low prices on them. Also a few sets of other varieties from Southern Texas. Write for prices. D. B. BURROWS, Lacon, Marshall Co., Illinois.

I have to exchange for Birds Eggs in sets, with data, or works on Oology, the following: Postage Stamps in lots, Birds Eggs in singles, or will pay cash for same. Wish to correspond with collectors outside of my territory. Collectors desirous of selling their collections should send me lists and prices of the same. L. G. DURR, 99 Broad St., Nashville, Tennessee.

I have the following first-class sets with data, (A. O. U. Nos.) for exchange: 378, 385, 429, 430, 474c, 501b, 519, 529, 557a, 574, 581c, 591b, 622a, 710, 743a. I desire in exchange eggs of Hawks, Owls or Sea Birds, in first-class sets with data. All letters answered. ORA W. KNIGHT, Care of G. W. Knight, Bangor, Maine.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

TO EXCHANGE:—Birds eggs of this locality for those of others, also a Belgian Flobert rifle for eggs in singles. L. L. MALONEY, Townsend, Del.

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred turtle and snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED:—Eggs, Books, Polished Shells. If you mean business, send list. We can now make a better offer than can be had elsewhere. DICKINSON & DURKEE, Sharon, Wis.

Send different stamps of foreign countries, European excepted, and receive the following eggs, A. O. Nos., 735, 423, 387, 507. JNO. S. DURLAND, Centralia, Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Several fine rare sets, for common eggs in sets. Terms value for value. Send a full list of the sets you have to offer and receive my list in return. Address, H. H., care of W. B. Caulk, Terre Haute, Ind.

A complete set of OÖLOGISTS INSTRUMENTS, including pair chislers, valued at \$5.50; one set Taxidermist's tools, valued at \$5; one Invincible Bicycle Lamp, new, cost \$6; and various other bicycle accessories to exchange for good Revolver, telegraph relay or offers. N. R. CHRISTIE, Glenn's Ferry, Idaho.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine Natural History in German print, 70 late Youth's Companions, Guliver's Travels and Baron Munchausen, Conklin's Handy Manual of the Mechanical Arts and House Plans (S.), Zulu shotgun, Rifle, Chicago air rifle, photograph outfit. Wanted, Ornithological books, back OÖLOGISTS, telescope, microscope. LEWIS HALDEMAN, Avoca, Iowa.

What \$1 will bring when sent to
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 1 Photograph of "Wooded Knee" Battlefield.
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 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and
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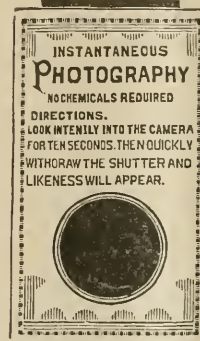
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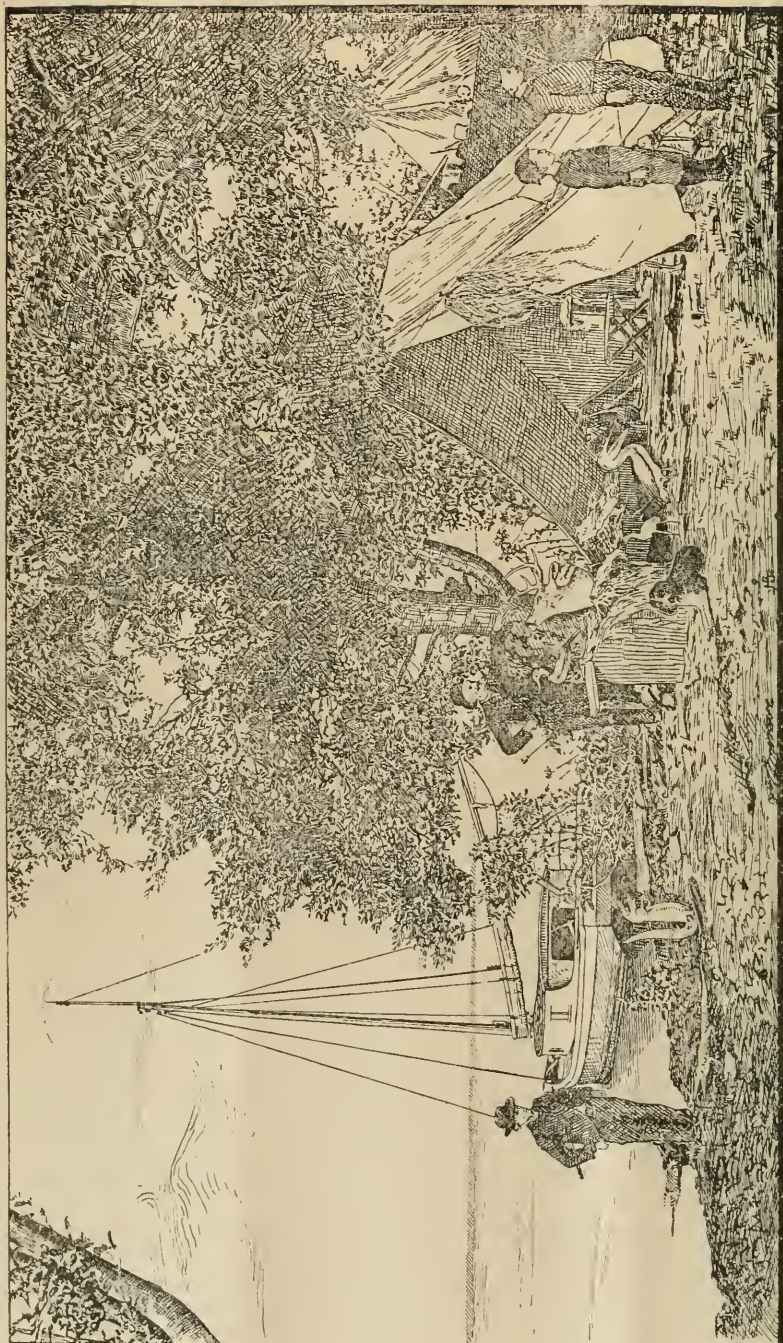


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THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1892.

NO. 6

The Purple Finch.

About April 25th the Purple Finch comes to us with his bright colors and fine song. He very soon makes himself heard, as, perched on the top of some tree, he pours out his lay to the morning sun. And, if he is not the most brilliant of our birds he is certainly beautiful as the sunlight strikes his plumage.

A very fine specimen which I procured this spring was colored as follows: Pileum, (i e, forehead, crown and occiput) crimson; cheeks, chin and throat, light carmine; breast and sides, gray washed with pink; belly and under tail coverts, grayish white; back, madder brown; all the feathers marked lanceolately with chestnut; rump, bright; pink; wings and tail, seal brown all feathers edged with madder. These colors, however, fade as the season advances.

The female is a much plainer bird, being grayish olive, streaked with brown on the upper parts, breast gray with nearly black streaks and two light marks on the cheeks. I have heard it said that the female Finch did not sing. Now I know from personal observation that during the mating season she does sing a short, but good song, much more broken than the male's, it is true, but still it is a true song.

About the 25th of May she picks out a site for her nest, almost invariably in the top of some evergreen tree. In fact I never knew of but one nest being placed anywhere else, that being in the top of a small maple that had been cut off and grown out very thick. The nest is composed of dry roots and dead grass lined with hair and sometimes a few feathers. They will also use strings and paper sometimes.

Not far from June 1st the eggs are deposited usually four, sometimes five. They are blue or greenish in color, spotted with black and generally with dark brown lines on the larger end, averaging about .85x.65.

The bird is a very close sitter and exhibits great solicitude when her nest is disturbed.

When they first arrive in the spring they subsist almost exclusively on buds, but later in the season I think they take some insects and worms, while during the late summer they live almost exclusively on seeds.

They leave us quite early in the fall.

The number of them breeding in any one locality here depends mostly on the number of coniferous trees. I have found seven pairs in one row of Austrian pines, that being their favorite tree here, but generally you will find one or two pairs in a place where the door-yard contains pine or spruce trees, while the cemeteries will usually have three or four if unmolested.

When their eggs are taken they will almost invariably build another nest near by, in many cases in the same tree, but usually lay only three eggs this time. The young birds look very much like the female when they leave the nest, but the males are usually larger and darker colored. For fear that I will tire you I will close though I have not exhausted my subject by any means.

ERNEST H. SHORT,
Chili, N. Y.

South Dakota Notes.

South Dakota has experienced one of the latest seasons on record this year, and owing to the lateness of it, collecting has been delayed, however, we have

had a greater number of migratory waders, and swimmers than ever before.

On May 15th I secured what I think is an American Avocet, but not having a Key I could not classify it positively. The bird measures twenty inches from tip of bill to end of tail, 24 inches spread of wings, and the bill is $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and curved upward.

The bird is colored as follows: Head, neck and breast, salmon buff; wings, streaked with black on the back; the wing coverts are black; the remainder of the plumage is white. It has web feet and the legs, which measure $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length are light olive green.

I have found two sets of four, of Prairie Horned Lark, one on the 6th and the other on the 12th of May. I secured both eggs and nests. "Plover" or Bart. Sandpipers are very plenty this year. I have secured the skins of several pairs. I got a Snowy Owl Apr. 12th, pure white, was not this rather late for them? The English Sparrow has appeared here this spring, and in large numbers. He is seen on every house top and occupies every *unoccupied* building in town.

Bluebirds abound, and Robins, Larks, and Sparrows are also very plentiful. Several Great Horned Owls have been seen in the timber claims near town. I should like very much to correspond with every ornithologist and taxidermist in South Dakota for purposes of mutual satisfaction. Would also like to hear from any one familiar with the bird I have tried to describe.

MERLIN C. JOHNSON,
Aberdeen, S. D.

Some of our Visitors and Neighbors.

It isn't every person who gets acquainted with the Yellow-breasted Chat, even when living near its haunts. Although a constant singer of many notes it is a shy and quiet bird, usually lurk-

ing in some low thicket, but sometimes mounting to the tree tops, singing as it goes, it drops off, beating its wings loudly, as if pounding out the curious notes it so fondly utters, settling to the bushes again. He is easy in his manners and when approached, instead of flying away he skulks through the bushes or brush pile upon which he was sitting, and as he keeps on singing you think you are getting up to him, while he is as far off as at the first. It is difficult to tell from the sound, whether he is two or six rods away. In fact, he is a sort of ventriloquist, and even when you have him located in a certain brush pile he keeps his back to you and is indeed hard to see. My first Chat slipped from a bunch of bushes to the top of a tall tree without my being able to get a glimpse of it. He is a splendid mocker, and here, is the earliest bird to signal the coming day, beginning his mimicry at 3 a. m. In the hottest noon-time he is busy in song, and I've heard it said that one could make more noise to the square inch than any other bird. It often sings at night.

It breeds throughout its range, though I have never been able to discover its nest. It arrives about April 15th.

Another bird which arrives about the same time is the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, which secludes itself in the tree tops and unless one knows its voice he is not sure to meet with it, as it keeps high up and only makes short stays. Here, it is only migratory and we never heard it sing, though it often repeats its note which much resembles the squeak of a piece of machinery.

At the same time, and almost as regular as the song of the Summer Warbler, are the chirruping, grasshopper-like notes of the Philadelphia Greenlet to be heard. Then too, the Kentucky, and Yellow-masked Warblers have kept up an incessant intermingling of song and scolding, while the Black-throated Green Warbler has for weeks been passing his song off for that of the

White-throated Sparrow. Thinking it very late for the Sparrows to be here, I determined to secure one, and on shooting the singer in the act of singing I was rewarded with a more beautiful bird.

The Purple Finches have left their dogwood and blackgum berries, to return this fall; taking with them the Robins and Snowbirds and are replaced by Chippies, Pewees and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. The Whip-poor-wills are here in force and I've secured a fine set of eggs. These I discovered in hunting for the nest of a Black-and-White Warbler, which was not hard to find, as I had only to sit down and watch Mrs. Creeper for about fifteen minutes, and was then possessor of a nest of five fresh eggs. Chuck-will's-widows have for the first time, in my knowledge, appeared above the river bottom.

C. E. PLEAS.
Clinton, Ark.

The Black Vulture in Orleans County.

It becomes my good pleasure to announce the occurrence in our county of the Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*).

On Saturday last, May 28th, a farmer living near the Peat Swamp (which is located about 2½ miles southwest of Medina) caught a "large black bird" in a trap which he had set for the purpose, having seen the bird about the place several times before.

I was informed of the capture, but didn't pay much attention to it, as I thought it was probably not anything rare, but hearing more about it, and hearing it spoken of as a "Turkey Buzzard," I thought I would investigate the matter.

Accordingly I arose this morning "before breakfast" and wheeled up to Shelby on my bicycle and found the Turkey-like bird to be one of the *Cath-*

artida indeed, but a Black Vulture instead of a Turkey Buzzard.

The farmer had it in a wooden cage, and it appeared to be thriving well upon its diet of meat, which had been liberally furnished it.

The capture of this bird, together with the shooting of a Turkey Buzzard in the town of Clarendon last summer by a Mr. Snyder, makes the family of *Cathartida* fully represented in our county, a family which is of Southern habitat and rarely reaches 40° North, although the Black Vulture is somewhat the more northerly of the two.

To say the very least, the occurrence of these two Vultures in Orleans county is rare enough to be well worthy of note.

NEIL F. POSSON,
Medina, N. Y.

A Day's Collecting in California.

Bright and early on the morning of the 17th of April last, my oölogical friend turned up by previous arrangement, for a day's collecting.

It was a beautiful California day, not a cloud to be seen, the mountains showing clear cut against the sky, and a cool breeze from the blue Pacific tempering what might otherwise have been an uncomfortably hot sun.

Our field of operation was to be a ranch which lies upon the bluff above the ocean, extending back a mile or so, with numerous small hills and knolls, covered in part with ancient live oaks; and also a canon which runs through the ranch whose sides are covered with an almost impenetrable growth of oaks, brush, poison oak, ferns and black-berry vines.

Shortly after leaving home I discovered a nest of the California Bush Tit, which upon investigation proved to contain but two eggs and which was left undisturbed. My next find was a fine set of five of Lawrence's Goldfinch.

The nest was a beautiful structure composed almost entirely of dry blossoms of the live oak in which it was situated, with a lining of a few feathers.

While investigating a group of live oaks on a hill near by, my friend discovered a large nest in the top of a tall oak, and upon throwing up a club a Western Red-tail left with a defiant scream. After some hard "shinning" he reached the nest and announced two eggs, which were soon lowered safely down by means of a ball of twine and handkerchief.

Not long after, while gazing up into some oaks, I noticed a Red-tail hovering over the trees, and looking closely I soon located the nest and secured two fresh eggs.

A few minutes later my friend, who was industriously thumping every old tree with a mammoth stick of eucalyptus which he carried, flushed a Sparrow Hawk from a hollow limb and took five beautiful fresh eggs.

At this point it being nearly noon we lunched under the shade of an old oak, so large and thick that it was with difficulty that I found a nest of Bush Tits which I knew must be there from the actions of the birds. It contained seven fresh eggs.

After a short rest we resumed our search, we had gotten somewhat separated, and just as I was reaching terra firma after a useless climb to a Red-tail's nest which contained three young, I heard my companion give a yell, which I knew from its tone and emphasis betokened something rare, while running across a small canon I flushed a California Partridge from seventeen eggs. I found my friend up a large live oak and he excitedly explained that his ever active club had started a Western Horned Owl from a hollow limb that had broken off about twelve feet from the ground. After peering into the darkness for a few seconds he announced two eggs and speedily had them out in the light of day. This I

consider rather late nesting for these owls here, especially as they proved to be almost fresh.

Soon after we each took a set of three of the California Thrasher, the nests being placed in low brush.

While scrambling through some ferns and blackberry vines not long after, I noticed a small brown bird slip quickly away from near my feet, and I soon had its nest. It was the nest of the Wren-Tit and contained three, perfectly fresh, blue eggs. I was highly elated with this find as it was my first that had contained eggs. The nest was a neat, compact structure, deeply cupped and composed of strips of bark, rootlets, dry grass leaves and hair.

I had hardly disposed of these eggs when I noticed a freshly dug woodpecker's hole in a short stub of a live oak, and upon starting up a Gairdner's Woodpecker left the nest and flew to a neighboring tree. With my stick I had soon broken open the hole and saw four crystal white eggs lying on the chips at the bottom of the cavity, which was about seven inches deep. These too I was very much pleased to get as previously I had not a full set of these eggs. When I joined my companion he said he had found a nest of the California Woodpecker in process of construction.

As it was now nearly sunset we started for home going by a different route. I soon found a set of four eggs of the California Jay in a thick elder bush, and my friend a newly completed nest of the California Thrasher, which was marked down for our next trip.

It was a long walk home and we were tired and hungry when we arrived, but we felt amply repaid for our aches, and as I was fortunate enough to escape getting poisoned with poison oak, I shall always consider that a successful and happily spent day.

H. H. DODGE,
Santa Barbara, Cal.

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A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
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The Turkey Vulture.

Cathartes aura.

This noble bird has been the source of my study for three years, and, during all that time, I have not seen a single word about him in the OÖLOGIST except a query "Does *C. aura* occupy the same nest year after year?" This I was not then able to answer, but am

now prepared to say they do, and especially when they are not molested.

On May 9, 1889, I took a set of two creamy white eggs, 2.80x1.93 and 2.79x2, specked and bloched with lavender and two shades of brown, from an old sycamore stump that had been occupied for at least fifteen years, according to the farmer on whose land I found them and I think him truthful. The stump was broken off 13½ feet from the ground, and the cavity was 2¾ feet deep, with no nest except a few dried weed stalks and the rotten wood naturally in the cavity.

In 1890 I took another set from this same nest and also a set from an old apple stump, 8 ft high, in a deserted orchard only about half a mile from the farm house, and on May 17, 1891, a set from an elm stump 32 ft high. The cavity in this stump was 18 inches deep.

This bird, vulgarly called the "Turkey Buzzard," is an inhabitant of almost the entire North American continent, south of the British Provinces, and no doubt all the readers of the OÖLOGIST have seen him as he soars around and around in search of food. They are gregarious, and often I have seen twenty or thirty of them together, circling over the town or surrounding country. Their general plumage a dull black, with a glossy bronze-green on the back; feathers on legs to the knee, and the feet slightly webbed. There are no feathers on the head and neck, except a line of down on the back of the neck, the fore part being bare to the breast feathers. The eyes are of a reddish-brown color. The young of this species are covered with a white down up to the time of leaving the nest.

GEO. W. PITMAN,
New Castle, Indiana.

Those Horned Grebes Again.

If Mr. Swales will read my article carefully he will find that I wrote from my own observation, and do not deny their breeding at the Flats as I am aware they are credited with so doing, but I have never seen them in the marshes of Detroit River where the Thick-billed is common, and it was directly to those marshes I referred and he stated they "were abundant." I took four sets of Loon's eggs in the Fighting Island marsh, but I would not call the bird abundant as he does on taking several sets of Horned Grebe in the same marsh *if* he is not mistaken in the identity of the bird.

W. A. DAVIDSON,
Detroit, Mich.

The Purple Finch in Broome County, N. Y.

The position that the Purple Finch occupies in the *avifauna* of southern New York; is a rather peculiar one. Primarily he is a summer resident, but he also combines something of the migrant and winter visitant in his nature.

Seldom earlier or later than the first week in April the earliest songs of the Purple Finch are heard in this locality. In a week or more thereafter, the birds become common, and for a time the woods, orchards, dooryards and trees along our city streets ring with their cheery notes.

Yet these birds are not the first of their kind to arrive. Several weeks earlier one may sometimes see a small flock in the evergreens or catch a few tentative, warbling notes, launched on the frosty air from some perch in the treetops. It would seem from this, that if the hardier individuals do not brave the rigors of our winter, they certainly love to visit us when the weather is propitious.

After the migratory birds have spent some weeks of song with us, the majority disappear—probably going farther

north to breed. Although their food ordinary consists of various seeds, buds and berries, they show a decided preference for the stamens of fruit trees, and perhaps follow the supply northward as it decreases here. The birds left behind occasionally select a site in the orchard and build a rather bulky nest of weed stalks, grasses, horse-hair, etc. Usually, however, they choose an evergreen for a nesting place. There seems to be some occult connection between the Purple Finches and evergreen trees. Where these trees abound, as in our cemeteries, the birds hold high carnival all summer, building their nests close to the trunks at some height from the ground. The birds apparently like the society of man, the dooryard being one of their favorite haunts.

The eggs, four or five in number, are of a beautiful shade of green, and speckled with black and brown, chiefly at the larger end. In appearance they closely resemble the eggs of the Chip-ping Sparrow, though much larger.

The opinion prevails in some quarters that the Purple Finch is a bird of the North, and is said to be most abundant in Nova Scotia. In New England the bird is a common breeder and it will doubtless be found to summer in the greater part of Pennsylvania and New York.

WILLARD N. CLUTE,
Binghamton, N. Y.

Two Rare Nests.

On May 16, 1892 I found a nest of the Saw Whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*) containing five eggs. The tree in which the nest was placed was an old dead poplar, which stood near a brook in a dark, dense piece of green woods, near this place. The nest its self was about twelve feet from the ground, and had been excavated by a Flicker, probably six or eight years ago, as the cavity looked very old and the wood was very

rotten. The opening had been enlarged a little, and the bottom lined with a quantity of moss and fine strips of yellow birch bark. The eggs are of a chalky white, with a rather rough surface, and are all more or less stained from contact with the nest. Incubation was so far advanced that I had great difficulty in blowing them. The measurements are as follows: 1.18x1., 1.19x1.03, 1.17x1.02, 1.21x1.03, 1.23x1. The Owl was quite tame, allowing me to get a good view of her bill as she looked at me from the hole, the bill being the most prominent distinguishing feature between the Saw Whet and the Richardson's, which are otherwise very much alike. In the Saw Whet it is black and in the Richardson's, yellow. On rapping the tree the Owl left the nest and flew about twenty yards alighting on a small dead limb of a spruce, apparently having no more difficulty in flying through the thick woods in the daytime than in the night. She again allowed me to approach to within about fifteen feet of her, finally flying off into the thick woods out of sight. The lining of this nest may possibly have been placed there by a squirrel as it is the same kind of material that is used by that animal in making its nest, and they often select an old Flicker's hole for a home.

May 21, 1892 I found a nest of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). It was excavated in a small poplar stub about twenty feet from the ground and contained six fresh eggs. The cavity was lined with a considerable quantity of fine cedar bark with a few strips of birch bark mixed in and when removed from the hole formed quite a little nest itself. The eggs are white, thickly covered with different sized spots of reddish brown, looking very much like those of the Black-capped Chickadee, but are larger, as the following measurement shows: .63x.47, .64x.48, .64x.49, .62x.47, .63x.47, .66x.47. I was forced to shoot this bird to make

sure of her identity. This is the third nest of the Nuthatch that I have found, but the first that contained eggs. The other two were opened on June 5, 1884 and both contained young.

HOWARD H. MCADAMS,
Oak Bay, N. B.

The Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Dendroica pennsylvanica.

Perhaps one of the most interesting of the wood warblers, which inhabits this section is the Chestnut-sided. The leaders arrive from the south about May 5th, and a few days later they are here *en masse*. Then their cheery song is frequently reiterated from the treetops, and occasionally when they are annoyed, they utter the peculiar note, which has been happily likened to the sound produced by striking two pebbles together. My experience has taught me to look for these birds in abundance, in, or in the vicinity of swampy woods. They are not, however strictly confined to trees, as their appellation (*Dendroica*) implies, but are found in bushes, and open land, but in lesser numbers.

During the migrating season when the number of residents is swelled by the birds of passage, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the specific characteristics of the warblers; especially when they frequent tall trees, and do not utter their respective songs; but the species under consideration is a notable exception. I can usually recognize this bird, when against the sun-lit sky he is apparently black, and devoid of color. His silhouette has some peculiarity, which establishes his identity, and protects him from the collector's gun.

May 21st a few years ago, my attention was attracted by a pair of these birds around a tangle of briars, grape vines and bushes. By diligently watching them, I discovered the proposed site of their domicile, which was about two feet from the ground, and in a dense mass of briars.

Only a few blades of dead grass, and narrow strips of bark had been laid in place. I closely observed the process of construction from day to day, until finally a neat and compact structure had been fabricated. The materials used were: dead grass, bark, leaves, paper, horse hair, and spider's webs.

The nest was so deep inside, that tip of tail and bill only could be seen when the female was on, or in it. Two weeks from date of discovery four eggs of a delicate pink tint, dotted at the larger ends with reddish brown, and lilac, had been deposited. The average dimensions of several specimens are .67 by .52 inches.

Our little friend departs for a more genial clime early in September.

CHARLES L. PHILLIPS,
Taunton, Mass.

APRIL CONTEST.

Sixty-four Judges

Prize winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. Pointers on Making Bird Skins. 288.
2. A Vacation with the Birds. 169.
3. The Ibises of Ledworth Lake. 130.
4. Collecting on an European Islet. 88.
5. Scientific Names, Their Use and Beauty. 70.

It was necessary to take into consideration, in awarding the judges prizes, the two following articles:

6. Zoöatomy. 62.
7. Collecting and Collectors. 51.

Ten other articles received from 1 to 44 credits each.

The successful judges, their recorded number, and the order in which they named their articles in their decisions were as follows:

1. No. 51—A. H. W. Norton, San Antonio, Texas; 1, 2, 3, 5, 4.
2. No. 55—W. S. Cruzan, Sulphur Springs, Texas; 3, 1, 2, 5, 4.
3. No. 9—E. J. Brown, Washington, D. C.; 5, 1, 3, 4, 2.
4. No. 49—C. A. Fairchild, University, N. D.; 1, 2, 4, 3, 6.
5. No. 59—Bert H. Douglas, Burlington, Kans.; 1, 2, 4, 3, 7.

As the following judges named the same articles as No. 59, we give them *Honorable mention*:

6. No. 34—F. S. Morse, Ridgefield, Ills.; 2, 1, 4, 3, 7.
7. No. 48—T. A. Smithwick, Walke, N. C.; 2, 1, 7, 4, 3.

Prizes were mailed to all winners on May 25th.

World's Fair Notes.

A collection of finely mounted birds and animals will be shown in the Pennsylvania building.

Prof. Charles D. Walcott of the United States Geological Survey intends to have at the World's Fair an exhibit which will illustrate a section of the earth's crust by specimens of the rock strata placed in their proper relative positions, and by collections of the characteristic fossils shown in connection with the formations in which they are found.

Joaquin B. Calvo, minister of Costa Rica in Washington, has received from the commissioner-general of that country a letter stating that the country is sure to be well represented at Chicago. Plans and drawings for an Aztec temple to be erected by the Costa Rican government have been prepared. This building, which will be a very fine one, will be surrounded by a garden in which there will be a complete collection of palms, ferns, bromillas, schilas and other tropical plants, and it is probable that specimens of the native animals and birds will also be sent. In addition to this a fine archaeological collection will be exhibited.

Mrs. Viola Fuller, of Mitchell, S. D., has applied for space in the Woman's building for a unique and beautiful opera cloak, the only one of its kind existing. The garment which is fifty-seven inches in length, and circular in design, is composed entirely of certain small and particularly delicate feathers of prairie chickens. Only five or six feathers of this peculiar kind are found on a single bird, consequently the cloak represents not only ten years of patient labor, but the plumage of hundreds of birds. The feathers were sewed to the foundation one at a time and deeply

overlapping, and now form a light, even surface as smooth as the bird's breast. The cloak is trimmed in otter fur, which is also the product of South Dakota.

The gold and silver and other mineral exhibits at the Exposition will probably aggregate in value several million dollars. In exhibits of this description Colorado will naturally take front rank. It is announced that the gold and silver nuggets to be shown by that state alone are worth a quarter of a million dollars. There has been made a splendid collection of native gold specimens, from all the richest mining districts. A single collection, valued at \$60,000, has already been secured. This will be supplemented by the finest collections, secured as loan exhibits. The exhibits will be both technical and economic in its character, showing a scientific classification of the mineralogy of Colorado and a correct presentation of its geology. At the same time a popular and massive display of ores, building stone, commercial clays and other mineral products will be made. In the display will be the "Silver Queen," a beautiful statue of an ideal female figure executed in silver and valued at \$7,500 to \$10,000.

THE SOUTHERN STATES.

To Show the Products at Buffalo.

The Southern Section of the Union for the past few years has made extraordinary strides in the way of development. The young men of that section have come to the front and are laboring hard to build up and bring out the vast natural resources of Dixie Land. Expositions have been held at Atlanta, Ga., Augusta, Ga., New Orleans, La., Richmond, Va. and Raleigh, N. C. The latter under the direction of a combination of Southern gentlemen interested in the immigration work of the several Southern States. This year it has been decided to show in one of the large Northern cities the products of the South, and Buffalo N. Y. has been selected on account of its nearness to the Canadian line. The selection of that point enables the South not only to reach the people of the North but those in the Dominion of Canada.

The display of Southern products will be under the charge of Hon. Jno. T. Patrick, Secretary to the Executive

Board of the Southern Inter-State Immigration Bureau, and was General Manager of the Southern Exposition held in the city of Raleigh, N. C. during October and November of last year.

A combination has been made with the Management of the Buffalo Exposition, which is held Aug. 17th to 27th, to show the products of the South at the same time, the Exposition will be open to the public. This gives the visitor the opportunity of seeing two great Expositions in one.

The Buffalo Exposition will be a grand display of the products of the North and the Southern feature will embrace many things not heretofore seen by the Northern people, among which will be growing cotton.

A small patch of growing cotton will represent the way the cotton is planted, grown and gathered.

The cotton gin will be shown in full operation daily. This is something that not one person out of a thousand has ever seen.

An old fashioned Spinning wheel will be shown with an old colored woman spinning and near by will be another colored woman carding the cotton into "rolls" to be used by the spinner and in the same department will be an old Southern cotton loom on which an old colored woman will be weaving "home spun cloth."

The pine forest will be represented in the way of sections of the trunks of huge turpentine trees that have been "boxed" to secure the pine gum to be distilled into turpentine and rosin.

There will be in practical operation a turpentine still, making from the crude gum spirits of turpentine and rosin.

A tar kiln will be shown in operation. The exhibits of wild game and animals, alligators and birds from the jungles of Florida, Louisiana and Texas will be a very interesting sight.

One of the special features will be the display showing the advancement of the negro race during the first twenty-five years of freedom. This special feature will be under the direction of Dr. J. C. Price, D. D., said to be the smartest negro the race has ever produced. The Doetor is a genuine African, no mixed blood. He is president of one of the largest colored educational institutions in the South, an institution built under his own directions.

There will be forty or more plantation negroes with the Southern exhibit,

and their songs and representation of old time plantation life South will be worth going a long journey to see.

There are many other features peculiarly Southern that will be shown. The visitors to the Buffalo Exposition this year will have an opportunity of seeing one of the most novel and interesting exhibitions ever presented to the public. This arrangement has been brought about principally through the influence of the live Manager of the Buffalo Exposition, Mr. Geo. M. Robinson, of Elmira, N. Y., Mr. Robinson and a committee visited the Southern Inter-State Exposition last fall at Raleigh and placed the advantages of an Exposition of the products of the South at Buffalo before Mr. Patrick and since then Mr. Robinson has been pressing the matter until it has been finally settled that the South is to be represented at the Buffalo Exposition.

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Jun.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Hagerup's "Birds of Greenland."

5th prize—Leverkuhn's "Fremde Eier Im Nest."

For the July competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars. The value of prizes offered this month is \$15.00.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than July 20th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the April competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

Detroit, Mich., June 17.

The well known Naturalist and Taxidermist, Mr. W. H. Collins, of this city died on the 11th inst, of heart disease.

Mr. Collins will be remembered by the old readers of ornithological publications, to which he contributed a number of interesting articles from 1876 to 1884.

W. A. D.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the Oölogist. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

56	signifies	your	subscription	expired	June	1890,
62	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
68	"	"	"	"	June	1891
74	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
80	"	"	"	will	expire	June
86	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
92	"	"	"	"	June	1892

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "74"—50c. Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oölogist your indebtedness to us is 25 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books June 1, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

JULY BARGAINS

A good 12 in. Leg Drill of best Stubbs steel, two sizes, only 35 cts. each.

Naphaline Camphor Marbles.

A large box of 40 marbles. The neatest and handiest article ever made, to lay around in Specimen Trays, Cases and Cabinets. Claimed to be a sure preventative against Moths and Insects. Price *prepaid*, only 15 cts.

A 25 yard coil of No. 20 annealed wire the right size for mounting Sparrows, Bluebirds, Catbirds, &c. &c. Price *prepaid*, only 12 cts per coil.

A Tin Nail Box, containing $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of bright steel wire nails, plain and barbed in all sizes from the smallest to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. This box contains exactly the nails every Collector and Taxidermist wants to use. Price *prepaid*, 20 cts.

If ordered by Express with other goods, the Marbles and Wire would each cost you 5 cts and Nails 10 cts less.

Set of *Three Note Books in Case* each contains 72 pages, bound in flexible cloth and set comes in a nice colored cloth covered case. Will send the set *prepaid*, for only 8 cts.

For any of the above, address

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

IDENTIFICATION!

During the past few years we have cheerfully attempted to

IDENTIFY ALL SPECIMENS

our friends have sent us, and this without remuneration; but owing to the fact that we are now receiving packages by the dozen for this purpose, and that our time is more than occupied with our regular business, in the future we shall be obliged to CHARGE our friends *in addition to return postage* the following

RATES:

Single or first Specimen	-	-	10cts
For each additional Specimen	-	-	5cts

The above rates for identifying we think very reasonable. We have spent several years in handling and studying specimens of various kinds, and have on hand a very large stock with which comparison can be made. We also have leading works to use for reference. The advantage of having specimens properly identified is invaluable to collectors.

Address,

FRANK H. LATTIN ALBION, N. Y.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

2d Hand Books:—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire *at once* good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgeway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

THE ODELL TYPE WRITER.

\$20 will buy the ODELL TYPE WRITER with 78 characters, and \$15 for the SINGLE CASE ODELL, warranted to do better work than any machine made.

It combines SIMPLICITY with DURABILITY, SPEED, EASE OF OPERATION, wears longer without cost of repairs than any other machine. Has no ink ribbon to bother the operator. It is neat, substantial, nickel-plated, perfect, and adapted to all kinds of type writing. Like a printing press, it produces sharp, clean, eligible manuscripts. Two or ten copies can be made at one writing. Any intelligent person can become an operator in two days. We offer \$1,000 to any operator who can equal the work of the DOUBLE CASE ODELL.

Reliable Agents and Salesmen wanted. Special inducements to Dealers.

For Pamphlet giving Indorsements, etc., address m2t

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and emit unpleasant odors? If they do and you wish to rid yourself of the nuisance, send 25c, silver, for Tannine, a complete cure.

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400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

Duplicates can be returned.

AN UNUSUAL OFFER

W. F. GREANY,

827 BRYANAN ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
Catalogue for stamp.

Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting.

A Complete Hand-book of 362 pages for the amateur Taxidermist, Collector, Osteologist, Museum Builder, Sportsman and Traveler.

Illustrated with Twenty-four Plates and Eighty-five Text Pictures.

—BY—

WILLIAM T. HORNADAY,

[For Eight Years Chief Taxidermist of the U. S. National Museum.]

It goes without saying that this is the best work in the market for the use of the Naturalist, since the author is at the head of his profession, and he has spared no time nor trouble to make the book complete.

It not only covers all the ground as a text-book for the beginner but any Taxidermist will be repaid by a perusal of its pages, and once read, it will lie on the work bench, as a companion to the scissors and skinning knife, for it is as indispensable to one who desires to be a WORKMAN, as the frame work of the specimen itself.

PRICE, \$2.50.

Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y.

YOUR SON.--- Would you like to have him spend July with a Scientific Party, which includes several College Professors? Expenses Moderate!

For Particulars address

ALBERT L. AREY, Director,

Natural Science Camp,

229 Averill Ave.,

Rochester, N. Y.

The Best Oologist's Outfit

for the money ever offered.

One 25c. nickeled blowpipe, one 25c. nickeled and engraved embryo hook, one 20c. egg drill, all in a neat wood turned box by return mail, prepaid for

ONLY 35 CENTS.

When ordering this Outfit, if you will inclose 15cts. extra, 50c. in all, I will send you a fine, first-class set of one egg with data of the Noddy (list price 75c.) By accepting this offer you obtain 75c. worth of first-class instruments, and a very desirable 75c. egg

ALL FOR ONLY 50 CENTS.

I will send you a dozen outfits and a dozen eggs prepaid for \$5.00.

Order at once as this offer may be withdrawn next month

FRANK H LATTIN,
ALBION, N. Y.

World's Fair Relics.

Millions of fish made of STAFF will adorn the fishery buildings, aside from being a RELIC they are an ornament and show what the great buildings are to be decorated with.

STAFF.

These are choice relics and are going very rapidly we will send them carefully packed so as to insure safe delivery as follows: 50 cents each, 3 for \$1. \$8 per dozen. Special offer in wholesale lots, size 4x7x1 inches. Stamps accepted for single orders.

Address all orders.

Dr. McGill's Exhibit,
4310 Cottage Grove, Chicago, Ills.,

WEST VIRGINIA

Bird & Mammal Skins and Eggs

All specimens carefully prepared and with full data.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Price List for Stamp.

THADDEUS SURBER,

Jc6t White Sulphur Springs, W. Va

The Oologist for 1892.

The OOLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OOLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscriptions*. On January 1892, the OOLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World

For Only 50 Cents

Every subscriber received for '92, will be mailed a card composed of two Coupons one of which will entitle the person addressed to a free Exchange Notice, of 25 words in the OOLOGIST if used within one year from date. The second coupon will be accepted by the Publisher of the OOLOGIST from the person addressed, in payment for or towards anything he offers for sale, to the amount of 25 cents providing the goods ordered amount to not less than \$1.25 This coupon is just the same as 25c in cash to you if you should want to purchase anything of us to the amount of \$1.25, during the year.

Remember every subscriber received for the OOLOGIST will receive FOR ONLY 50 CENTS the following:

The OOLOGIST for '92	\$.50
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AGENTS WANTED ON SALARY or commission, to handle the new Patent Chemical Ink Erasing Pencil. The quickest and greatest selling novelty ever produced. Erases ink thoroughly in two seconds. No abrasion of paper. Works like magic. 200 to 500 per cent profit. One Agent's sales amounted to \$20 in six days. Another \$32 in two hours. Previous experience not necessary. For terms and full particulars, address, THE MONROE ERASER Mfg Co., La Crosse, Wis. x 456. Jc3t

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The following No's. of the OOLOGIST are of special value to every collector:

- Feb., '89, Maurice Thompson's "Red-headed Family."
- March, '89, "Directions for making a Bird or Mammal Skin."
- Nov., '89, Complete List of N. A. Birds with prices of eggs, also three pages of Oological instruction.
- Feb., '90, Complete List of N. A. Birds and the prices of their skins.
- Feb., '91, A complete description of the first 62 numbers of the YOUNG OOLOGIST and OOLOGIST with price per copy, also an exhaustive Index of Vol. VII

Any of the above OOLOGISTS will be sent you post paid for 5cts. or the entire five for only 15cts. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

THE OÖLOGIST.

JUST OUT!
The Standard Catalogue

—OF—

North American Birds Eggs

—COMPILED BY—

FRANK H. LATTIN,

—ASSISTED BY—

Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, J. Parker Norris, Esq., and
Capt. B. F. Goss.

It gives the Common and Scientific name of every North American Bird according to the A. O. U. Nomenclature. It also gives the A. O. U. Numbers as well as those of both Coues' and Ridgeway, and last but not least it gives the value of eggs of *nearly every* species, over one hundred of which never appeared on any printed list before.

It is not a personal catalogue of any one Dealer or Collector, as there is not a Collector in the entire World who has or could furnish all the species whose values are given, and there is not a Dealer who could furnish over, from 50 to 75 per cent of the species priced.

The Catalogue is printed on extra quality of paper and contains 53 pages, size $3\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Price 35 cents per copy. 3 copies for \$1.00.

Special Offer to the subscribers of the OÖLOGIST. We desire to place as many copies as possible *at once* as we believe that every copy sold now means the sale of dozens later. We have concluded to furnish the subscribers of the OÖLOGIST what copies they may need if they will purchase on or before July 25th, '92 at the following reduced rates.

Single Copy, 25 cts.

Five Copies, \$1.00

One Dozen or more copies at the rate of \$2.00 per doz.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TESTIMONIALS.

As the first copy was mailed on June 16th and this page was printed on the 20th we cannot tell what our patrons think of the Catalogue until next month.

The following has, however, already been received:—

"I received to-day the "Standard Catalogue" and deem it truly the *standard*."

June 17th, 1892.

H. C. LILLIE, Ann Arbor, Mich.



OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1892.

NO. 8

NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the "New Standard Catalogue."*

WANTED.—Some one to purchase a collection of first-class bird eggs which I will sell at a bargain. Address J. P. STEVENS, JR., 200 Amite St., Jackson, Mississippi.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have some first-class singles, including sea birds eggs, to exchange for sets with data. Send for list. L. W. BROKAW, Pacific Grove, California.

FIRST-CLASS EGGS in sets with data and singles to exchange for singles and Davie's Key in paper. Correspondence desired. W. E. ROBBINS, North Cahtocon, New York.

TO EXCHANGE.—Southern California eggs in first-class original sets and singles for first-class Eastern sets. H. D. WATTS, Compton, Los Angeles Co., Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs in sets with data for same or for Postage Stamps. BERYL HODGE, Sterling, Kans.

WHAT I offered for fine sets of Whippoorwill and Night-hawk eggs, with complete data? All letters answered. JOS. S. WALKER, Evelyn, Glyn Co. Ga.

WANTED.—B or C Kodak Camera, will give in exchange 1st. class eggs in sets. J. P. FEAGLER, Waterloo, Ind.

I WILL exchange specimens of any kind for back numbers of natural history papers. ROY HATHWAY, New Castle, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—For Davie's Key, new, cloth bound, 1 set of Night hawk 2 eggs, 1 of Tufted Tit legs, and 1 Albino Blue-bird egg, all first-class with data. C. F. DUNN, Scroggsfield, Ohio.

FINE first-class sets with full data of Great Horned Owl Red tailed Hawk and others, to exchange for sets of other localities or for Indian relics. Send lists. CHAS. R. KEYES, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."*

WANTED. A good detective camera. Will give in exchange finely mounted birds. Wm. BROWN, Hebron, McHenry Co. Ill.

I HAVE a number of rare stamps and single eggs to exchange for sets with data. W. H. SINTON, 226 Spears Wharf, Balto., Md.

TO EXCHANGE.—A pair of tame Horned Owls full grown young birds, for best offer of sets or single eggs not in my collection. E. B. SCHRAGE, Pontiac, Mich.

FOR SALE.—A new pair of Lattin's Climbing Irons, strapped ready for use, for only \$1.75. Address CARL C. AMBROSE, 125 Clark St. Evanston, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Eggs in Sets and Singles with complete and original data to exchange for same. W. A. OLDFIELD, Port Sanilac, Mich.

IN EXCHANGE for Birds' Eggs, I prepare badly incubated eggs and return them in first-class condition. Pack eggs carefully. R. LJEY, Cobourg, Ont., Canada.

COLLECTING GUN WANTED.—Send full description, original price, your present price, etc. All letters answered. GEO. H. GRAY, 1326 N. Mount St., Balto., Md.

WILL exchange eggs with Northern amateurs, sets preferred. One egg of Mongolian Pheasant to exchange for good set of eggs. EDWARD OSBORNE, 81 Fulton St. Auburn, N. Y.

I HAVE a good supply of European Coleoptera on hand, mounted and unmounted, all correctly named, which I will exchange for domestic Spec. of Coleopt., Spec. from the South and Northwest particularly desired, no matter whether named or not. Prefer them unmounted if possible. Address P. J. WEITH, Elkhart, Ind.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—Offers in Birds' Eggs for "Wanted fine silver." hunting case watch. Send \$1 in eggs and see it yourself. R. LEY, Cobourg, Ont., Canada.

WANTED.—First-class telescope, \$8 or more. Offered, arrowpoints, single eggs, trees, shrubs, flowers and insects from this locality. Write, C. E. PLEAS, Clinton, Ark.

A collection of named, mounted Beetles, 85 pairs, 50 kinds, including 5 pairs *Dynastes tityus* worth \$10 or more, to exchange for best offer of first-class eggs, sets with data. Address THOMAS ALLEN SMITHWICK, Walke, Bertie Co., North Carolina.

WANTED.—First-class birds' skins in exchange for full sets, with data, of N. A. Birds' eggs. Only 1st class specimens given and taken. All mail answered. D. FRANK KELLER, Naturalist, Reading, Pa..

RECEIPT for petrifying wood, etc. 30c., receipt for embalming birds, 30c., both 50c., in eggs. WILL SPEED, 308 Monmouth, St. Galesburg, Ill.

100 HANDSOME DATA BLANKS, printed in red or black, with cut of nest and eggs in corner, and your name and address under "Oölogical Collection," for every full set of eggs sent me worth 75c. or over. F. W. McCORMACK, Leighton, Ala.

I HAVE an International Stamp album and 287 stamps, full value \$8.50, will exchange for \$5 worth of minerals or Indian Relics. A Tennis Racket worth \$2.50 for \$1.50 Minerals or Relics. L. W. DELANO, Austin, Ills.

THESE SKINS. Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole (?), Spotted Sandpiper 1st class and Whip-poor-will fair, for 1st class Turnstone, Black Skimmer, or Logcock. J. C. GALLOWAY, Montgomery, Ohio.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. 337 1-3, and 474b 1-3 also a few singles, for any of the following, 325 1-2, 417 1-1, 430 1-1, 221 1-5, 1 1-3, 2 1-3, 12 1-3, 77 1-4, 1011-2, 373 1-3, 552 1-4, 552a 1-3, 687 1-3, 721b 1-5, 725 1-8. J. E. HOUSEMAN, Aymer, Ont., Canada.

EXCHANGE.—First-class sets with data of this and other localities to exchange for same. Also a lot of showy singles to exchange for sets. Send lists. JESSE W. MILLER, 1104 Dallas Ave., Houston Texas.

I WILL give the "Great Divide's" Gem-stone cabinet of 20 Gemstones for original set of Cooper's Hawk Eggs, with Data. JAMES ODELL, Jr., Austin, Tex.

FOR SALE.—young Bald Eagle, in good health. Will sell for CASH. CLARENCE MILLER, Frankfort, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets with data for the same common, Southern or Western eggs preferred. A. H. WALLACE, 235 Claremont Ave., Montclair, N. J.

TO EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. first class sets with full data 445 $\frac{1}{4}$, 477a $\frac{3}{8}$, 1-5, 593 $\frac{1}{2}$, 632 $\frac{1}{4}$, 703 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1-5, 705 $\frac{1}{4}$, 718 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1-5, 729 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1-5 for others. CHAS. WISE, York Station, Alabama.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED to Exchange—a fine collection of Birds Eggs for a Bicycle, Eagle ordinary or Victor Safety preferred. Send stamp for particulars. FRED JONES, P. O. Box, No. 54, Martin's Ferry, O.

WANTED, a Winchester or Marlin repeating rifle, 32 calibre, or larger. Smith & Wesson revolver. Will give good exchange in Birds Eggs, Books, 20 Guage Collecting gun, and outfit, Brass Telescope, Watch, 22 calibre Pistol. C. BYRON VANDERCOOK, Odin, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE—I have 150 Birds Eggs, 100 different kinds. Exchange for Watch or single breech-loading Shot Gun, 12 guage, with all improvements. J. H. GRAHAM, West Buxton, Maine.

FOR SALE—35 sets with data, 175 eggs, books, instruments, papers, and supplies, must be sold immediately without regard to price. Back numbers of "Youth's Companion," Indian relics, etc. to exchange for any offers. B. H. BLANTON, Frankfort, Ky.

WANTED—Cash offers for an A 1 collection of 86 varieties complete sets, listed at \$17.00. Also a lot of duplicate sets and singles, 150 trays, drills, and complete vols. of "Oölogist" and "Ornithologist and Oölogist," climbers, etc. H. M. HALL, 399 1st St., Riverside, Cal.

FIRST-CLASS eggs in sets with data, and singles to exchange for singles and Davie's Key in paper. Correspondence desired. W. E. ROBBINS, North Cabocton, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE—First-class skins with full data to exchange for same. Also climbers, telescopes, and books on Ornithology, for skins. WM. T. SMITH, 1145 Broad Street, Phila.

AGENTS WANTED ON SALARY or commission, to handle the new Patent Chemical Ink Erasing Pencil. The quickest and greatest selling novelty ever produced. Erases ink thoroughly in two seconds. No abrasion of paper. Works like magic. 200 to 500 per cent profit. One Agent's sales amounted to \$20 in six days. Another \$32 in two hours. Previous experience not necessary. For terms and full particulars, address, THE MONROE ERASER Mfg Co., La Crosse, Wis. x 456. Je3t

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

What \$1 will bring when sent to
\$ C. L. FREEMAN, Chadron, Neb. \$
 1 Photograph of "Wounded Knee" Battlefield.
 1 " " " Burial of the Dead after Battle.
 1 " " " Beef Issue at Pine Ridge.
 1 " " " Chief Red Cloud or Bloody Hand
 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and
 1 Photograph of Red Cloud's House.
 1 " " " Chief Sitting Bull.
 1 " " " Three Hostile Chiefs.
 1 Pair of genuine Sioux moccasins.
 Catalogue of Indian Relics and Photographs
 sent for 2 cent stamp. C. L. FREEMAN. Je6t

"82" is the publication number of this Oölogist, and it was mailed to subscribers on Aug.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1892.

NO. 8

Collecting on Cobb's Island, Va.

Extending along the Atlantic side of the Eastern shore of Virginia is a series of flat grassy islands, many of which are so low as to be covered with water at high tide. Some are there however which rear their backs high enough above the waves to be safe from an over-flow. Such a one as this is Cobb's Island, a large low sand spit which at flood tide is only a few feet above water. It is seven miles in length, while in width it is scarcely over an eighth of a mile, except at the south end where it widens out considerably and gives ample room for the buildings of a United States Life Saving Station, a hotel and several residences owned by parties who make them their summer homes. The ocean breaks continuously for the entire length on the eastern side of the island. Stretching along the western shore for perhaps half its length a salt marsh with its cackling Rails and low hovering Gulls makes the collector impatient to know what it contains. After going about three-fourths of the way up the island from the hotel one comes to a stretch of bare sand the width of the island and a mile or more in length. Scarcely a blade of grass is to be found on this blistering beach, yet this is a rookery and the breeding place of nearly all the birds on the island. Skimmers, Terns, Plovers and Oystercatchers all find a genial nest for their eggs in the warm sand: In the tall grass along the western side of the island Willets find a safe retreat for their nests.

While on an a collecting trip this last summer I stopped for several days on Cobb's Island, arriving there on July 15th: There is no doubt but that this was at one time a great nesting place

for sea birds. Prof. Ridgeway tells us of finding, years ago, a colony of thousands of Royal Terns breeding in close proximity on this island. But the colony was soon afterwards driven away and they have never been known to frequent the place since. During the entire time of my stay upon the island I did not see a single individual and Captain Crumb of the United States Life Saving Station who is an excellent Ornithologist,—and to whom I am indebted for much valuable information— informs me that he considers it a rather rare resident upon the island. Not so with the Common and Forster's Tern, they are still to be met with in considerable numbers. The former placing its eggs in a slight hollow in the sand along the beach above high-water mark; the latter building its nest of flags and reeds in convenient places in the marsh. But alas, for the Least Tern! That beautiful fairy of snowy whiteness! Once it bred in vast numbers upon the beaches of Cobb's and adjacent islands. Scores of them were sacrificed for science, hundreds were killed for practice by the so-called sportsman during his summer outing and *thousands* were pitilessly slain and sent to New York to help gratify "Fashion's" cry for bird feathers. I was told by a gentleman that not many years ago he took in one day from a single rookery three hundred birds. Think of it, and now it is one of the rarest birds on the island. Upon one occasion only did I see the *S. antillarum*. It perceived me apparently at the same time and with a startled cry was off like a bullet upon the wings of the wind. As I watched it dwindle into a mere speck out over the billows I coveted it yet could not blame the little fellow for fleeing from one of those monsters who had so sorely per-

scented its tribe. Upon the morning of my second day's stay on Cobb's Island I took my collecting basket and after going about five miles up the beach came to where Black Skimmers and Terns were nesting in large numbers. Of course these birds do not sit on their eggs in the day time unless it be cloudy weather but trust to the heat of the sun to incubate them. Thus the only way to find the eggs was by looking close in the sand. Upon my near approach a large number of Skimmers which were sitting together on the sand rose with a loud clamor and pausing until within a few yards of my head they divided and passed to right and left. Turning they circled around flying wildly in all directions. The uproar soon brought others and in five minutes there were hundreds of Skimmers flying about in a confused throng, while high over all Terns by the hundred circled and whirled, at the same time giving utterance to their nervous and uneasy cry of wrath.

Of perhaps one hundred nests examined on this day three eggs were the most found in any one nest and not many were there which contained that number. In fact during all my stay I found it extremely difficult to obtain complete sets, so closely do the fishermen keep them picked off. The same day while returning I flushed several Willets from the tall grass on one side of the island and found the nests to contain nice sets of eggs. Three sets of three and two of four, were found, all of which were fresh laid eggs with the exception for one nest which contained pipped eggs.

Wishing to visit some of the Laughing Gull's nests in the marsh I procured a pair of hip-boots and after a few hours tramping and wading secured what few sets I wanted. The nests were large and bulky affairs of rushes and reeds built up on a large bunch of rushes or drift-grass. Three were the

greatest number of eggs found in any one nest and nearly all contained this number. The nests were not all bunched together in one place but were scattered here and there over the entire marsh. Clapper Rails constantly called to one another from their hidden retreats among the tall grass and several of their nests were observed. Many of the eggs had hatched. Of the few nests which were found to contain eggs only one set was found which was not too far advanced in incubation to allow blowing. The number in a nest varied from seven to twelve. Several nests were found on the higher ground of the island above high-water mark.

The Wilson's Plover is the most common shore bird on the island at this season of the year although flocks of last year's young of Semipalmated and Spotted Sandpipers were seen. A few Black-bellied Plovers were secured, none of these had as yet assumed their black under plumage. These birds remain along the coast all summer, as they do not go north until ready to breed which is not until their second year. Several pairs of dignified Oystercatchers paroled the beach, but they were so extremely shy that it was only by exercising considerable caution that I secured a single pair. Their nests were very difficult to find, four eggs being the total number secured while on the island. Other birds that I observed during my stay were as follows: several Ospreys, Gt. Blue Herons and Gull-billed Terns, quite a number of Boat-tailed Grackles (which nest on a neighboring island), Green Herons and numbers of Barn Swallows, the latter nesting on the underside of the wharf near the hotel. Also Nighthawks and Sea-side Finches and one Long-billed Curlew was seen but was unable to procure it. While going down the beach one morning I spied sitting on the sand close to the surf an American Scoter. Cautiously creeping up behind a pile of

shells I discharged a load of No. 2's at it. It rose but after flying perhaps fifty feet, fell, and I standing there alone by the moaning sea watched my prize as it rose and fell on the billows, —drifting out to sea.

T. GILBERT PEARSON,
(Museum),
Guilford College, N. C.

The Ashy Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*)
on the Farallones.

Having seen and read very little in the OÖLOGIST concerning the habits and breeding of that rare and beautiful bird, the Ashy Petrel, I venture my observations.

The morning of July 5th found my cousin, F. N. Kirschbaum and myself expectantly awaiting the departure of the tug-boat *Active* at the wharf in San Francisco. We gazed with admiration on the restless little boat as it rose and fell with the tide; and as the sun sent his first golden rays glittering over the waters, from behind the Eastern hills, we boarded the tug and were soon ploughing our way through the peaceful waters of the Bay of San Francisco toward the Golden Gate, on a trip to the Farallone Islands. Never shall I forget the beauty of that scene—the smoking of the ferry-boats as they prepared for another day's labor; the rapid skimming of some light fishing boat across our wake, and above all the beautiful quiet of the early morning hours.

But, as is the case of most amateur seamen beauties soon depreciated in value, as the form of the grim monster Seasickness came into view. The remainder of our voyage may have been lined with the most charming and picturesque scenery for aught we knew, but of it we saw nothing. Eventually we arrived at the Farallones, and I for one could imagine the feelings of poor Robinson Crusoe, as I stepped seasick, and dizzy, upon the barren rocks. This

feeling however, soon vanished and left me fitted to enjoy the beauties of the Islands.

We remained six days on the Farallones, during which time we collected many sets of eggs of the more common varieties, but it is of the Ashy Petrel that I wish to speak in detail. This is by no means a common resident, although I am convinced that these Islands are the breeding place of a liberal number. During my stay on the Islands I examined 18 nests, of the Ashy Petrel, 6 containing eggs; 7 containing young; and the remaining 3 containing only the broken shells, the young birds having left the nests.

My first observations were from a nest at the extreme end of a cave, damp and moss-grown, shown me by the genial Lighthouse Engineer, Mr. Winthar. The egg was lying on the damp ground with absolutely nothing for a nest. It was discolored by the moss on which it lay, and in some manner had become badly cracked. It was advanced in incubation and could not be blown.

Directly above the entrance to this cave, in the crevice of a large rock we noticed a forked tail protruding. Hastily ascending and reaching into the crevice, we pulled out a Petrel. Much to our disappointment and disgust, the hole proved to contain a promising young bird. It was from the old bird that I received a good deal of instruction in regard to collecting the eggs of this species. Let me say in the beginning that if you are not possessed of a moderately sensitive nasal apparatus, you can invest your time more profitably in collecting the other varieties of eggs, for "smelling" the Ashy Petrel is the only way you can find its nest.

Imagine a collector arrayed in a pair of overalls, crawling along some rough and ancient stone-wall on the Farallones, and inserting his nose at frequent intervals between the rocks,

and you have an idea of the successful Petrel hunter. After catching the bird on the nest near the cave, I took a few good whiffs of its feathers and this made me familiar with its scent. The Ashy Petrel has a musky smell, or as some term it— "strong."

On the following day I set out to spend an hour or two in hunting for these eggs, I repaired to a rocky cliff on the "West End" and selected a place where there were many loose slabs of rock. On smelling of a crevice in the cliff I immediately recognized the scent of the previous day and now I had a Petrel. By removing a number of the rocks I found the bird. She was unceremoniously removed but as the nest contained a young bird I replaced the mother. In color the adult bird was black, verging into a dark ash on the breast. The tail was forked $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. The bird measured $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length and $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width, the wings of the Ashy Petrel being very long. The beak was a dull black and slightly hooked at the end, while at the base was a sort of tube which is used to spread oil over the bird's feathers. The feet were webbed.

I resumed my search and found two more nests in the same part of the cliff; one above and the other a little below my first. Both contained eggs but one was accidentally broken in removing it from the hole. Packing the other, I went to a stone wall about three feet high where I scented another bird. The nest was found among the stones on the ground and contained one egg which is invariably the full complement. In no case did I find any trace of a nest, save the bare rock. The remainder of my nests were situated quite close to the residents of the Island, and in most cases under piles of rocks and bowlders which have, year after year, accumulated.

Out of the eight eggs found, two were broken by accident, while the remaining six I now have. Of these two

are cracked and incubated so as to be unblowable. The six eggs measure as follows: 1.12x.92; 1.13x.88; 1.12x.87; 1.18x.87; 1.25x.94; and 1.25x.88. This gives an average of 1.17x.89. In color, the egg of the Ashy Petrel is a creamy white when fresh, with usually a wreath of faint brown spots around the large end. Out of my six specimens two are very distinctly marked while the others are very faint.

The remainder of the nests examined were situated much the same as those I have described. In no case can any special place be given as preferable for Petrels, for they seem to breed almost anywhere among the rocks. But I have never yet found them in holes or burrows, they seeming to prefer crevices and rents in the rock. In the cases of some of the nests the birds must have zigzagged in among the sharp edges of stone until it found some flat ledge secure from molestation, where the single egg was laid, but it matters very little where the bird may be, if you are acquainted with its scent.

The Ashy Petrel is strictly a nocturnal bird, which, like Cassin's Auklet, renders it much more difficult of discovery. But the novelty and what might be termed excitement, of collecting these eggs will ever make memorable my trip to the Farallones.

C. BARLOW,
Santa Clara, Cal.

After the Yellow-billed Magpie.

This bird is found nowhere in the world except California, where it nests in colonies throughout the state.

Unlike the European Magpie, which is said to nest in gardens, etc., ours resort to secluded places among the hills, where if unmolested they will propagate rapidly, occupying the same nest year after year and their colonies often extend for several miles.

On the 8th of April last, I determined to find a rookery and decided to explore

a portion of the mountains near here.

About fifteen miles to the eastward lay the hills and further on, the blue Santa Cruz range running from east to west in several chains, forming numerous valleys and canons my destination lay in one of these.

I had a pleasant ride, the road extending first through fields of green and oak groves, then among the hills covered with wild flowers and lastly through grey canons at the bottom of which ran noisy mountain streams.

As dusk approached I came to a rustic little cabin where I decided to pass the night. It was situated far in among the hills, without a habitation within many miles. A creek ran near the house where I caught a mess of mountain trout which added greatly to my supper.

Next morning I set out over the hills on foot, just as the sun was rising, and had walked about a mile when I saw a Magpie and soon after found a nest, from which I saw several others, and so was sure that I had found the desired colony. The nest was placed in the top of a white-oak, about thirty feet from the ground. When about half-way to the nest the Magpie flew off. I was excited and somewhat aggravated when I reached the nest, as I could not find the entrance from which the bird had just flown, but when I did find it, seven eggs resting upon a bed of horse hair and pine needles, met my gaze. The nest was over two feet high, and eighteen inches wide.

I found many more nests during the morning. They are a model of workmanship and cunning architecture. The outside appears like a mere mass of sticks about a foot long and as large as a lead pencil, but the nest proper is only about five inches wide and four deep inside, and is nicely lined with pine needles, and horse hair if accessible. Just outside of this is a layer of mud and then the sticks, which cover it en-

tirely, excepting an entrance for the parent bird. Altogether it is a very comfortable domicile for the young birds; a cool place in warm weather and a nearly dry place on a rainy day.

More than this, it shields them from the attack of hawks and animals.

They are exceedingly cunning as a story shows. A pair of Magpies in England built their nest regularly in a small bush in a farm yard. As there were no trees in the neighborhood, the birds were obliged to seek this spot, and to guard against all intruders they scattered thorns around the bush which would have battled the slyest fox.

The nests are often built in mistletoe which makes them difficult to observe, and if they should be seen would be taken for old affairs.

When climbing the tree the Magpie very quietly leaves the nest, but when taking the eggs both parents will often fly around close to you, uttering their harsh note. The denominating colors are black and white.

The birds are about sixteen inches long but their tail occupies one-half of this length. It is wedge-shaped, the two middle feathers being longest, and black in color.

The wings are short and rounded, black above and white on the edges below. Head, neck, breast, and back, black with a few small greyish streaks on throat. Below breast and shoulders white. The wings and tail especially, display several iridescent colors.

The distinguishing features between the California species and the common Magpie, are in one the yellow bill and a bare yellow space about the eye.

In the American species the bill is black.

They have a dipping flight similar to a Jay.

I found the average set of eggs to be six or seven, although less and occasionally eight or nine are laid. The ground color is a very light drab, thick-

ly spotted over the entire surface but settling heavier at the larger end with cloudings of a greenish brown interspread by indistinct lilac markings.

While walking across a wooded patch after lunch, my attention was attracted by a pair of Slender-billed Nuthatches walking up and down the limbs of an oak tree, when presently to my delight one of them entered a knot-hole about fifteen feet from the ground in an adjoining tree. It did not fly out until I reached the entrance, which was no larger than a dollar. I managed to enlarge the opening and found seven fresh eggs.

The bird resembles the White-breasted Nuthatch, being the western representative, as do the eggs also. They are white, speckled with red and purplish markings, principally at the larger end.

The nest was about one foot from the entrance, being horizontally in from the end of a broken limb, and was composed of loosely laid feathers and a wooly substance.

At length while walking slowly toward the cabin I crossed a gulch through which ran a little mountain torrent composed of waterfalls and rapids that sped down the rocky canon like mad, splashing spray on the ferns that grew beside its banks, making everything fresh and green surrounding it.

I sat down in the shady dell admiring the gigantic red-woods that towered above me 300 feet, when I was suddenly startled by hearing a whirr of wings, and just had time to catch a glimpse of a dark colored bird as it disappeared around a bend in the stream.

I walked up the creek a short distance little suspecting what was in store for me, till I came to a little grotto formed of rocks, at the end of which a streamlet entered by a fall, and flowing about a rod, entered the main stream. I never can forget that exquisite sight, the spray from the water-fall filled the place with a rare crystalline freshness added to by the setting sun shining on the diamond-

like sprays, spreading a rich golden lustre over the scene.

But the sight to interest a collector most, was the beautiful moss-covered nest perched in a little nook near the falls, bespangled with spray which kept it fresh and green.

This accounted for the frightened bird I saw a moment ago flying down the stream, and upon examining the nest I found in the nice dry center of it—four young Water Ouzels.

FRED A. SCHNEIDER,
College Park, Cala.

An Oological Trip in Central Illinois.

Having planned to make a trip to the woodlands on the opposite bank from this city, my Oological friend and I departed bright and early one beautiful Wednesday morning in May for the field of our labor. Among the articles we took along were a set of instruments, a note book, some data blanks, a ball of strong cord, some tin boxes fastened to belts and filled with cotton, a pair of climbers, and last, but not least, a basket full of lunch. As the Lamarsh levee had broken, the lowlands were flooded with from 6 to 15 feet of water, so we were obliged to arrive at the bluffs before commencing operations. The *Antrosmus vociferus* (Whip-poor-will) were very plentiful, being driven out of the lowlands by the high water, and we could hardly walk two or three rods without scaring one up from the ground. We found no eggs, however, as it was a little early yet. While thumping dried and rotten trees and stumps, and peering into the thick undergrowth I suddenly spied a nest of the Cardinal Grosbeak. The female was on the nest and was a close sitter. It was situated among grape vines along a limb of a fallen tree, and was composed of bark, pine grasses, rootlets, etc., and contained three eggs of a bluish-white tint,

with fine brown or reddish-brown spots all over the shell. Having secured these, and written the particulars in our note book, we once more resumed our way.

We found three nests of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, two of which were unfinished, the other containing three eggs. These specimens were of a greenish-blue tint more or less spotted over the entire surface with reddish-brown. This nest was situated on a horizontal limb of a dogwood tree, about eleven feet from the ground and was composed mostly of fine grass, etc., and was very shallow.

We now seated ourselves beneath the branches of a large oak to do justice to our lunch basket. When this important ceremony was almost finished, my friend noticed a large, graceful bird hovering over a tree some distance away. I at once recognized it to be an American Goshawk, *Accipiter Atricapillus*, a kind often seen in these parts, but so far as known, seldom breeding here. We hastened in the direction of this great find, and soon discovered a large bulky nest at the top of a tall white oak tree. It was composed of sticks, weeds, grass, roots etc., and lined with softer material. My friend adjusted the climbing irons, and proceeded to ascend the tree. The large bird gave a loud scream and flew to a neighboring tree as my friend slid his hand into the nest and announced "three eggs." After securing them safely in a tin box he carried for the purpose, he descended, and we were soon examining the treasured booty. The eggs were of a bluish-white, or very light blue tint, rough and unmarked, and slightly incubated, measuring 2.23x1.82, 2.28x1.75 and 2.24x1.74 respectively.

Upon returning we procured the following sets: two sets of four, Brown Thrasher; one set of four, Catbird; and another set of four, Rose-breasted

Grosbeak; and "spotted" several unfinished nests for our next trip.

We returned home tired and hungry, but well satisfied with our day's sport.

Two weeks later I took two sets of two, Whip-poor-will; one of three, Least Bittern and a set of nine Gallinule eggs near the same place.

F. E. LUX,
Pekin, Ill.

Western New York Naturalists' Association.

The first stated meeting of the W. N. Y. N. A. will be held at Brockport, N. Y. on Thursday, Oct. 6, 1892. Business meeting at 2:30 P. M. Public meeting in the evening commencing at 8 P. M. All active members should be at business meeting as there is much to be done. Will publish name of building in Sept. No. of OÖLOGIST. All wishing to make exhibits please correspond with the Secretary, Truman R. Taylor, 90, William St. Rochester, or Neil F. Posson, Medina, Orleans Co., N. Y. All articles should be sent to the Secretary.

E. H. SHORT, Pres.
T. R. TAYLOR, Sec.

"Our Birds in Their Haunts."

My Dear Friend Lattin:

Be so kind as to notice in the OÖLOGIST, that my book—"Our Birds in Their Haunts," new edition will soon be out; and that I have been greatly worried with delays on the part of the printer. In addition to other perplexities, many of the plates, which are very fine electrotypes, adhered to the card-board in which they were packed, thus causing great difficulty in cleaning them for the press, and great loss of time. My subscribers have been very patient, for which I most cordially thank them.

Yours very truly,
J. L. LANGILLE,
Kensington, Md.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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

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

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

JUNE CONTEST.

Fifty-two Judges.

Prize Winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. A Day's Collecting in California. 212.
1. Some of Our Visitors and Neighbors. 158.
3. The Purple Finch. 140.

4. Two Rare Nests. 113.
 5. The Chestnut-sided Warbler. 63.
 6. The Turkey Vulture. 54.
- (As "The Turkey Vulture" received credits exceeding the number of judges we award it a sixth prize.)

Four other articles received from 4 to 17 credits each.

Sixteen of the judges named the first five prize winning articles, only two, however naming their exact order.

The lucky judges and the order in which they made their decisions were as follows:

1. No. 37.—W. A. Achilles, Austin, Tex. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
2. No. 44.—A. R. Hutchinson, Gaines, N. Y. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
3. No. 25.—Herbert Sterzing, Austin, Tex. 1, 2, 3, 5, 4.
4. No. 50.—W. S. Cruzan, Sulphur Springs, Tex. 1, 2, 3, 5, 4.
5. No. 21. Dana C. Gillette, Barre Centre, N. Y. 1, 2, 4, 3, 5.

All prizes were mailed on Aug. 2d.

Iowa Notes.

I send you a few Iowa notes which may be of interest to some of your readers. First a friend collected a single egg of the King Rail near here along the edge of a shallow lake near the river. The egg corresponds exactly to an egg of this bird which I have in my collection. Also last spring, '91, I shot one of these birds near the same place. Is not this a rather rare occurrence? I have found four nests of the Acadian Flycatcher near here, three of which contained eggs two sets of two and one of three. Two of these sets were well advanced in incubation and the other fresh. Two of the nests are very unique specimens. I think, being almost entirely made of dried blossoms of the common scrub oak and suspended between the forks of a limb of a small tree, somewhat after the manner of the Vireos, but being much shallow-

er and presenting a very ragged appearance underneath. The other two were made of grass and are very frail structures.

I find the Wood Pewee to be very common here having found eight nests within a radius of less than half a mile. They prefer the elm and scrub oak and the nests are very often built on dead limbs.

A small boy found a nest of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird containing two eggs. I found two nests which I identified as those of the Traill's Flycatcher. Among other nests found are those of the Redstart five nests, Yellow-throated Vireo one nest, two nests of Bell's Vireo and several of the Red-eyed and White-eyed species. The Yellow Warbler is very abundant here, I could have taken fifty sets had I wished.

Last but not least I took one egg of the Red-tailed Hawk this spring which was absolutely unspotted. It is also a trifle larger than any others I have seen. The identification is correct, I think, as I saw both of the birds.

T. E. S.,
Council Bluffs, Ia.

The Chickadee, in Rutland Co., Vt.

As I have never seen very much concerning the habits of this bird in the columns of the OÖLOGIST; I thought a few lines on my part would not go amiss.

My first acquaintance with the nesting habits of this bird began, in the spring of this year, during which time I have found three nests each containing eggs.

On the 2nd of May, 1892, when on a trip after a nest of Cooper's Hawk I discovered a newly excavated hole in a beech stub about 1½ feet up, and at once recognized it to be an uncompleted nest of *Parus atricapillus*. I kept close watch of the birds as they brought material for the construction of the nest, which consisted of leaves, moss

and grass with a lining of fur from small quadrupeds and hair. On May 10th there were seven eggs in the nest of a white color spotted all over, but chiefly at the larger end, with spots of reddish-brown; which measured respectively .62x.49, .61x.48, .60x.49, .59x.48, .59x.47, .59x.47 and .58x.47 inches.

My second nest was discovered on May 11th while on a collecting trip with my fellow collector, but not being completed was marked down for the next trip. On May 20th I returned to the nest and secured a fine set of six eggs, the average size being .59x.48 inches.

My third, and last, nest was built in the same stub from which I obtained my first set, and probably by the same birds, as it was very late being found on June 27th. It contained five eggs, incubation apparently advanced, but as I did not take them I cannot say.

The birds are very close setters, and no amount of pounding will bring them off, but the minute you stop and stand back a little way they will flit off.

The birds remain here all winter and traverse the woodlands from tree to tree seeking their insect food; and any time that you go out into the woods, when there is snow on the ground, you will be accosted by the sharp "*Chick-dee-dee-dee*," and on looking up you will see *Parus atricapillus* eyeing you sharply.

WAIT C. JOHNSON
Center Rutland, Vt.

The Long-eared Owl.

In the October '89 number of the OÖLOGIST was an article describing my experience with this Owl for that year and the sets taken. In '89 I took 5 sets, one of 8, 3 of 7 and one of 5.

This season I have taken 5 sets, one of 4 and four of 5.

My first set was of four eggs, but I know that the bird had at one time five

eggs in the nest, so the set is not full.

It was a deserted Crow's nest and as usual the Owl took it just as she found it, making no additions at all.

The eggs were taken from the nest on the 10th of April and incubation was advanced in some of them fully two-thirds.

The second set was taken on April 30th and was of five eggs, incubation from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$. The eggs were deposited in a Crow's nest from which I had taken the eggs of the Crow in early April, and for this reason was a much better nest than the Owl usually occupies. These eggs measure 1.71x1.31, 1.73x1.38, 1.67x1.30, 1.67x1.38, 1.69x1.33. Average 1.69x1.34.

On the same day I took another set of five from a new Crow's nest about 150 yards from the tree where I took the other set. This nest had been built over a month before by the Crows and had been robbed and the Crows shot. Incubation, as usual, was advanced for the reason that the Owl, like all birds of prey that I have had an opportunity to watch, only lays one egg in two days and sometimes not so often, so that it requires at least ten days for a set of five to be deposited, and I was not able to visit the nests as often as I desired, so they were left in the nest several days after the bird finished laying. Average of this set 1.66x1.27.

My fourth set was taken on the 28th of May and was of five eggs, incubation to about two weeks. The eggs were deposited in a Crow's nest that for some reason had not been completed by the Crows and was a very flimsey affair to say the least and the tree was so slender I could with great difficulty reach the nest.

The fifth set was taken from a "combination" nest, first used by the Crows last year, but was almost gone this spring so I took a '91" Cooper's Hawk nest from a tree near by and patched it up and the same pair of Hawks, they

remain in the grove all the year, used it and when I had robbed them the Owls took possession. The set was of five eggs and was taken June 25th, incubation advanced.

This set measures 1.68x1.28, 1.72x1.28, 1.71x1.25, 1.75x1.31, 1.66x1.25, average 1.70x1.27, fully as large as the average of the previous sets, and this was probably the third set from the same pair of birds.

I am not sure about there being over one male in the grove as a male was shot early in the season and I never saw but three birds after that.

This season the birds made a most distressing moan when the nest was disturbed something they had never done before.

All these nests were in pine trees, about 15 to 20 feet from the ground, in a thick grove used as a wind break to my father's house and were not at any great distance from it.

A great many Blackbirds nest in the grove and even on trees beside those containing the Owl's nest.

This Owl will use almost anything for a nest. In '89 I put an old Crow's nest in the lower branches of a pine tree and in '90 got a set of eggs from it, and some of the nests I have seen would hardly hold the eggs.

I do not, in the face of contrary statements by several writers in the OÖLOGIST, like to say the Owl does not make its own nest, but I know in over twenty-five nests, I have seen, the Owl had not added *anything* to any of them and pairs or even a small flock will occupy a grove all the year and not nest unless some old Crow's nest is to be found.

In nearly every case until this year I have been able to watch the nest from the time the Owl took possession, usually some time before she lays, until the last egg has been deposited, so I think I am able to be very positive about this.

If my business did not call for great

skill with a blow-pipe, I can blow a steady stream of air for at least ten minutes, and small tools, and my outfit was not of the best, I would have given many of these eggs up in disgust but as it is I got all out with small holes.

Before this year I had thought seven eggs was an average set and why the birds only laid five this year I do not know unless the heavy rain was the cause, though why this should effect them I do not see.

A. C. MURCHISON, D. D. S.
Kewanee, Ills.

World's Fair Notes.

Butterflies to the number of 150,000 will be shown in the Pennsylvania exhibit at the World's Fair. The collection is said to be the most complete and finest in the world.

The World's Fair commission of New South Wales has decided to send to Chicago for exhibition in the Horticultural department of the Exposition the following typical representatives of Australian vegetation and flora: tree ferns, staghorn ferns, birds-nest ferns, todea ferns, macrozaminas of two distinct kinds, gigantic lilies, rock lilies and grass trees.

To The World's Fair.

Join the club that is being organized to attend the World's Fair at Chicago. You can pay for your ticket in weekly or monthly payments; the ticket covers railway fares, board, room and Excursion tickets. The United World's Exposition Company is the strongest in United States, apply to local agent or write the United World's Fair Excursion Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange Building, Boston, Mass

CARR'S NATURAL HISTORY STORE.

Sea Shells, Corals, Minerals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oölogists. Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquariums.

40 page Illustrated Catalogue for 2c stamp.

C. F. CARR

Madison, Wis.

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Aag.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. I ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Sept. competition we will give a similar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similiar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Sept. 10th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this month's competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

MY WANTS FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS.

I CAN USE at full rates in *not less* than \$1 or over \$10 lots, as per conditions named below, the following species: Western Grebe, Loon, Black Guillemot, Gull-billed Tern, Least Tern, Black Tern, Leaches' Petrel, Fla. Cormorant, Anhinga, King Bird, Field Sparrows, Clapper Rail, Prairie Hen, Black and Turkey Vultures, Whooping and Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagle, Purple Finch, Lark Sparrow, Ovenbird, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Mourning Dove, Dickcissel, Red-head Duck, Razor-billed Auk, Snowy and Black-crowned Night Herons, Laughing Gull, Black Skimmer, Pied-billed Grebe, Gray Sea Eagle, Bobolink, and Mockingbird. Other specimens will be accepted at one-half rates. The prices given in the NEW STANDARD CATALOGUE *must* be used as a basis. All eggs must be *strictly first-class in every particular*, and if not in such condition I will take out eggs to the amount of *five times* the actual cost of return postage to pay for same and trouble, and will return the balance to you.

In return for above, I will give Back Numbers at single copy price, and advertising space in the OöLOGIST at regular rates; one year's subscription to the OöLOGIST, including coupons at \$1.00; Good White Metal Nickel Blower, 35c. Long-handled Nickled Embryo Hooks, 25c. 12-100 Egg Drills, 15c. Davie's "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds," cloth and gilt, 4.00

New Standard Catalogue, 50c; and single eggs of the following species A. O. U. No's at new STANDARD CATALOGUE rates: 69, 75*, 76*, 79*, 112, 140, 147, 190, 198, 224, 289a, 319, 393, 393b, 394a, 407*, 465*, 466, 466a*, 477a, 488a, 490, 495a, 499*, 500*, 505a*, 530*, 594, 628, 551, 673*, 706*, 707*, 719*, 719a, 719b, 723* and 758*. Also any of the following European eggs at 10c each, Blackbird,* Song Thrush,* Robb,* Chaffinch,* Whitethroat.*

Can furnish sets of all species followed by *. This exchange and want offer holds good until Sep. 20th and until that date, do not care to purchase or exchange for eggs under any other conditions.

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the OöLOGIST. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

56	signifies your subscription expired	June 1890.
62	" " " "	Dec. "
68	" " " "	June 1891
74	" " " "	Dec. "
80	" " " "	June 1892
86	" " " "	will expire Dec. "
92	" " " "	June 1893

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "74"—50c.

Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the OöLOGIST your indebtedness to us is 25 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books Aug. 1, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

BIRD CUTS.


An illustrated price-list of Electrotypes of Birds sent free. Just the thing to use on your letter heads, circulars, etc. Engraving to order. H. A. CARHART, Syracuse, N. Y.

PROGRAM OF THE
CHAUTAUQUA ASSEMBLY
SEASON OF 1892.

I have just issued a little 50-page Handbook containing a detailed program of the Chautauqua Assembly, during July and August, and much other matter of interest, relating to Chautauqua. This little book is distributed gratuitously from my Chautauqua stores, and should any of my patrons desire a copy or more I will gladly mail them upon receipt of stamps, at the rate of 1c per copy, for mailing expenses.

Faithfully Yours,
FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

THE RIPANS TABLETS regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blistches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Painful Digestion, Pimples, Rush of Blood to the Head, Sallow Complexion, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Scrofula, Skin Diseases, Stomach, Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other ailment or disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tablet after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tablets is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c., 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

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Je6t White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.



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During July and August, 1892.
We have two stores at Chautauqua, N. Y., one in the Pier House and the other in the New Arcade Building.

Should any of my patrons happen in the vicinity of Chautauqua during their summer vacation, I trust they will make it a point to "step in." We have on exhibition and for sale thousands of Specimens, Curiosities, Novelties and Souvenirs.

At the Great Buffalo Exposition

—TO BE HELD AT—

BUFFALO, N. Y.

AUGUST 17-27th, 1892.

Frank H. Lattin will have a "carload" of Bird's Eggs, Sea Shells, Corals, Natural History Specimens and Curiosities of all kinds.

Duplicate specimens will be sold at surprisingly low rates.

"Lattin will personally attend the exhibit during the Exposition and would be pleased to meet any of his patrons. Should you visit the Fair do not fail to visit Lattin's Exhibit, which you will find centrally and conspicuously located, on the second floor of the main building. The exhibit will occupy over 500 ft. floor space with 75 ft. frontage.

At the Inter-State Fair and Exposition

TO BE HELD AT ELMIRA, N. Y.

AUG. 29th to Sept. 7th.

We have agreed to make a big exhibit. If you attend the fair do not miss seeing our exhibit we expect to have several thousand dollars worth of specimens and curios on exhibition all of which will be for sale.

Our Elmira Exhibit will occupy the same space as that of our big Indian Relic display of '91.

—:O:—

"Lattin" may also make exhibits during ensuing Fall at the following places in New York State—although at date of going to press completed arrangements have not been made.

Western New York, Rochester, Sept. 26th—30th.

Positive announcements as to the above will be made in Sept. OÖLOGIST.

The following Fairs and Expositions

We also expect to have exhibits—

N. Y. State Fair at Syracuse Sept. 8th—15th:

New York and New England at Albany, Sept. 19th—24th.

Binghamton Industrial at Binghamton, Sept. 20th to 24th.

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Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of say, anywhere from \$10 to \$100 worth of shells, agates and curios to add a variety to your present collection, and make an exhibit at your own and neighboring Fairs this Fall?



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At a good Fair, with a suitable display you could sell from \$10 to \$100 per day, upon which there would be a GOOD BIG profit.

Now we will have lots of just such material on hand at Chautauqua, Buffalo and Elmira, that will remain unsold, rather than ship back home will sell at very low rates, if it would be inconvenient for you to personally make your selections at any of the above places, but will send me the amount you wish to invest and give me an inkling of about what you want I will personally and judiciously make a selection that I will guarantee to give you big satisfaction in every particular and will make the prices to you lower than you could possibly duplicate elsewhere.

Remember I also carry a full line of Agate, Spar, Pyrites and Shell Jewellery and Novelties. Write what you want.

Faithfully,

FRANK H. LATTIN.

Albion, N. Y.



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50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1892.

NO. 9

NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange (Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the "New Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—First class sets A. O. U. Nos. 144, 201, 300, 310, 315, 394, 405, 417, 420, and many others. Will give good exchange in Nos. 12, 16, 120 and others. \$15.00 worth of miscellaneous books. C. BYRON VANDERCOOK, Odin, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—We have first class eggs to exchange, in sets or single, for first class in sets, not in our collection. J. S. & A. PYFER, Odell, Neb.

EXCHANGE.—A good Remington Rifle, 22 Calibre, for Breech Loading collecting gun. Will sell Rifle for cash. Cost \$12.50. Write giving description of gun or stating offer. T. B. HUDGIN, Athens, Ga.

NOTICE.—\$3.81 worth of first class eggs for sale or exchange. Would rather sell but will exchange for any good article. R. C. ALEXANDER, Stark, Mich.

NOTICE:—Fine first class sets and singles, rare and common, wanted in exchange for fine first class sets and rare and valuable foreign stamps. W. C. JONES, Bradford, Mass., Box 239.

FOR SALE.—25 odd numbers of "Forest and Stream" from March 1890 to March 1892. Also "Youth's Companions" for 1891. Make offers. ERNEST W. BENNING, 16 Lee St., Cambridgeport, Mass.

I HAVE over 200 species of first class desirable single eggs. Will exchange for fire arms or musical instruments in A No. 1 condition, or for other desirable articles. Send description giving lowest exchange price of what you can offer and I'll send list of my eggs. N. P. BRADT, Johnstown, N. Y.

WANTED.—Good guitar or banjo. Can offer collection of 350 A. 1 eggs in complete sets with data (worth \$60.00), such as Hawks, Owls, Warblers, Ralls, etc.; also have one pair new climbers, 150 large datas on stub. Anyone having good instrument write. All answered. EDWARD FULLER, 161 Main St., Norwich, Conn.

FIRST CLASS single eggs, also large magic Lantern with views, Indian relics, and polished minerals to exchange for eggs in sets. H. W. ISAACS, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, New York.

FIRST CLASS Birds' Eggs to exchange for a Breech loading Shot-gun, 22 cal Rifle 32 cal. Revolver. DANA C. GILLETT Barre Centre, Orleans Co., N. Y.

FOREIGN STAMPS, Lepidoptera, Petrified wood, Fossil mollusks and other curio from Texas, to exchange for eggs in sets. Write first. W. S. CRUZAN, Sulphur Springs, Tex.

EXCHANGE.—All my collections, including mounted birds, skins and eggs, mammals, insects, stamps and cabinets, value over \$300.00, for safety bicycle, Pneumatic tires preferred. TABER D. BAILEY, Montgomery St., Bangor, Maine.

A BARGAIN.—A collection of minerals, fossils, relics, coins insects, broken violin, etc., etc. Will take brevier or long primer type in part payment. R. M. DALRYMPLE, Baker, O.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have some very nice sets to exchange for an improved Waterbury watch in good condition. Write for lists. JNO. HOWARD, Tarboro, N. C.

PIKE'S PEAK specimens to exchange for good arrowheads; also an electric plater, as good as new for geological specimens or shells. Make offers. H. STEPHENSON, Wahoo, Neb. Box 51.

MOUNTED BIRDS, Minerals, Youth's Companion, Scientific American, tennis racket, plectro to exchange for camera, field or opera glasses, or books on ornithology or taxidermy. CHESTER M. WHITNEY, Westminster, Mass.

FOR SALE!—Self Inking Model Press No. 1 Improved, Chase 7x8 inches and outfit. Will send impression of type and description of outfit on application. Entire outfit cost sixty dollars will sell for cash at thirty-five. Positively no exchanges. L. C. FREENY, Pittsville, Md.

3851

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—I would like the price lists of all Collectors having Bird skins and Curiosities to sell. Also exchange lists. EDGAR A. FERRO, 116 Ontario St., Cohoes N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First class sets and singles with or without datas to exchange for same. RALPH MATTESON, 114 E. North St., Galesburg, Ill.

WANTED.—To sell my collection of singles, 145 varieties value \$30.00. Will sell for ½ price; or will exchange for flute, 8 keys, Key D. R. W. PATTERSON, Parkersburg, W. Va., Box 247.

ONE TRIO genuine Shawl-neck Games bought direct from Tom Ware, East Point, Ga. for self-inking printing press about 5½x9½ in good condition, also 6-inch roll Fluting Machine, price \$4.00, bran new, for type or skins, J. J. WIRZ, Taxidermist, Rutherfordton, N. C.

HAWK and OWL eggs wanted.—Any species in sets with full data. Will give good exchange in Stuffed Birds, Mammals and Indian Relics. THADDEUS SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—An Army Musket made over into a Breech-loading shot-gun, will exchange for best offer of Birds' Eggs. No postal answers. C. J. TIFFANY, Arcadia, Wayne Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—The following eggs marked according to Lattin's checking list. 30a-32-71-102-212-286-289a-294a-378-378b-476. Make offer for the same. H. B. HUSTON, Lakeland, Ky.

WANTED.—22, 38, 44 cal. repeating rifles. 20 bore collecting gun. Hopkins and Allen preferred. Also sporting goods. Will pay cash or give first class rare sets. HARRY B. SARGENT, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

I HAVE to exchange moths, butterflies cocoons, pupæ and birds' eggs for live cocoons of *Stantax Canoti*, *Gloverli*, *Pronietha*, *Angulifera*, *Columbia*, *Cecropia*, *Antheraea*, *Polyphemus*, *Actias Luna*; live pupæ of *Sphinxes* and butterflies or birds' eggs in first class sets with data. All letters answered. ORA W. KNIGHT, care G. W. Knight, Bangor, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE.—First class sets with data. 161-1, 30a-1-1; 120c 1-3, 1-4; 221 1-7; 343 1-4; 378 1-4; 431 1-2; 499 1-3, 1-4; 51d 1-3; and 758 1-3, 1-4. Will give \$5 in fine sets for good taxidermists' outfit. I also want a fine set of 704, 705, 755, 761 and 706. Anyone having part or all write at once. Good value given. For every set of eggs with data, listed at 5c, or over I will send a first class 120c single (with data if desired). All answered. C. BARLOW, Santa Clara Cal.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A collection of over 200 first class singles, 150 varieties, value over \$50. Will exchange for Hawk's and Owl's eggs in sets, two dollars' worth of singles for one dollar in sets. Or will sell entire collection for \$10. Contains such eggs as 128, 315, 401, 411, 420c, 459, 530a, 583, 590, 607, 629b, 648, 701, 738. Send for list, stating what you have to exchange. Also have fine sets for sale or exchange, including Mississippi and White-tailed Kites. W. B. PORTER, 224 So. Oakley Ave, Chicago, Ill.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

RARE & beautiful foreign eggs for exchange, Black-throated Loon ½, Red-throated Loon 1-2, Cinerous Crane 1-2, Numidian Crane 1-2, Pintail Sand-Grouse 1-3, Great Bustard 1-21-3, Gray Sea-Eagle 1-2 1-3, Ingrain Falcon 1-4, Egyptian Vulture 1-2, Griffon Vulture 1-2 Night Jar 1-2, Golden-crown Kinglet 1-10, Fire crested Kinglet 1-9, Wryneck 1-12, Barbary-Partridge 1-10, Large-billed Puffin 1-1, Lesser Black-back Gull 1-3, Adriatic Gull 1-3, Rufous Warbler 1-5, Bared Warbler 1-5, Melodia Warbler 1-5, Ostrich 1-1, Emen 1-1, Rhea 1-1 and a large list of others. Many American species wanted, both common and rare. C. W. CRANDALL, Woodside, Queens Co., N. Y.

WANTED.—A first class Camera, size 5x7 or 5x8, Birds' Eggs and skins in large or small lots, Mammal skins and skulls. A Human Skeleton in whole or part. Also a small amount of U. S. Currency of recent date in good condition. Offer for same, 60 in. American Challenge Bicycle, cost \$70. 48 in. Express bicycle, cost \$60. Compound microscope, \$15. Pair Australian Paroquettes and new brass cage, cost \$10. Also a few Natural History books, Birds' Eggs, Osteological Preparations and other miscellaneous articles too numerous to mention. Send for descriptions of the above articles, stating what you have to offer in exchange, mentioning cash offer also. All letters cheerfully answered. A. MOWBRAY SEMPLE, Poynette, Wis.

A COLLECTION of stamps principally old English and English colonial issues, would prefer to trade in one lot. A Cross steno-graphic pen used only a few times, cost \$1.50. A 10 ft. fishing rod with bag, brass reel fittings, ferrule and butt piece, lance wood, spliced tip in good condition. An 11 ft. cane rod and bag, lance wood tip, brass ferrule in sound condition. A few old foreign silver coins. A few fine cabinet specimens of Dolomite, Calcite (var) and Gypsum crystals. Aragonite, petrified moss and plants. A choice lot of polished Agate and Onyx specimens. A few Iroquois, Tuscarora and Seneca implements and relics. I wish to exchange above for first class eggs in sets. No attention paid to persons not enclosing lists. I wish to purchase a first class double barrel breech loading shot gun by a good maker, second hand in perfect order, also a few copies of last editions "Davie's Nests and Eggs," "Cone's Key" and "Ridgeway's Manual" in good condition. HARRY SARGENT, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1892.

NO. 9

The Breeding Warblers of Western New York.

I do not wish my readers to think that I am going to say all there is to be said on such a wide subject as this, for I am only going to tell what I have found and what I think, which will probably prove tiresome enough to you. However I hope that some parts of it will be of interest to you.

First I will tell what I have found.

According to the A. O. U. Classification, the first species I found breeding is 642, Golden-winged Warbler, (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*)

It was on the evening of the second of June last, I had finished my day's work and at 7 o'clock had reached one of my favorite haunts, two miles from home, on the banks of Black Creek, which flows into the Genesee River a few miles south of Rochester.

On the south side of a fair sized wood is a clearing of some ten acres, which has grown up to underbrush of every kind except in a few spots where it is too wet for anything but a few willows, weeds and grasses. This is a paradise for many birds.

As I entered this clearing, I came to a spot where the brush was thin and small, and weeds grew plentifully underneath. I was looking high for nests of the Redstart, when I heard a flutter under my feet, and looking down saw a nest placed between the stalks of some weeds growing in a clump. Seeing that it contained eggs, I went away for a few minutes and on coming back, crept carefully up to the nest.

What was my delight to find myself within 18 inches of a Golden-wing sitting on the nest. She was easily identified by the yellow crown, combined with black throat and yellow wing bar. After watching me a minute she left the

nest and went into the brush, calling for her mate, who by the way, did not show up.

The nest contained three eggs and one of cowbird. On blowing I found the eggs partly incubated, indicating a full set.

The nest was made of dead leaves placed crosswise one on the other to the height of four inches, when the nest proper was constructed on this foundation; of fine grasses, inside and out. The eggs were creamy white, spotted sparsely, but generally distributed with light red dots.

My next Species is No. 645, Nashville Warbler, (*Helminthophila ruficapilla*.)

I was walking through a small wood near here on the morning of the 8th of June of this year, (1892) and as I was stepping through a partly decayed brush heap, situated near a ditch, and nearly buried with weeds, I saw a small bird flit from under my feet and alight in a bush near by. I thought there must be a nest near by, so before looking for it, I, as is my custom turned my attention to the bird which I was glad to find was the Nashville Warbler.

After watching her until her warning note brought the mate, I then hunted out the nest, which was placed in the brush, concealed by the weeds, and was similar in construction to the Golden-wing's except that the lining was of dead rootlets instead of grasses. It contained five eggs about the size of the common Phoebe's. They were light cream color, spotted liberally with light red. They were very beautiful and made a welcome addition to my collection. On blowing, I found them slightly incubated, probably three days.

The Nashville Warbler may be known by the uniform greenish color above with chestnut spot on the crown and

white beneath upper chest, ashy under tail coverts yellowish.

My next species is No. 652, Yellow Warbler, (*Dendroica aestiva*.)

This bird is too well known to need any extended description. In this locality they breed very commonly in willow patches, near water, making their nests out of the willow catkins. They strive in many ways to cover up the eggs of the obnoxious cowbird, among which is their habit of building two or three story nests. Very often they cover some of their own eggs as well as the cowbirds.

In most instances where they hatch a cowbird's egg their own young soon disappear to be seen no more. In many instances they are found on the ground under the nest. Sometimes I can find no trace of them. Their eggs vary in number, from (where there are no cowbird's eggs) three or usually four to sometimes six. They are easily known from other Warbler's eggs by the greenish ground color and the bold, coarse pattern of the brown markings.

Next I find on my list, No. 659, Chestnut-sided Warbler, (*Dendroica pennsylvanica*.)

This bird, through from what I can learn, it seems to be considered rather common in some portions of Western New York, is a rare breeder in this vicinity. I have only one record and not even seen the birds during the breeding season in any other instance. On the same evening that I found the nest of the Golden-winged Warbler, (June 2d; 1892) was forcing my way through a clump of bushes in the same clearing that I had noticed the starting of a nest in some five days before, when I found myself looking down on a nest situated quite low, in a small bush. On looking closely I saw a bird, which I recognized as the Chestnut-sided Warbler, sitting on the nest.

She did not wish to leave and staid until I placed my hand on the edge of

the nest. Then she left with a cry of alarm which brought the male at once.

The nest was constructed almost exactly like the common Chipping Sparrow's but was smaller. The lining was entirely of hair and the nest was well shaped. It was placed in the crotch of three twigs and fastened tightly. The eggs were three and one of the cowbird, incubation commenced. In color they were cream, with a slight, greenish tinge, spotted with umber light brown and lavender shell marks, all gathered in a decided wreath at the larger end; altogether they were a beautiful set, but I wish the Cowbird had not found the nest as I think there would have been four eggs, but for her.

The eggs were quite small, except Parula and Golden-wing, the smallest warblers eggs I have.

Next on my list is No. 681, Maryland Yellow-throat, (*Geothlypi strichas*.)

This species though not a very common breeder here, is occasionally seen in suitable places. However it was not until this present season, that I found a nest of this bird. On the evening of June 17th, while searching for eggs of the Indigo Bunting, in a swamp, 1½ miles north of here on the line of the N. Y. C. R. R., I was tramping through a patch of briars (and a very thick one too) I heard a flutter close to the ground and on watching intently, saw a small bird leave the briars which from the poorness of the light I could not make out.

On searching underfoot I finally discovered a nest firmly placed in the canes about ten inches from the ground. Of course on finding the nest I was determined to find out what the bird was, so I concealed myself and soon had the pleasure of seeing both birds come back and recognized them as Maryland Yellow-throats. They were very much disturbed by my presence and the female made many trips to the nest.

The nest was built almost exactly like

the Golden-winged Warbler's in every particular. It contained four incubated eggs. They were white, spotted with lavender and various shades of red and a few streaks of dark brown on larger end.

My next is No. 683 (*Icteria virens*) Yellow-breasted Chat. This bird is far from common in this vicinity or in fact any other place as far north. I did not see a bird this year, and only two pairs in '90 and in '91.

On the 26th of May, 1890, I found a nest of this bird in a thicket, close to the edge of quite a large wood, on the banks of Black Creek, one-half mile from here. My attention was first attracted by the noisy female in her effort to keep a Cowbird out of her nest; and I watched her until I was satisfied that she could do it too.

The nest was placed in the crotch of a small maple, about five feet from the ground. It was made of weed stems and grasses, lined with fine grasses and strips of grape vine bark, and about the size of a small Robin's nest. ¶

It was a rather large nest for the bird. It contained one fresh egg and when I took it the bird was extremely noisy, exhibiting every sign of anger. The egg was about the same size as the average Cowbird's egg, but the ground color was clear white and the spots light red, the whole effect being much lighter than the Cowbird's. There were a few lavender shell marks.

This is the only nest of this species I have found here and do not think many breed here.

Next I have 687, American Redstart, (*Setophaga ruticilla*). This bird is the common warbler of our woods, especially common on Black Creek. Their short trill can be heard continually in the breeding season and, now and then, the sharp loud notes of the male's song will rise and you will wonder where the bird gets his vocal powers from.

¶ Except when the female is sitting,

they are continually on the move, and you see the flashes of red and yellow as they flit from tree to tree, their tails opening and closing with their peculiar fan-like motion, their black eyes always on the alert for food or foe. I hardly know which is the handsomest, the male with his black and orange-red, or the female in green and yellow.

The male always comes when the female calls and is quite pugnacious.

The nests are situated, usually in the crotch of some small straight tree, sometimes in the upright crotch of some limb. Always in or near woods of some size and usually from 3 to 15 feet from the ground, rarely higher. They are composed of bark fibers and in two instances, which I have observed, of feathers. The lining is usually of fine grasses, in three recorded instances a few feathers being used, never hair. They are small and neatly cupped, in fact they are as compact as any of our birds' nests. The eggs are invariably four if the Cowbird misses the nest which *sometimes* happens. Many nests contain from two to three of Redstart and one or two of the Cowbird. They are creamy, sometimes bluish-white (*rare*), spotted with reddish-brown and lilac, sometimes evenly, sometimes in scattered or compact wreaths.

Now for what I *think* but do not *know*. I think that the Cerulean Warbler and Oven-bird *do* breed here although I can offer no conclusive evidence as yet. Also that the following may possibly breed in more secluded portions than I have access to: The Blue-winged, Tennessee, Black and White, Worm-eating, Prairie, Water-thrush, Mourning and (*rarely*) the Kentucky Warblers. If this article brings to light any more information in regard to our breeding Warblers, I shall feel amply rewarded.

ERNEST H. SHORT,
Chili, Mon. Co., N. Y.

A Tramp Through Woods and Marshes in Eastern Iowa.

I awoke at 6.20 on the morning of the 15th of last May and after breakfasting took my collecting box, climbers and wading boots, and started after Geo. W. S., who was to accompany me. He took a 22 rifle and wading boots and we started out.

After a ride of about four miles on the electric cars and a walk of two more (which was through a marsh) we reached a sawmill on the bank of the Missouri River. There we met my friend, Ike Hamilton, a young logger and miller who was to accompany us on our trip. We were rowed over the river (then about a mile wide on account of spring rise) into Iowa.

We first went to a Broad-winged Hawk's nest which I had seen building or rebuilding a crow's nest two weeks before. When I started up the tree we could hear the Hawks screaming and thought a nice set of eggs was awaiting me at the top, but we were disappointed, as the nest was just finished and no eggs yet deposited.

We started north through the trees, our destination being Lee's woods about nine miles away. We did not find anything except a crow's nest with five young in, on our way up. After about three miles bad walking through sloughs and woods, we reached the Pigeon Creek which can usually be cleared at a bound, but which was then so swollen by recent rains that it was about 25ft. wide and 15ft. deep in the middle.

Our woodman companion or logger as I called him before proposed rafting over, and as there were plenty of logs at hand we started to do it. We peeled a lot of willow bark from trees near by and after tying two logs we rolled the logs into the water. We took three and pulled them side by side and tied one log across. After tying two long willow withes, end to end, we fastened this im-

proved rope to the raft, so that we could pull the raft back after one had crossed on it.

Ike got on the raft and poled over and I then pulled the raft back for Geo. to go over. Geo. stepped upon the already shaky raft and it went to pieces, George making the quickest move and jump in ten years. (He does not often move quick being 5ft. 5in. tall and weighing 192lbs.)

Well, there we were; one of our party on one side of the Pigeon and George and myself on the other. We started down the stream to find a place to wade but reached the Missouri river and no ford.

Ike started up the river bank after a boat to take us across the Pigeon but returned in about an hour having found two boats but no oars. He had found out however, that there was a bridge over the creek about three miles up the stream so up we started.

On the way up to the bridge George shot several large Gar, and I killed one weighing about eight pounds with a climbing iron.

We finally arrived at the bridge and found Ike awaiting us as he had taken a short cut through the woods and thus had reached there first.

It was then 3 o'clock p. m., and we were still four miles from our objective point which was a heronry four miles north of Honey Creek Lake, Ia.

Our tea bottles were long since exhausted and we were drinking miserable slough water, as we were very thirsty, but we soon reached a log cabin where a benevolent old lady gave us some river water to drink. That river water was nectar to us although it was so muddy you could almost cut it with a knife.

After resting a while we started again and in about an hour reached the Buoy Creek where we met an old German fisherman who was about to start down the river to where we came from. We bribed him to wait for us until we

returned and then started on our tramp to the Heronry which we soon reached.

Only a few tall trees were occupied by the Great Blue Herons, but those few counted, as we saw thirteen nests in one tree and less numbers in the rest, in all about fifty nests.

Being very tired myself, I tried to bribe Ike to climb up to a nest which was about 70ft. up but he said he was very comfortable where he was, so up I started. After a hard climb I reach the nest and found it to contain five large blue eggs. Encouraged by this, I put my hand into another nest but took it out very quickly, (a young Heron tried to swallow my finger.) I took several sets of eggs but many nests were already occupied by young birds.

The first set I found had no doubt been left when fresh as they were cold and as a dead female Heron was lying under the tree no doubt that she had been shot by some one who happened along.

While I was packing our treasures in the box, George shot a Turkey Vulture, a number of which were flying high in the air above the Heronry.

I did not know that the Buzzard bred this far north and west and so I was greatly surprised to find three nests, one in a hollow log and two others in hollow trees near by.

After packing the Buzzards' nests we started back to where we had left the fisherman, stopping only to pick a good mess of Mushrooms which we found very plentiful near the water.

After a ride in the boat of an hour and a walk of another hour we reached the motor line and sped home as fast as electricity could carry us.

I afterwards took three eggs from Broad-winged Hawk's nest mentioned.

ISADOR S. TROSTLER,
Omaha, Neb.

Acadian Flycatcher.

Empidonax acadicus.

This spirited and somewhat eccentric little Flycatcher, otherwise known as the Little Green-crested, is said to take up its summer abode anywhere throughout eastern United States, the Mississippi Valley and as far west as Kansas.

Arriving in the vicinity of Baltimore sometime in the second week in May, by the last of the month it is quite common in low wet woods, along the wooded banks of slow-flowing streams, shady mill-races, and in short any place where there are low drooping limbs, little under brush, and water, for which it seems to have the strongest attachment doubtless because of the fact that insects generally abound in the quiet water.

It is soon bethinking itself of a nesting site which will be in one of the places just named and very probably overhanging some mill-race, even if it is an unused one in which the rain water stands in puddles only. By the second week in June the first nests have been built and in this locality about the middle of the month it is the best time to collect their eggs.

The nest, hung by the rim from the extremity of a slender drooping limb anywhere from three to eighteen feet from the ground, is a structure of rustic beauty, a bunch of oak catkins loosely and rather carelessly put together decked with spider cocoons or beech bud-scales and lined with fine round weed stems, or occasionally composed almost entirely of either weed stems or oak catkins, and measuring some three inches in exterior diameter by two high, interior diameter three and three-fourths inches by one and one-fourth deep. One nest found this season, June 15th was composed almost entirely of fine grasses and lined with perfectly green seed heads of grass, giving it a very unique appearance, and was so slightly

made that the eggs could easily be seen from the under side, as is frequently the case. The most elaborate nest we have ever seen we found June 16, 1891, much larger interiorly than the typical nest, composed chiefly of the ever present oak catkin (for I have yet to find a nest into the composition of which this article does not enter) embracing some of the green leaves of the beach limbs to which it was attached, festooned with light brown beach bud-scales, strings of several varieties of spider cocoons, a few pieces of "down" from the sycamore ball, a little bit of moss, and several blades of grass hanging down from the bottom about four or five inches, which latter generally characterize the new nests.

We have never read of but one brood being reared by these birds, but a set of three taken near the middle of July, '91 would seem to indicate that there is sometimes a second. The nest was hung well out on a slender maple limb about sixteen feet from the ground by a shady and rather quiet road and, directly over a gateway through which the vehicles were passing several times a day and near a low wet piece of ground. This set taken within a few days another set was laid, a set of two, the only set comprising any other number than three that we have ever found, though Davie states that occasionally four are laid, however, one of the eggs proved to be minus a yolk and the bird did not set long.

The eggs averaging about .75x.55 inches, having a ground color of rich cream color, and being sparingly specked and dotted with light brown, with the larger dots and greater number about the larger end, they are almost indistinguishable from those of the Traill's Flycatcher (*E. traillii*), it is said the nest, however, being entirely different, the latter being placed in an upright fork and built after the manner of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica as-tiva*).

In this locality *acalivus* is quite common and as you are walking through some quiet shady damp woods you are suddenly startled by a loud, quick, emphatic "*What-d-see What-d-see*," probably followed by a series of low, twittering notes, sounding as though the bird were peevishly talking with itself, then you see him dart by with a snap of the bill and alight on some low limb near by, and possibly hear another note, as soon as he has swallowed his insect, very much like the *pect weet* of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), which it sometimes gives vent to.

The following incident it seems to me might be of interest to those who are debating the question whether or not the bird is endowed with something more than mere instinct; a nest found June 13, 1891 contained but two eggs and, as it was in a place where it was likely to be found by certain "small fry," we did not deem it safe to leave them, so taking them, we substituted two small smooth stones wrapt in paper somewhat the same shade as the ground color of the eggs. Visiting the nest four days later we found that one of the stones had been removed, the paper taken from the other, and the third egg laid, which we took, but undesignedly left the stone. Happening to be passing the spot nine days later we noticed the bird sitting on the nest, and to our greater surprise found she was setting on that same stone. Our curiosity was aroused and we were anxious to know how long the bird would thus sit on this "hard cruel stone," or if finally she would succeed in hatching from it a little *Acalivus* (for we are ever told that patience will surely accomplish its end), but when four days later, after she had been setting for two weeks (no doubt a much greater length of time than is required to hatch the eggs), we found her still sitting there, our compassion for her prevented our carrying our investigations any further and we

tossed the stone out into the mill race.

Early in September, when the telegraph wires are lined with Swallows and its cousins begin to come down from the north, it joins them and without waiting to see the colors of Autumn's sunsets reflected on the forest leaves it departs for the regions where where the insects never die.

GEO. H. GRAY.
Baltimore, Md.

The Prothonotary Warbler.

This is quite a common bird in the bottoms along the Illinois river.

The bright cadmium yellow of the head and neck render it easily distinguishable at quite a distance.

The birds may usually be seen near the surface of the water either on drift-wood or on the bushes.

A typical nesting ground for this active little warbler is in a willow swamp which is covered with water and contains many dead willow stubs perforated with woodpeckers in many places. In some of these holes, an old broken out one preferably, you will find the nest. Made of moss and grass lined with fine grass. A sharp blow or two on the stump will usually scare the old bird off though often she will leave before you see the nest. They will usually fly away as if having no further concern for the nest I never saw but one pair "show fight" The nests are usually so close to the water that a raise of a foot or two will drown them out. This I know to my sorrow as I had a large series of nests which I was "counting on" when a sudden raise of about three feet in the river covered them all.

The nesting season lasts from the last of May till the middle of July. The first clutch is usually deposited in the latter part of May and first of June.

The eggs are from 4 to 6 rarely 7 in the first set and if accident befalls them from 2 to 4 in the 2nd and 3rd clutches.

They are a fine glossy cream color

dotted and blotched with chestnut red.

There is a great variation in coloration. The eggs are from .70 to .74 x .52 to .58 of an inch.

The nests are nearly always over water, in any kind of an old stump, usually willow.

RUSSELL M. FRISBEY JR.
Sparland, Ill.

Notes from Bexar Co., Texas.

March 27, 1892. Found a nest of the Caracara containing two eggs, which were nearly hatched. The nest was a large platform of weeds about thirty feet from the ground in a live oak.

April 14th. Took a set of four eggs of the Texan Woodpecker. The nesting cavity was a foot deep in the dead limb of a hackberry tree.

April 22nd. O. A. W. and myself found a set of two eggs of the Caracara.

The nest was made of sticks lined with weeds and was formerly the property of a Harris's Hawk.

The next day in going by the nest from which I took the first set of Caracara's eggs we saw a bird of the same species leave the nest. My friend climbed to the nest and announced two eggs which I suppose were laid by the same bird that laid the first set.

May 7th. Collected a set of two eggs of the Harris's Hawk. The nest was made of sticks and for a lining there was a bed of green oak leaves.

May 20th. Took a set of five eggs of the Tufted Tit in a gate-post near a house. The nest was nothing but Rabbit hair and a large piece of snake skin.

June 4th. Found a set of Bell's Vireo eggs. The nest was a neat little structure composed of leaves and fine grasses with a few hairs interwoven and was suspended from a small branch in a clump of bushes.

June 10th. Found a set of two Caracara's. The nest was composed of sticks with a few small weeds for lining.

There was a large hole in the middle of the nest with a few sticks laid across it on which the eggs were laid so that they were plainly seen from below.

A. H. W. NORTON.
Bexar Co., Texas.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y.

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

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

How I Spent Easter Monday.

It had been my intentions for several years to have a good days collecting in the early spring chiefly for Hawks as I have had poor success in the past. This year an opportunity offered so my brother and I started off early in the morning we had to walk well over a mile till we came to any woods at all. We had not got through the first woods before

I noticed a nest that I knew must be a new one on account of the small white feathers sticking to the lower twigs of the nest and on the trunk of the tree. I have observed these feathers on every new hawk's nest I have found. As I did not see any birds around I could not tell what kind it was till I was half way up the tree when a pair of Cooper's Hawk's began making their peculiar cry. The nest was 64 feet from the ground in a straight maple, built on the second branch it was composed of sticks lined with grass, leaves and green cedar twigs it contained five eggs, three light colored spotted with small dark spots while two were thickly dotted with larger spots. The next nest was found at the bottom of the hill, it was only reached after a hard climb, as the tree was very thick and two large limbs were growing out about half way up. This proved to be a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest, and contained three eggs, the nest was 60 1 - 2 feet from the ground, it was smaller than the nest of the Cooper's Hawk, but much the same except that it contained no green twigs the eggs were a very pretty set, heavily spotted and blotched with a reddish brown color, while the shells were covered with purple ground markings. The next nest we found about a mile and a half further on, it proved to be a Red-tailed Hawk's nest but it was in such a large elm tree I could not get to it. I climbed the tree next to it and tried to dip the eggs out with a fish net but I could not get high enough to see into the nest so I only got one cracked specimen while the other two got broken.

The one I rescued was light colored thinly spotted with dull red spots. My next nest was also a Red-tail, and in an elm tree no doubt what, that tree lacked in width it made up in height the nest was placed as high as it was possible, in fact at the extreme top on a limb not over three inches in diameter it was 91½ feet from the ground and rocked so much in the high wind that both the

eggs and myself had a hard time keeping our places, the nest was a very poorly arranged one and nearly flat, it was composed of sticks lined with grass, leaves and corn husks. The eggs which were two in number were similar to the last only smaller, by this time we were a mile and a half from home, we walked about a mile further without seeing anything when I found a nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk in a small maple tree the nest was only 37 feet from the ground and contained three dirty looking eggs with very little color in fact it could hardly be called anything but ground markings, these differed from the others as they were quite well advanced in incubation while the others were nearly fresh. We got home about 7.30 pm, having taken fourteen eggs thirteen first class and one second class egg, which is considered a very good haul around here.

J. E. HOUSEMAN,
Aylmer Ont.

A California Collecting Ground.

I have read with pleasure the accounts of collecting trips recorded in the OÖLOGIST and, thinking that other of your readers might be interested in such articles, I have decided to give a description of my favorite collecting ground.

The place spoken of is a canon about three miles from town, among the numerous foothills which surround the valley. It is about four miles long and although nowhere very steep, contains many large boulders and rocks and at places its sides are quite steep. The trees are mostly button-wood, or sycamore, with willow and water-mootie along the bottom where there flows a small dirty stream of water. There are also a large number of sunflower bushes in which a great many nests may be found.

As the canon contains many points of interest, interesting to one who has

collected there at least, we will enter at the lower end and pass up the canon. For the first half of a mile it is quite broad and the ground is covered with a thick growth of grass and clover. There are no trees here with the exception of willows, but the large sunflower bushes furnish nesting places for the humming-birds, the nests being placed among the dead leaves and therefore hard to find.

Here too is an old stump surrounded by sprouts where a Road-runner had her nest last April.

As we pass along, the sycamores grow more abundant and here is the home of the Arizona Hooded Oriole. Yes, here is where Mr. Wilber and I took a beautiful set of five. The nest was placed eighteen feet from the ground among the branches of a slender sycamore and was composed of long, partially dried grasses finely woven together, lined with a small quantity of cotton. These birds are quite common as also are the Bullock's Oriole, both of which may be seen with their gandy coats gayly flitting from tree to tree uttering their loud calls or scolding us as we pass.

We now come to a good sized boulder with a large opening three feet from the ground. This is where I had taken beautiful sets in '90 and '91 of the Canon Wren and this year decided to catch the bird. So I slipped up and quietly brought my hand down over an empty nest. I learned afterward that another collector had gotten ahead of me. The nest was placed on a twelve-inch platform of small sticks and composed mostly of fur and feathers, forming as soft and comfortable a bed for the "chicks" as any I have examined. The bird, which I saw in '91, was a very shy little fellow with pure white breast and reddish back and under parts, spotted above with whitish dots.

In a small side-canon is a large, white stump which I once ascended to open up what I supposed was a Flicker's domicile. On the way up I had the pleasure

(?) of pulling Mr. and Mrs. Cal. Screech Owl off a set of four nearly incubated eggs, and then tried for the Flicker's hole, which turned out to be empty, as is usually the case after a hard climb.

We must hurry on so we come to a large tree where I usually put up for dinner as there is a small chance for clean water at this point. In this tree Mr. Wilbur and I took a set of Ash-throated Flycatcher's in '91, the nest being in a hollow snag twelve inches deep and six inches in diameter, inside, and was composed of fur and hair. I have taken three eggs of the Sparrow Hawk from this hollow, one of which was pure white. Near this tree are two others from which sets of Sparrow Hawk and Red-shafted Flicker may be obtained, that is, if you get there before the other fellow. Just across from this, among the brush, I took a nest which contained four Road-runner eggs and three of the Valley Partridge. The Partridge eggs were fresh but two of the Road-runner's were incubated. The nest was placed about three feet from the ground and evidently built by a Road-runner.

In coming home I usually come by another canon which runs parallel with this one. At the head of this smaller canon I took three nests of the California Bush Tit in one day, two of which contained six and the other five eggs.

The nests, which were composed of bits of leaves and grass thickly lined with feathers, were neatly tucked away among the upper branches of sunflower bushes.

Passing on down the canon we come to a large bed of poison-oak and other wild bushes. I was one time on my knees under this thicket looking for a Towhee's nest when on raising I nearly upset a nest of the Least Vireo. This, as you may imagine, was a pleasant surprise as they are by no means commonly met with in this locality. The nest contained three fresh eggs and was suspended from the horizontal crotch of

a water-mootic bush. It was a neat structure of bits of leaves and dry split grass, lined with a few feathers. The eggs were clear white, when blown, with quite numerous spots of cinnamon mostly near the larger end and measured; .68x.49, .70x.49, .66x.48 inches.

Still farther down the canon there grows a box-elder bush with a large, bulky nest in the top, from which I fished six eggs of the Road-runner last year.

We are now near the place where we left the horse, so, if he has not gone home without us, we are very glad to have his company.

H. M. HALL,
Riverside, Cal.

JULY CONTEST.

Fifty-eight Judges.

Prize Winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. The Hummingbird in South Carolina.	226
2. Birds Found Breeding in Bertie Co., N. C.	167
3. A Quawk Town.	152
4. A Few Notes on the Red-tailed Hawk.	141
5. Sitta Canadensis in Montana.	55
Three other articles received from 28 to 54 credits each.	

Ten Judges named the prize winning articles—none, however their exact order.

The winners were as follows:

1. No. 6.—Tom Fluornoy, Clinton, Ia., 1,2,4,3,5.
2. No. 22—A. W. Baylis, Cedar Rapids, Ia., 1,2,4,3,5.
3. No. 26—Clifton D. Howe, Newfane, Vt., 1,3 2,4,5.
4. No. 9—Will de la Barre, Minneapolis, Minn., 2,1,3,4,5.
5. No. 12—N. G. VanDeWater, Gretna, N. Y., 2,1,3,4,5.

All prizes were mailed on Aug. 24th.

“83” is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST, and it was mailed to subscribers on Sep.

Past Reminiscences.

The first impression made upon ones memory by ornithological discoveries are very apt to prove most lasting.

Time will not erase these impressions that have been so vividly made and it is but an easy task to recall every connected detail. Thus as I cast my eyes over the pages of my note-book, I can easily recall the circumstances inscribed therein.

It seems as but yesterday, when I was strolling along the bank of that little creek, I saw my first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. It was sitting on a small willow bush, pluming its bright, beautiful feathers, and I watched it until it took wing and flew away. Its beauty was enhanced as I realized its rarity at this latitude.

That first Crow's nest is still fresh in my memory too. How my old friend, Frank, and I saw the nest in an oak on a distant hill. How eagerly he climbed the tall tree and after looking into the nest, called out in an excited tone, "Oh Billy, two eggs." Then I too had to climb that tree and see those eggs in the nest.

With what pleasure it gave me to pack those then precious eggs I shall never forget.

In a small tray in my cabinet, reposing on the softest of cotton, is a set of eggs of the Prairie Warbler marred by the addition of one of the Cowbird.

Who would have thought that such a dainty nest and eggs would have been found in a dusty field. Having occasion to cross this field, I passed through a few hazel bushes, and there in one small bush I espied the nest. How very dainty the warbler's eggs looked beside that of the Cowbird. What cared I if it was nearly dark and I ten miles from home?

Then there are those four delicate white eggs finely speckled. What are they? Why they are those of the Bell's Vireo, found one hot afternoon in an exceedingly large pasture covered with

hazel brush. Were they easily found?

I should say not, for it seems as though I crawled over the whole pasture on my hands and knees hunting for the nest but without success, and then as I was starting for home I fell headlong over a stump, right in front of it. Odd, wasn't it?

In the next tray to this set are the eggs of a near relative, the Yellow-throated Vireo, found under peculiar circumstances. A find that I will not soon forget was that of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. True, it was not found by myself but I was there when it was taken. A nest so delicate and beautiful in construction cannot help but excite the enthusiasm of a collector.

My acquaintance with the Loon was made at its home in the north. I was staying for a few days at a beautiful northern lake, one summer not long ago, and one cloudy night my curiosity was aroused by a weird cry coming from the lake. I could not place it as I had never heard the like before, but I was soon informed. Asking a native about it I received a reply, "them's Loons".

Does not every one remember his first duck hunt? I can very well, and can imagine that I am there at this very moment right in the midst of the Blue-bills, Coots and hosts of others. What a delightful experience it is to be out on a lake in the early morn among the water fowl, before old Sol shows his face.

Early attempts at taxidermy are not soon to be forgotten, and mine are always flashed to my mind whenever I see a Blue Jay. The Jay was the victim when I started out for a subject to commence on, but when I had finished, he looked no more like a Jay.

Methinks I taste frogs legs when I look at those Red-wing's eggs, and can see and hear the sun-fish jumping in yon small lake. In future years, what comfort we shall take in reviewing our

journals, filled with numerous adventures, finds and past experiences, that have been recorded while we were young and lusty for

"When Time, who steals our years away,
Shall steal our pleasures too,
The mem'ry of the past will stay
And half our joys renew."

W. E. LOUCKS.
Peoria Ills.

Meeting of W. N. Y. Naturalists Association.

The meeting as given out out in Aug. number will take place at Brockport, N. Y., Thursday Oct. 6th, 1892, in Republic Hall, 82 Main St. Business meeting 2.30 p. m., Public meeting at 8 p. m., at which exhibits of different specimens will be made, and several original articles read. All interested in natural history are cordially invited to attend.

E. H. SHORT, Pres.
T. R. TAYLOR, Sec.

World's Fair Notes.

Carl Hagenbeck, the celebrated German collector and tamer of wild animals is in Chicago to arrange for the extensive zoological exhibit which he will make in Midway Plaisance at the World's Fair. He will exhibit lions, tigers, panthers, leopards, bears, monkeys etc., in great numbers, and will show the largest "happy family" ever seen.

The World's Fair Commission is endeavoring to locate twelve of the largest trees in the State of New York. Up to the present time only two notably large trees have been found. If this item attracts the notice of anyone who owns, or knows of a tree of unusual size, and the person will communicate with George T. Smith, No. 9, Niagara Street, Buffalo, N. Y., giving the approximate size of the tree, the favor will be appreciated by the World's Fair Commissioners.

Owing to the illness of our mailing clerk the credit number on address label of this month's OÖLOGIST has not been corrected. The proper number showing when your subscription expires or has expired will be given on the wrapper of next month's issue.

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Sep.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Sept. competition we will give a similar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Oct. 15th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this month's competition the Judges whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize. Address


FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

At Chicago the exhibit will be divided into fifteen groups. It will occupy a room 88x60 feet and the entire floor space is to be built up to represent a natural landscape, with rocks, grass, cacti, willows, quaking asp and natural fir and evergreen trees. On each side of the wing will be built a tall cliff and in between a valley with a running stream of water, a lake and swamp. On the back it is intended to have a panoramic painting, continuing the effect of the scenery of the foreground and giving distance to the scene. Each group of animals will be placed among surroundings imitative of their native haunts; the moose will be seen in natural positions in the swamp; the goats and sheep on the rocky cliffs, and the buffalo on a buffalo grass prairie. One feature of the exhibit will be "Comanche," General Custer's famous war horse, that has been mounted by the Professor within the last year.

What \$1 will bring when sent to
\$ C. L. FREEMAN, Chadron, Neb. \$
 1 Photograph of "Wounded Knee" Battlefield.
 1 " " Burial of the Dead after Battle.
 1 " " Beef Issue at Pine Ridge.
 1 " " Chief Red Cloud or Bloody Hand.
 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and
 1 Photograph of Red Cloud's House.
 1 " " Chief Sitting Bull.
 1 " " Three Hostile Chiefs.
 1 Pair of genuine Sioux moccasins.
 Catalogue of Indian Relics and Photographs
 sent for 2 cent stamp. C. L. FREEMAN. Je't

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effective. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blisters on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Pimples, Painful Digestion, Rush of Blood to the Head, Salt plexion, Salt Head, Scrofula, Skin Diseases, Stomach, Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross 25, 1/2 gross \$1.25, 1/4 gross 75c., 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



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JULY, '92

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North American Birds Eggs

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FRANK H. LATTIN

—ASSISTED BY—

Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, J. Parker Norris, Esq., and
Capt. B. F. Goss.

It gives the Common and Scientific name of every North American Bird according to the A. O. U. Nomenclature. It also gives the A. O. U. Numbers as well as those of both Coues' and Ridgeway, and last but not least it gives the value of eggs of *nearly every* species, over one hundred of which never appeared on any printed list before.

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"It is very neat and will prove a great convenience to collectors as a standard of value."—J. PARKER NORRIS.

"In nearly all cases the prices given are about what they should be."—CAPT. CHAS. E. BENDIRE.

"Am immensely pleased with it, the prices are equitably compiled,"—"J. M. W." C. L. RAWSON, Norwich, Conn.

"It's a little dandy, best I ever saw, have looked it all over very carefully and think you have the prices well regulated."—K. B. MATHES, Chicago.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, *edition*, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.



OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

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ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1892.

NO. 10

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales." inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Latin" must be based on the prices given in the "New Standard Catalogue."*

TO EXCHANGE. First class eggs in sets to exchange for same. Send lists. W. A. OLD-FIELD, Port Sanilac, Mich.

FIRST CLASS singles, and sets with original nests, to exchange for sets with original nests, many common ones wanted. Write. C. S. BUTTERS, 69 Merrimack St., Haverhill, Mass.

FOR SALE.—Bald Eagle 18 months old first class nutrition and healthy; price ten dollars. A. J. MILLER, Frankfort, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE:—Forty "Once a Week," newspapers and forty "Once a Week" library books, for eggs in singles which I have not got. WILLIE ALLEN, Lock Box 1, Medina, N. Y.

FOR SALE or exchange:—Compound microscope Acme No. 5; two eye-pieces; two objectives; power 25-500 diameters; clear field; nearly new. Write for particulars. W. T. SHAW, Bozeman, Mont.

EXCHANGE:—Nicely stuffed specimens A. O. U. 194, 201, 390, without stands. Also one first class skin of No. 144 and two of 201. Make offers. MYRON J. PARSONS, Mt. Tom, Mass.

I HAVE 1st class sets to exchange for same, and 1st class skins. Send lists. EDWARD WALL, Box 473, San Bernardino, California.

WILD MEXICAN POTATOES:—In lots of 50 to exchange for eggs, shells, Indian relics, curios and minerals. Make offers. A. R. OGDEN, Brocton, N. Y.

A COLLECTION of stamps valued at \$10.00. Would like to exchange for camera or kodak or sell for value. Write to C. C. RENSCHAW, Boyce, Va.

WILL EXCHANGE copies (new) life of Cleveland for books on Oology and Ornithology preferred. A few eggs to exchange. GEO. M. COULTER, Baileyville, Kan.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Latin" must be based on the prices given in the N-w "Standard Catalogue."*

WANTED:—A pair of opera glasses and Indian relics. Will give foreign and United States stamps, books and papers for them. Send for list. E. T. JOHNSON, 104 Coert St., Memphis, Tenn.

WANTED.—Good opera or field glass, also boxing gloves. JAMES E. MALLORY, Baldwin, Kan.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fossils and minerals to exchange for same or deer, elk and buffalo horns in rough, also good exchanges given for microscope or opera glasses. MORTON CULVER, La Salle, Ills.

NOTICE.—On account of my going abroad I offer my collection of Mounted Birds, skins, eggs, minerals etc. for sale at bottom prices. Send for list. All must go. D. FRANK KELLER, Reading, Pa.

I HAVE a number of miscellaneous articles, magazines, minerals, fossils, birds' eggs, glass eyes for mounted birds, curiosities, stamps etc. to exchange for birds' eggs. Write for lists, all answered. R. C. WOODHOUSE, 135 West 93 St., New York City.

MRS. JAS. E. TANNER, 17 Lincoln Ave., Corland, N. Y. has a glass shade cone 20 in. tall by 12 in. wide, that she would like to dispose of for best offer. A local parrot; ser preferred.

EXCHANGE.—Insects, Cocoons, *Belostomat* *Grandis* (gigantic water bug) and many others, in large or small quantities for sale or to exchange for coleoptera, books, curios etc. PAUL VAN RIPPER, Curators St., Joe Valley Chapter A. A., Niles, Mich.

FOR SALE or exchange:—Complete blow-pipe analysis outfit, including chemical reagents and books to enable one to readily name any animal; complete in cherry stained case. Write for particulars. WM. B. FRANKE, Bozeman, Montana.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—To sell or trade a \$7.00 collection of fossils and curiosities. Also *Evogyra arietana* fossils, under 10, 10c. each; over 10, 7c. each; over 20, 5c. each. Any quantity. For next 30 days only. WILLIAM M. THORNTON, 1501 Colorado St. Austin, Texas.

COLLECTORS:—I have fancy pigeons, tripod camera, stamps, 600 U. S. and foreign coins, taxidermist's instruments, butterflies and bugs, for sale or exchange. Will exchange for geological specimens, 1st class eggs, Indian relics and arrow points, will give 100 foreign stamps for every mineral or arrow point sent me. All letters answered. Correspondence invited. V. F. MUELLER, 346 Ninth Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

WANTED.—Cooes' Key, flexible binding preferred, also any other standard works on American ornithology. State condition and edition. Will give cash. All answered. N. G. BUXTON, Euclid Hall, L. S. J. U., Palo Alto, Cal.

SETS of Common and King Eider Duck's eggs for butterflies. Correspondence solicited with lepidopterists, especially from the West, South and Northwest. Perfect specimens only. LEVI W. MENZEL, Reading, Penna.

FOR EXCHANGE.—New self-inking press, 100 Agricultural, School Smithsonian, Geological (all states) reports and statistics, very cheap, land corals, cigarette pictures, new striking bag (Spaulding), Indian clubs, etc. etc. Wanted, Indian relics, eggs and curiosities. JOHN W. MYKRANTZ, Ashland, Ohio.

FOR EXCHANGE.—1 pair gray squirrels and cage, also a few volumes of Natural History papers for first class bird skins and eggs in sets. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn.

ON APPROVAL.—Arrowpoints sent on approval. Send reference and receive assortment for selection. Fossils—10 varieties for 50 cts. or 18 for \$1.00. H. E. BROCK, Mason City, Iowa.

I HAVE a quantity of petrified wood from the petrified forest of Colorado, to exchange for curios and U. S. Fractional Currency in good condition. WILL D. WALTMAN, 18 South Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, Col.

FINE SPECIMENS of Chalchodony, also sample copies of Oological papers to exchange for 1st class sets, or sets for sets. PERCY G. BOURNE, 130 Merrimack St., Haverhill Mass.

I HAVE to exchange several volumes of the Argosy, Golden Days, Golden Hours and Good News for the best offer of Natural History specimens or curiosities. Write for particulars. ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor, Maine.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY:—Live birds, such as canaries, fancy pigeons and especially quail and partridge; also small animals such as squirrels, ferrets, water rabbits etc.; also eggs in first class sets, moths, butterflies and live cocoons, for which we offer eggs in first class sets and singles, moths, butterflies and live cocoons and for exceptionally good offers, cash. All letters answered. ORA W. KNIGHT or R. A. POMROY, Bangor, Maine.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

GOOD FOREIGN and U. S. stamps to exchange for same, or for eggs. A printing press and outfit, and bicycle for sale. D. TODD MAY, East Akron, O.

LOOK.—I have a 38 cal. shot gun, for collecting, also one hundred brass shells and one wood cutter and recapper for it. A "Cooes' Key to N. A. Birds" latest edition, nearly new. Mounted deer head, woodchuck, grey squirrel, pintail and lesser scaup duck. Over one hundred and fifty first class bird skins. Will sell above goods for cash, cheap, and will exchange for a pair of fine canaries, or a fine field glass or telescope. Write for list of skins. All letters answered. W. R. BIRD, Mason City, Iowa.

NOTICE.—I have a nice list of fine first-class sets with full data, which I am desirous of exchanging for same. Collectors desiring to exchange please send list and receive mine. L. J. DRENNAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

Ornithological Books, Papers, Bench and Hand Vices, Scalpels, Spring Forceps, etc., to exchange for Painters or Carpenters tools or books. W. INGRAM, Odin, Ill.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Sets 373 1-5 1-4 3-3. 325 2-2. 337 1-3 3-2 1-1. 368 1-2. 731 1-7. 610 2-1. 400 1-4. 394 1-4. 289 1-4 and many others as desirable. Send list and receive ours. WILLIAMSON & CHADWICK, Loring, Kansas.

WILL SELL as pets, 3 tame coos 5 months old, one male and two females. Taken when very young. Perfectly tame. Can handle. Price \$15. CLIFTON D. HOWE, Newfane, Vt.

WANTED. Insects, mounted birds and mammals, minerals, fossils, eggs and shells can offer for same Breech Loading Air Rifle, pamphlets, minerals, curios, 22 cal. Double Action Revolver and eggs W. F. MOUNTAIN, 338 William St. East Orange, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A silver plated B flat cornet with gold plated mouth piece. Exchange value \$75. Also a Flobert Rifle and a collection of single eggs, 250 different kinds. Will exchange the above for first-class mounted birds. Any one sending lists of birds, please state sex. E. L. HALEY, Box 214, Phillips, Maine.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers anything I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Cooes' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I HAVE "Footprints of the World's History," new, cloth bound, cost \$3, to exchange for good pair of climbing irons. L. C. BLANTON, Newberry, S. C.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

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NO. 10

The History and Mystery of Jacob Potter, Jr.

"Jake" was a young Barred Owl who lived a short but eventful life at the home of Wm. C. Coomles, in Clement Co., Ohio.

On the 9th of May, a gentleman, Mr. Jacob Potter, while hunting in a piece of wet woodland described in "Notes from Southwestern Ohio" in the March, '92 OÖLOGIST, flushed an owl from a hollow beech, near which a small Barred Owl had been killed, two days before. He fired at it, as it left the hole but secured nothing but feathers.

The writer was visiting at that time, at the home of the above mentioned W. C. Coomles, and being informed of the occurrence by Mr. Potter, went with him and Mr. Coomles's two sons to the tree. It was a large beech, with a long slit in the south side, about fifteen feet from the ground. The writer immediately ascended, and found tucked in a corner of the hole, a curious ball, or rather mass of grey and brown down, and brown eyes and blue pupils. He was lifted out, and as it was a rather long drop, his feet were tied to the end of a long neck-tie, and thus, snapping and hissing, he was lowered to the hands of the persons below.

After sitting in a hat at the base of a tree while other holes were investigated for the old bird, he was taken home, and placed in an artificial nest on a barrel top, with two young Red-tails, taken two days before.

Here his baby eyes and steady gaze, his downy covering and fuzzy feet soon won the affection of all who saw him; and he was more petted than were the Hawks.

He soon began, when hungry, to utter a long, strained-out "*squee*," strongly emphasised at the end. Afterward

when hungry, this was repeated so continually as to be quite annoying.

His primaries, when he was taken, were half an inch long. After eating about his weight daily of all manner of flesh till the 13th of May, he began to be conscious of their size, and would often stand on the edge of the barrel and flap his wings vigorously. I have neglected to mention the fact, that from the day he was placed in the barrel until our acquaintance with him ceased, he had a way of twisting his head, or rather turning an invisible crank with it, now one way and now the other, in a most ludicrous manner, when looking at objects, and this was kept up until his history closed.

A few days after the 13th, he was placed on the floor a few times daily, where he would drink and wade in a pan, and run and jump around, flapping his wings, in an endeavor to fly; and soon grew courageous enough to jump and sail from the barrel. Then he climbed upon an old hammock, and going to the highest part, stared and "*squee'd*" for hours.

It was at this time that I closed my visit; but full accounts were sent me of his doings.

A day or two after I left, he was found sitting on top of the stove-pipe, where it entered the wall, and then he ventured out-doors, and was immediately surrounded by a noisy crowd of martins, robins, cat-birds, etc., who made him twist and stare, but did not hurt him, and he took up his abode in a large maple near the house.

Here he stayed for several days and refused to come down, and my cousin was compelled to carry his food up to him; but growing tired of this, and quit, and at length Jake, very hungry, appeared

at the woodshed and received his breakfast, and continued to do so afterward.

One evening as Jake sat in his tree, a Screech Owl attacked him and had quite a battle; Jake being at this time about twice the size of a Screech Owl, but still a mere baby. The battle was decided a draw, and the Screech Owl withdrew, but appeared the next evening, and, after a desperate battle in air, they fell crashing through the branches.

All was then silent; my cousin called, "Oh, Jake, where are you?" "*Squee, sque, sque*" came out from the darkness, and the Screech Owl, after screeching around awhile, left in disgust.

Jake now grew friendly, and took to riding about on people's heads, and to playing with the yellow dog, dragging his wings on the ground and rushing at him, while the dog enjoyed it as much as Jake.

Jake about this time began to drop suddenly upon persons' heads, and finding that young ladies and children screamed at his approach, he became quite troublesome. and delighted to appear at unexpected times and to frighten them as much as possible. He also attacked a small chicken, and devoured it, when unusually hungry.

This was the early part of Jake's history. Now comes the mystery. One day in September, Jake, after having gone hungry for several days, turned up missing. He was not heard of for two weeks, and then he was heard hooting, by a farmer, who was well acquainted with him. The farmer called him and he came a lit on a stump, and twisted his head at him, and, after further calling, flew up and knocked off the farmer's hat and then left.

That was in September.

One day in December, my cousin being in a neighboring village, heard an old gentleman telling about an incident which occurred on his farm, then occupied by a tenant.

Some time in October his chickens

disappeared, one by one, until twenty were killed. He (the tenant) was much puzzled, and at a loss to account for their disappearance, till one day a large owl appeared in the yard, and flew at a little girl, and on the farmers attacking it with a club, it tore a hole in his ear.

The next day it appeared again, and was promptly shot by the angered farmer.

We have no means of knowing to a certainty that this was Jake, but think from his actions and the direction of his travels that it must have been him. Although he possessed many faults, his owners still remember him with kindly sorrow, and desire to pass a tribute to his memory, in this article, which, unfortunately, has been written in so prolix a manner that it appears to be in a condition similar to which Jake's stomach was for days at a time, namely there is but little in it.

FALCO,

Montgomery, O.

A Day in the Field.

Saturday, June 11th, 1892, was one of those days in the latterpart of spring, which are made beautiful by a deep blue sky overhead, green fields spangled with butter cups and daises, and every bush and tree filled to overflowing with sweet songsters, whose voices and flitting forms are a never ceasing source of delight to every lover of nature.

"Old Sol" had risen long ago, before we, after packing up a slight luncheon and donning our old clothes, made a "bee line" for the nearest woods.

Our ears, while walking through the charming bit of woodland, were continually saluted with the songs of Redstarts, Black and White Warblers, Ovenbirds, Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, and Wilson's Thrushes; while apparently far off in the distance someone is heard calling "Bob White, Bob White," and immediately overhead, from the throat

of a Quaker clad little fellow, who sits with drooping wings and tail, comes the plaintive notes of *pe-a-wee, pe-a-wee*.

Our first find was a Redstart's nest containing two fresh eggs, next a Wilson's Thrush with four, and a Black billed Cuckoo's with five eggs. Then followed several nests of the same species and others of like catalogue value.

While we were traversing a small wooded swamp, trying all the while to dodge the attacks of numberless mosquitoes, and to keep our feet from sinking in the black and treacherous looking mud, I caught sight of what, at first sight, I supposed to be a Redstart's nest placed on the nearly horizontal branch of an elm tree about thirty feet from the ground on investigation the nest, which was admirably concealed, was found to contain four incubated eggs. These did not look like the majority of Redstart's eggs which we had seen, so on the strength that it might be something rare, we hung around for some time to see if we could get a glimpse of the owner. At last our patience was rewarded by seeing a small bird slip quietly on the nest. On attempting to climb up again she flew off and darted down to within a few feet of us, where she alighted on a small twig, thus giving us ample opportunity to identify her as a female Black-throated Green Warbler.

Leaving the nest and eggs to be collected on our way home, we struck off through the neighboring pines to an apple orchard where two weeks before a female Ruby-throat had been seen loitering among the apple blossoms. We had advanced about half way through the Orchard without finding anything beyond two nests of the Red-eyed Vireo, when our advance was suddenly checked by the humming sound made by minute wings. We quietly settled down into the deep grass and proceeded to follow the movements of Mrs. Ruby-throat. She flew about for some time, and then alighted on a dead twig where

she proceeded to make her toilet. After she had completed her ablutions she suddenly left her perch, darted into the air and after hovering over us, seemingly to discover whether we had any designs upon her home or not, she almost as quick as a flash, darted under the spreading branches of an apple tree, and after poising for the space of half a second, settled down upon her lichen-covered home.

Few collectors need a description of the nest or eggs of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and so I will not attempt a description of my find, but I must say that although I have in the course of my wanderings over field and woodland, found several of these beautiful fairy like structures yet the feeling of exultation is just as strong and every newly found nest seems to be more beautiful than all its predecessors.

By this time we felt thoroughly satisfied with our days success, and although regardless of the fact that we had not eaten our lunch, we set out for home, and were soon enjoying all the discomforts of a "cold dinner."

On visiting the situation of the Ruby-throat's nest two weeks later, another nest was discovered in the process of construction, in the same tree and within a yard of the old nest. This nest was never fully completed, possibly on account of the heavy rains which came the next week.

WALTER C. JONES,
Bradford, Mass.

The Genus *Thryothorus*.

Thryothorus ludovicianus
Thryothorus bewickii.

The genus *Thryothorus* in North American ornithology embraces two species, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, and *Thryothorus bewickii*, commonly known as the Carolina and Bewick's Wrens.

The habitat of the first is in the south

it being rare or local north of the Ohio river, and is not common even in Kentucky, but as you go south it becomes more abundant, and in Louisiana it is one of the most common birds. Here you can hear the Carolina Wren singing everywhere from house tops, from the bush and briar, one bird seeming to answer the other in singing.

It is a resident in the south, and about the beginning of March the breeding season begins: Eggs may be found in the latter part of March, or in April, and as late as July, showing that two and even three broods are raised in a season. The nest is placed indiscriminately in houses, hedges, tin cans, gutters, or anywhere. My first set for 1892 of this species was taken April 8th, the nest being wedged between a drooping shingle and the roof, on the inside of an old cabin. The nest was composed of fine and coarse grasses, corn leaves and shucks, and leaves, and warmly lined with feathers and horse hair.

About this time an article came out in the OÖLOGIST referring to the Carolina Wren's fondness for building in artificial nests such as tin cans, boxes, etc. The writer stated that he had taken several sets from tin cans that he had placed in various situations. I determined to try the experiment myself, so seeing an old milk can lying near a deserted cabin frequented by the wrens, I put it up, and awaited the result.

About two weeks afterward I visited my can, and to my delight a bird flew out, which I at once recognized as the wren.

Putting my hand in the nest, I drew out five pretty eggs, which subsequently proved to be fresh. The industrious birds had completely filled the can, a rather large one, with the usual material, leaving only a small cavity for the eggs.

Another set of five was taken from behind a board nailed to a post of an old house, and several others in similar situations.

Much has been written about the song of the Carolina Wren, and it surely deserves all that has been said about it. Its notes are remarkably sweet and loud for so small a bird, and in some of their variations greatly resemble the song of the Cardinal, though lacking in volume and mellowness.

The eggs of this Wren are from four to six in number, lightly specked with dots of reddish brown. The average size is about .73 x .60.

The second member of the genus, the Bewick's Wren is a smaller and plainer bird than the above. Its habitat is from the Alleghanies across the Mississippi Valley to the plains. It is tolerably abundant here, and I have fortunately been able to observe many of its habits. The mating season begins in the latter part of March and eggs may be found by the middle of April. Sometimes they lay a second set as I have taken eggs as late as July 8th.

The nest, like that of the Carolina Wren, is built almost anywhere, but often differs in construction. Sometimes a nest will be built like that of the Carolina Wren, but such are rare, the typical nest being of large twigs, as large as those used by the Robin, and almost destitute of lining. A nest such as I have described is above the porch of our house, and has been occupied for nearly ten years by a family of these Wrens. Another nest which is exactly like the above in construction, and has been occupied for an equal length of time, is on a small shelf over the door of an outhouse. Although people pass within a foot of these nests all the time the Wrens beyond scolding now and then never seem to be disturbed and generally raise their broods in peace.

A habit I noticed in connection with these Wrens is similar to one possessed by their cousins, the Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*); namely: that the male, in the exuberance of the nesting spirit, builds a small nest of his

own close to that on which the female is sitting, and thus amuses himself while waiting for the young to hatch. Generally he seems dissatisfied with it and pulls it to pieces many times before he gets it to his liking. I have noticed this habit only with the Wrens over the porch and in the outhouse, not having had opportunities for observing others.

The food of this Wren is mostly of grubs found in wood, and caterpillars, which it gathers with great dexterity.

After the young are able to fly, they follow their parents on a tour around the neighboring fences, the old ones feeding them all the while, like a family of Vireos.

The Bewick's Wren lays from four to seven eggs, very similar to those of the Carolina Wren except in point of size, the average size of the Bewick's Wren being about .64x.51, the Carolina, as before stated about .73x.60.

The eggs are white spotted with reddish brown, forming a thin wreath at the larger end. In comparing the two birds we see a great many points of similarity, the long curved bill, the bluish line over the eye and the long, barred tail being common to both species.

The song of the Bewick's Wren certainly deserves attention. He is a cheerful songster, and in my opinion is fully the equal of his much vaunted brother, the Carolina Wren. He sings the whole day long in the nesting season, and every time he brings a worm to his patient mate, he flies to a branch of the nearest tree, and pours forth a song of gladness and rejoicing.

"THRYOTHORUS."

H. B. B.

Christian Co., Ky.

The Californian Bush-Tit.

Psaltriparus minimus californicus.

Along towards the end of our checking lists we come to a number 743a, the

Californian Bush or Least Tit. During the past season I have found, in them, a very interesting study, often watching them for hours as they busied themselves in the construction of their homes. Beautiful homes they are too. Hanging from the extremity of some swaying live-oak branch, rocked by the breeze, and secure from depredation, the home of the Bush-Tit is indeed one to be proud of. And fully conscious is the owner of its value, for he always, very indiscreetly chirps and chatters and makes a great fuss as soon as you approach the tree which contains his nest.

The nest is generally situated in a live-oak tree near water, although I have found nests in gum, pepper and poplar trees at some distance from the creek. One day in March I took a walk along a creek with a friend and we found about a dozen nests in three or four hours. Two were in eucalyptus trees and the rest of them were in live oaks and the most of them contained seven fresh eggs, though one or two sets of six were taken and several nests found with but one egg in.

The birds are pretty well distributed over the state and remain with us nearly all the season. Quite frequently they lay two sets in a season or even more when circumstances compel them to. One nest that came under my observation was built in the last of February in a pepper tree right over the sidewalk and a set of six eggs were taken from it. Immediately afterwards the foolish birds commenced the construction of another nest in the tree next to the one in which the first had been. I thought I would leave them rear their young in peace this time, but some one else thought differently and the second nest went the way of the first.

The little fellows did not seem at all discouraged at this however but immediately repaired to a poplar tree about 20 yards distant and soon had the third nest completed and six eggs laid and

things were progressing finely, but alas! like some unfortunate men, they seemed doomed and nest No. 3 followed in the steps of its predecessors. Whether they laid a fourth set or not I do not know but sincerely hope if they did, that they were left unmolested.

The nest is a beautiful structure often being made almost entirely of willow down with perhaps a little moss and lichens and a few cobwebs mixed in, and being invariably lined with down and small feathers. The bird itself is one of our smallest and plainest, the main color being brown with alighter hue on the under parts.

The egg is perfectly white, slightly larger than a hummingbird's, and somewhat conical in shape. Seven is an average set though they sometimes lay but five and rarely as many as eight.

My greatest pleasure has been in watching them in the construction of their nests. Lying flat upon my back under a poplar tree one afternoon, I watched a pair that were building there and enjoyed myself immensely for some time. The nest, when first discovered was about half finished and I had hardly seated myself when the old birds arrived. They were much troubled by my presence, in their excitement dropping the cargo of moss which they had brought with them, hopping nervously about from twig to twig and keeping up an excited chatter for some time. But finding that I was not disposed to remove myself, they gradually, by a few successive hops from twig to twig, approached the nest. Finally the female made bold to hop in at the top while the male left to procure more material.

The nest now began to cut up strange antics, jumping up and down and swaying from side to side. It was quite evident that my little friend on the inside was exerting herself remarkably. Soon her mate arrived with fresh material in the shape of a few small feathers

from a neighboring poultry yard, and the two went inside and wove the feathers into the bottom of the nest.

Thus they worked all the afternoon, always busy and ever uttering their low contented *chit, chit*, at intervals of a few seconds. A few days later and I returned to see how things were progressing, but, as I said before, alas! the cruel hand of man had destroyed all the labor of a few days before. I say the hand of man, though I strongly suspect that the hand which accomplished the work belonged to a man of very tender years, as is too often the case.

Volumes could be written concerning these interesting *mulum in parvi*, if I may use that expression, but I refrain from further expatiating on their merits.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD.
San Jose, Cal.

A Ramble in May.

It was a delightful May morning, a morning when the aroma of the woods seems to penetrate even the busy, bustling city, and invite a ramble in the mossy depths whence it comes.

Such a temptation was not to be resisted. So gathering together my collecting utensils, I boarded a W. S. & B. railroad train, and was soon landed in the pleasant little village of Frankfort with its back ground of prettily wooded hills.

Leaving the depot I started up the bank of a little stream, which came rippling down from the hills, startling the Spotted Sandpipers, and noticing several of their nests.

A pair of Rough-winged Swallows were flying up and down the stream, and after a vigorous search, the nest was located in the side of the bank. The opening to the nest was very round and deep, somewhat similar to a Kingfisher's burrow, which has been the case in all of these nests of my collecting, and forms a distinguishing mark when

found in company with Sand Swallow's nests, which may be deep, but almost invariably have elliptical openings.

Securing the five pure white eggs it contained, after a tiresome dig, I entered a small grove where the lispng ditty of the Redstart proclaimed the nearby presence of a nest, refusing the incessant challenge of the Maryland Yellow-throat to "*tackle me?*" "*tackle me,*" and espied a flimsy platform of twigs, whereon was seated a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, called by the natives, "Red heart," which recalled to my mind the story of the henpecked hubby taking care of the children while his wife went calling. Packing away this set of three eggs, I went on to a small sapling where I saw the trim little nest of the Redstart, its owner seeming rather more distressed than honored at my presence, and relieving the nest of its four dainty treasures did not tend to allay its distress.

I had now reached the foot of the hill where the stream rippled over the slate in musical little cataracts, and the hemlock and beech formed an arch overhead, when, like a tongue of flame a Searlet Tanager darted past in pursuit of its better half, both alighting on a branch of a small tree, seemingly unconscious of a hostile presence. The female had something in its bill, which, by the aid of my field glass, I made out to be a few small twigs, and after waiting a short time it flew to a limb of a hemlock, whither the male closely followed, and on approaching I saw a nearly completed nest. Spotting this nest for the future I proceeded up the glen, to where the growth was smaller and in a small shrub, about two feet from the ground I found a nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler. Gesticulations did not seem to frighten its occupant in the least, so I gently removed it with my hand and disclosed to my delighted gaze four eggs of the Warbler and one Cowbird's.

In a grape vine near by a Black-billed Cuckoo was sitting on six eggs. Three

were of the normal size, but the remaining three were as large as those of the Yellow-billed.

Seated on the mossy bank of the stream, I satisfied the cravings of the inner man, occasionally tossing a stone at an impudent Jay, which was eyeing me with evident distrust. Watching the Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warblers flitting from tree to tree and listening to the twittering of a flock of Pine Siskins, and the far off *auk, auk* of the Nuthatch, I had gradually arranged myself for a quiet doze, when I heard a harsh scream overhead and starting up began to look for the intruder. It proved to be a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a through canvass of the district soon showed a nest, snugly packed against the trunk of a large hemlock. The tree was very large and the birds daring, but after a hard tussle I reached the nest, and finally stepped once more on terra firma with four heavily incubated eggs. They were beauties, with a delicate clouding around the larger end, and make a fine appearance in my cabinet. The male Hawk made an excellent skin.

As it was nearly time for the return train. I began to make my way toward the depot, noting many nests on my way, though few deserving mention, and soon my attention was attracted by the mellow lay of a Warbling Vireo.

It has always been my experience, that we are excusable, the Warbling Greenlet prefers a popular tree, (*Populus tremuloïdes* or *candicans*) and as this song came from such a tree I began to search for the nest, soon finding it on one of the topmost branches. The owner of the premises offered some slight objections, but these were readily overcome by the judicious administration of Uncle Sam's all powerful coin.

Ascending the tree I secured the single egg it contained, reaching the depot just in time, and was soon whirling towards home wrapped in the memoirs of the pleasant day I had passed.

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

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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Among the Hummingbirds.

While in Santa Barbara, California, during the season of '91 I had the pleasure of being so situated that I could spend a considerable amount of time in the field, a privilege of which I gladly availed myself. Among the numerous birds that received my attention were the various species of Hummers which abounded in the vicinity. The mild and tranquil climate of those southern

coasts seems a fitting abode for these gorgeous feathered gems, that everywhere flit about and vivify the semi-tropic vistas. By the dense hedge-rows in the moist and shaded canons, over the sun-crested hill-tops and the warm wide fields, these fairy creatures loiter in sportive mood, or wing their way on sonorous pinions with incredible speed.

Of the six species of Hummers found in California, five are residents of the vicinity of Santa Barbara; these are in the order of their occurrence, Anna's, Rufous, Allen's, Black-chinned, and Costa's. Of these I collected sets of all but the Rufous and the Costa's.

Contrary to what appears to be the popular impression, the Hummingbirds are not summer nesters. In Southern California, I believe, the Hummers nest mostly in the months of March and April; however, the nests may be found as early as January and as late as June, perhaps later.

During my wanderings in February I located a nest of an Anna's in an oak tree over-hanging a canon, but, it being inaccessible, I made no effort to get it. My first set was collected on March 18. A week or so previous to that date, I had noticed an Allen's carrying material to a cypress tree a short distance in front of the house. I soon located the nest, which was about half finished, upon a twig about five feet from the ground. While the nest was being built, the bird would permit me to draw near and watch her at work. When bringing material she would fly directly towards the nest, and with undiminished speed light upon it without causing the slightest agitation, a feat that is continually performed, even when the nest contains eggs. After resting a moment on the cottony mass, the bird arranged the downy substance with her bill and darted away after more. The little structure was completed and on the 16th contained one egg. Two days later the set was com-

plete, and with no little compunction, I deprived the creature of her treasures.

This acceptable addition to my cabinet added new zeal to my endeavors. On the 20th I began a systematic search of a hedge close by, which lined a public road. I found it impossible to keep trace of a particular bird on account of the number that inhabited the place, and also, on account of the density of the foliage of the large cypress trees which composed the hedge. The sun was rather warm so I took the shady side of the hedge and began the search. It was a day characteristic of these happy coasts; the quiet was broken by no sound but the reveling of songsters and the busy hum of the creatures whose province I had invaded. In the distance the ocean which in these genial climes seems to have renounced its prerogative of terror—the quiet waters reflecting the kindly hues of the skies, the deep and placid bosom receiving the fragrant odors borne it by the breezes of the land—lay peacefully moaning as the breakers lapped the sand skirt shores. My first find was a full set of Allen; the nest was fastened to a twig at the height of my breast from the ground. While removing the nest and placing it and the eggs into my collecting-box, the female darted about my head. During the remainder of the search, two other nests were found, one containing one egg, the other just completed. These were collected when the sets were complete, which was upon the 21st and 22d.

On the 10th of April I again searched this hedge. Upon that morning, while passing the hedge on my bicycle, I flushed a female Allen's from her nest. I made an unsuccessful search for the nest and concluded to search again for it upon my return at noon. At noon I watched closely and flushed her again from the same spot. After a long search I had about concluded that I could not find the nest, when the bird dashed up

on it. It was only a foot or so from the ground and contained two fresh eggs.

On the following day a friend and myself visited some ponds nine or ten miles from town. Here we expected to find nests of Coots and Rails; but after wading among the tules for an hour or two we gave up in disgust, and started in our rig for a mountain canon a few miles further on. Here we scrambled about among an indeterminable mass of poison-oak, black-berry vines, wild roses, and nettles, making little progress and no discoveries. Finally we found a nest of an Arkansas Goldfinch, and in our endeavors to get it, we succeeded in tipping it upside down with the result which usually accompanies such a misfortune.

Considering our time wasted here, and being attracted by the presence of a number of Hummingbirds, we took to the bed of a stream hard by. The banks rose up perpendicularly fifteen to fifty feet, and were matted and covered by a dense mass of bushes and vines of many kinds. While here we found two complete sets of Allen's. The nests were fastened to the stalks of slender weeds that grew on the banks. After we emerged from the water-way and were about to leave the vicinity, we found a nest of an Anna's in an oak tree, far out on a slender limb; we tried to get it. Each took his turn and clambered up the tree, and performed all the acrobatic feats that he had mastered during his career as an oölogist, while the bird, sitting unconcernedly on her nest, watched the circus with no little interest. Frustrated in all our attempts we sat down to gaze longingly at the nest, and grow eloquent in berating the climbing abilities of the other. Our oratorical efforts were cut rather short by the appearance of our horse coming tearing down the lane close at hand, with the rope lashing the ground in a furious manner. We set out in hot pursuit and captured the fugitive in a

neighboring orchard and, finding every thing safe, we started for home.

On the 12th I searched anew the cypresses in front of the house finding two sets of Allen's, one in nice condition the other too badly incubated to save. Again on the 28th I found a full set of the same species together with a nest containing young, and a set almost hatched.

During the last of April I found a nest of an Allen's in a cypress tree overhanging a bank of about fifteen feet in height; the nest was at the extremity of a limb extending over the bank, which which was of loose, crumbling earth. I ventured out on the limb until it began to give and yet the nest was beyond my reach; I crawled out a little further and yet the nest was too far away; the limb was threatening to break every moment—out I moved—I heard a crack, felt a thud then down the bank rolled the nest, limb, and myself, landing at the bottom in an ignominious heap. I pulled my crushed derby from over my eyes to find myself astride the limb, plumb upon the nest, which contained an omelet ready for the cook.

On May Day my friend and I took a trip into the country where we found a complete set of each of Anna's, Allen's and Black chinned.

Just a week after I found in the hedge a set of Allen's, the nest being built in a very exposed situation, and easily seen from the road. On May 9th while wandering about the hills, I took a nest and one egg of the Black-chinned. Three days afterwards, while in a creek bottom after a Lazuli Bunting nest which I had previously located, I stumbled upon a nest of an Anna's containing two eggs. On the 20th I searched in the same creek, finding two full sets of the Anna's, the nests were in a sycamore tree and composed of the down from the leaves of the tree. On the last day of May, I made my last find which was a complete set of Allen's.

The eggs of all Hummingbirds (as far as known) are white in color; and the complement is two. The eggs of the Anna's are usually a trifle larger than those of the Allen's or the Black-chinned. The nests of the Black-chinned and the Anna's are usually composed of the down from the leaves of sycamore trees, and appear like small yellow balls. Sometimes the nests of the Anna's are covered with green lichens, held on by cobwebs. The nests of the Allen's are usually larger than those of the former two, bulkier and less attractive; they are composed of feathers, plant down and moss.

During the season I collected 15 sets, 28 eggs, in all cases preserving the nests with the eggs. My companion collected at least as many. I made no note of the nests I found containing young, or those where the eggs were too far advanced to save. This, I have the audacity to consider a good record considering the limited amount of time which I had to spend in the field.

HARRY C. LILLIE,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

A Collecting Expedition.

The day appointed for our collecting and camping expedition June 13th, having arrived we were on the boat bright and early making preparations for our departure. Our party consisted of four pleasure-loving youths, two of which were bent on fishing and two, including myself were after oölogical specimens. It is useless for me to enter into any preliminaries concerning our camping, fishing and collecting outfits, or to give a lengthy detail of our adventures, etc., but I will simply state that we had an abundance of the articles necessary on such an occasion.

Our destination was a small woodland lying on the east bank of the Illinois river about 12 miles south of this city. The place was almost surrounded by marshes, with the river on one side.

We arrived at this place about 11

o'clock, and upon erecting our tent, building a fireplace, and doing other things necessary, my oölogical friend and I departed in quest of our "hobby" specimens. As usual we met with poor success at first, but as we were about to retrace our steps "homeward" we procured the following eggs.

One set of three *Botaurus exilis*, Least Bittern, this nest was situated on a platform of rushes in a clump of "cat-tails" in the swamp. The eggs are pale blue, unmarked and averaging 1.18x.93.

In crossing a wet meadow we found a set of the *Bartramia longicauda*, Bartramian Sandpiper. The nest was placed in an old cow track and consisted of grass, moss, etc. The eggs are pale buff with the ground color almost concealed with brownish blotches and markings, mostly at the larger end. We also found a nest of the American Coot near here built out of rank rushes and moss over the water. In crossing the timber on our return we found a nest of the Wood Pewee. The nest was placed on a horizontal limb of a tree and contained 4 slightly incubated eggs, which were creamy white in color, speckled and blotched with cinnamon brown or dark red mostly in a circle around the larger end. The day began to fade and we turned in for the night. We tried to rest in our tent, but the mosquitoes were too bloodthirsty, and we were obliged to place our beds on the leaves near the tent and build fires around it in order to obtain relief. Talk about mosquitoes! They would actually bite through three quilts and your clothing! We passed the night somehow and on the morrow and next day procured the following eggs:

One set of six *Pronotaria citrea*, Prothonotary Warbler. Nest was in an old stump 5 feet from the ground, and consisted of moss, leaves, and fine grass, bark etc. The ground color of the eggs was glossy white, blotched with rich chestnut red, averaging 72x.57.

One set of two Whip-poorwill *A. vociferus*, eggs were on the leaf located in the thick underbrush. No attempt was made to build a nest as the leaves were not even disturbed. Eggs were almost alike in shape at both ends, and were greyish white, marked very faintly with bluish grey, measuring 1.14 x.86, 1.13x.87.

One nest of the Savannah Sparrow, containing 6 eggs. Nest was on the ground in a wet place almost level with surface. Eggs were greyish white in color, blotched with light brown and lilac, averaging .72x.54.

We welcomed the arrival of our tug and pulling stakes we soon found ourselves cutting the water homeward. We had all enjoyed a good time and were well satisfied with our trip.

F. E. LUX,
Pekin, Ill.

AUGUST CONTEST.

Sixty Judges.

Prize winners and credits received were as follows:

1. Collecting on Cobb's Island, Va. 257
2. The Ashy Petrel on the Farallones. 226
3. After the Yellow-billed Magpie. 198
4. The Long-eared Owl. 134
5. An Oölogical Trip in Central Illinois. 75

Two other articles received credits. *Fifty-two* judges named the prize winning articles and *fourteen* of them their exact order.

The winners were as follows:

1. No. 7—C. M. Ross, Ont.
2. No. 11—A. Lohmann, Wis.
3. No. 12—A. O. Garrett, Kans.
4. No. 13—Robt. McPherson, Mass.
5. No. 14—Frank H. Nutter, Minn.

As the decisions of the following judges were correct we sent each a copy of the "New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs."

- No. 15—H. C. Higgins, N. Y.
- " 17—A. R. Hutchinson, N. Y.
- " 19—Harry B. Sargeant, N. Y.
- " 21—H. L. Vandegift Pa.
- " 30—A. M. Semple, Wis.
- " 32—Dana C. Gillett, N. Y.
- " 35—Robt. H. Moulton, Tenn.
- " 52—R. P. Gillespie, Miss.
- " 59—Gny A. Moore, Ills.

All prizes were mailed on October 1st.

World's Fair Notes.

The government of Mexico will exhibit at the World's Fair a large and valuable collection of Aztec relics.

The flora of Montana will be shown at the World's Fair by a collection as complete as it is possible to make it. The state has about 1,000 different varieties of wild flowers and of these 800 have already been collected. The exhibit will include also a display of grasses and forage plants. Many of the states are preparing similar exhibits of their flora.

Kansas will make at the World's Fair a notable exhibit of its native animals. The specimens are being prepared by Prof. L. L. Dyche, of the Kansas State University, one of the most skillful of living taxidermists. The exhibit will consist of at least 400 animals, and will include a fine group of ten Rocky mountain sheep, seven Rocky mountain goats, nine moose, eight elks, seven antelopes, five caribou, five buffalo and twelve deer including mule, white-tailed, Virginia and others; eight wolves, timber and coyote; five mountain lions, six bears, twelve foxes, including a beautiful silver gray; besides a large number of lynx, wildcats and other smaller animals.

 Will You Join Us?

But a few tickets left to complete the club to attend the World's Fair on the United World's Excursion Co. plan. Payments monthly or weekly; this is the strongest company in America, apply to Local Agent or write United World's Fair Excursion Co., N. E. Dept., 406 Exchange Bld'g, Boston, Mass.

What \$1 will bring when sent to
 \$ C. L. FREEMAN, Chadron, Neb. \$
 1 Photograph of "Wounded Knee" Battlefield.
 1 " " Burial of the Dead after Battle.
 1 " " Beef Issue at Pine Ridge.
 1 " " Chief Red Cloud or Bloody Hand
 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and
 1 Photograph of Red Cloud's House.
 1 " " Chief Sitting Bull.
 1 " " Three Hostile Chiefs.
 1 Pair of genuine Sioux mocassins.
 Catalogue of Indian Relics and Photographs
 sent for 2 cent stamp. C. L. FREEMAN. Jeft

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Oct.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Nov. competition we will give a similar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Nov. 15th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this month's competition the Judgs whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,
 Albion, N. Y.

\$2.50 FOR 50 CTS.

We have recently purchased several desirable articles and specimens in enormous quantities at "Snap" prices.

Rather than hold them a life time (?) in order to obtain fabulous prices or to wholesale to other dealers in order that they may derive benefit from our "snap" we have decided to share our good luck with every reader of this advertisement.

The specimens and articles are as follows:

1 New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs.	\$ 35
1 Egg with data of Noddy.	50
1 Egg of Hammer head Shark. (A great curio from the Pacific.)	25
1 Egg Drill, hand made from best Stubb's steel.	10
1 Nickered White Metal Blowpipe.	25
1 Embryo Hook, long handle and nicely finished.	15
1 Sea Urchin from Phillippines, rare.	25
1 Fossil Shark Tooth from Virginia. Can be mounted for scarf pin or other jewel purposes.	10
1 Fossil <i>Scaphites Nodosus</i> from Black Hills.	20
1 Sea Horse from Delaware Bay.	35
Total value at fair retail prices.	—\$2.45

The lowest possible price which the above Lot could be ordinarily purchased of any Dealer in America would not be less than \$1.50 and at *lowest possible wholesale rates* at not less than \$12.00 per dozen.

We propose to send every reader of the OÖLOGIST one of these Lots PREPAID for **ONLY 50 CENTS**

PROVIDING—that you will either subscribe or renew your subscription to the OÖLOGIST for 1893.

The subscription price of the OÖLOGIST, including Coupons, is 50 cts., making an even \$1.00 for the Lot and the OÖLOGIST.

If in arrears, the same must be paid in full at the time, or before accepting this offer. If you have already paid IN FULL for 1893, we will under this condition and *no other* allow you to purchase *one* lot separately.

The only condition on which we will allow a person to purchase more than one of these Lots, would be, that they subscribe for the OÖLOGIST for two or more years—that is, a year's subscription must *invariably* accompany every Lot purchased.

This Offer will Hold Good until NOVEMBER 15th Only.

At which date we will either withdraw or extend the same to the Holidays—the offer if extended, will positively expire on December 31st, 1892.

Remit an even \$1.00 in most convenient manner, at once to

Frank H. Lattin, Publisher of the Oölogist, Albion, N. Y.



Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the Oölogist. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

56	signifies	your	subscription	expired	June	1890.
62	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
65	"	"	"	"	June	1891
74	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
80	"	"	"	"	June	1892
86	"	"	"	will	expire	Dec.
92	"	"	"	"	June	1893
98	"	"	"	"	Dec.	1893

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "71"—50c.

Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oölogist your indebtedness to us is 10 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books Oct 5, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

NEURO-KON

—THE—

New and Wonderful Cure for NEURALGIA!

This medicine is warranted to cure or money refunded. It is for NEURALGIA only. One bottle enough for the most obstinate case. PRICE ONE DOLLAR. We employ no agents and do no business with Druggists. Send us one dollar postal note, money order, or currency—and we will send you (all charges paid) our regular One Dollar package of the medicine, ready for use. If it does not cure your neuralgia you may return us the package and we will refund your money. No cure, no pay.

PARISH MFG. COMPANY,

Parish, Oswego, Co., N. Y.

CLOSING OUT SALE BIRDS EGGS.

I desire to close out my entire stock at once and indooing so, wish to call your attention to the following:

	Per Set.
Noddy Tern.....	14
Sooty ".....	09
Man O'War Bird.....	70
Bridled Tern.....	55
Booby Gannet.....	90
White crowned Pigeon.....	90
Great-tailed Grackle.....	40
Texas Thrasher.....	50
Curve-billed Thrasher.....	50
Texas Sparrow.....	80

Will sell lot \$5.00 postpaid. Send for my October list at once. New list every month. Lowest prices in America for nice eggs. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

Bird & Mammal Skins and Eggs

All specimens carefully prepared and with full data.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,

Price List for Stamp.

THADDEUS SURBER,

Jeft White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

BIRD CUTS.

An illustrated price-list of Electrotypes of Birds sent free. Just the thing to use on your letter heads, circulars, etc. Engraving on order. H. A. CARHART, Syracuse, N. Y.

400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

Duplicates can be returned.

AN UNUSUAL OFFER

W. F. GREANY,

827 BRANNAN ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
Catalogue for stamp.

CARR'S NATURAL HISTORY STORE.


Sea Shells, Corals, Minerals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oölogists. Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquariums.

40 page Illustrated Catalogue for 2c stamp.

C. F. CARR

Madison, Wis.

THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blotches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Pimples, to the Head, Pimpleton, Salt Head, Scrofula, Skin Disease, Stomach Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c., 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



"84" is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST, and it was mailed to subscribers Oct. 15.



OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1892.

NO. 11

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales." inserted in this department for 50c. per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

A PRINTING PRESS and complete outfit Minerals and a Breech-loading Shot gun with shells, to exchange for Larger Press or Minerals. A. R. HUTCHINSON, Gaines, N. Y.

AMOS BISSELL, of Princeton, N. J., has a large collection of single eggs valued at \$33., which he will sell for \$9. cash.

FOR SALE.—A collection of about 100 first-class eggs. Address H. R. GRAHAM, 2106 Spring Garden St., Phila., Penn.

TO EXCHANGE.—Foreign stamps, novels and good Waltham Watch for birds eggs in singles. CLARENCE LUTHER, P. O. box 322, Fayetteville, Ark.

TO EXCHANGE.—Ferret good for hunting rabbits, for the best offer of eggs in sets or for cash. L. N. ROSSITER, Lake Forest, Ills.

A COLLECTION of rare eggs, sets and singles valued at about \$40., will sell for \$10. cash with order. H. VAN TRUMP, Rochester, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE. Indian relics, large magic lantern, polished and unpolished minerals, and single eggs, for sets, also wish to purchase first class sets cheap. Send lists. H. W. ISAACS, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

NOTICE what L. L. Krebs, Cedar Rapids, Ia., offers for sale in this issue. A grand opportunity for some one. Please read his advertisement and make offers.

A GOOD COLLECTION of sets and singles. List price \$75., to exchange in bulk or lots, for desirable articles. Reason given for exchanging. Address A. R. HEYWORD, Jr., 96 Pendleton St., Columbia, S. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a few sets and singles to exchange for cheap western or southern eggs in sets, a few showy singles wanted. Wm. E. PIERCE, 19 Sumner St., St. Johnsbury, Vt.

TO EXCHANGE. —Bunwell key and sounder, 20 ohms, good condition, for books on Taxidermy or Oology, eggs, minerals or field glass. All letters answered. W. H. HENDERSON, Chanute, Kans.

WANTED.—Tobacco company tickets, Kinney Bros. especially, Rare Stamps, Coins, Curiosities and any good articles, Books on Oology, Taxidermy, etc., for cash or exchange. Revolvers, Guns and many other articles. Write giving particulars. All letters answered. WM. GILBERT, Box 30, Elk River, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—A collection of first-class birds' eggs, sets and singles, 60 varieties, listed at \$25., standard catalogue rates, for rifle, back numbers Am. Field or Forest and Stream, set boxing gloves, tennis racket and other sporting goods. Will sell col. for \$1. cash. FRED A. BOYER, 1045 Nineteenth St., Des Moines, Ia.

A GREAT BARGAIN. 300 fine beautiful specimens worth over \$35. for sale at a great sacrifice. The collection contains Minerals, Fossils, Sea Curiosities, Alcoholic Specimens, etc., nearly all large and choice. Any person wishing to purchase specimens has a fine opportunity. Please write and make offer. L. L. KREBS, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—My entire collection of mounted specimens, skins and eggs, including mounted Wolf, Wild Cats, Raccoon, hedgehog, Am. white pelican, cormorant, loon jackrabbits, Warblers, etc. Also photographs of mounted spec. to ex. for first-class eggs in sets or singles. W. W. SEARLES, Lime Springs, Iowa.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the Oölogist, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Cones' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I HAVE over 200 species of first-class desirable singles and sets of eggs. Will exchange for fire arms or musical instruments in A No. 1 condition, or for other desirable articles. Send description giving lowest exchange prices of what you can offer and I'll send list of my eggs. N. P. BRALTY, 7 Glen St., Elmstown, N. Y.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—A fine collection of postage stamps for a photographic camera or offers Write for particulars and state what you have to exchange. ROBT W. COLBURN, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE. Choice Bird Skins from all sections. Also some good eggs for skins. Please send full list of skins and receive mine. F. T. PEMBER, Granville, N. Y.

UNITED STATES Stamps wanted. 1851, 5c brown, 1890, 90c blue, 1875, 10c yellow, 1875, 30c. carmine and blue, 2 and 6c Executive, 90c Justice, 30c and 90c State. State your lowest cash prices to A. H. Matthiessen, Box H, National City, Cal.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

NOTICE.—Will each Ornithologist and Oologist in the state of Illinois, who is willing to help in some ornithological work to further the knowledge of our Illinois birds, please send me their address on a postal? W. E. LOUCKS, Peoria, Ill.

AMERICAN HISTORY.—I desire, at once, the following books, either new or second-hand, Bancroft's History of the United States, Bancroft's History of the formation of the Constitution of the United States, Fiske's American Revolution, Frostingham's Rise of the Republic of the U. S., or any other Standard Works on American History. I will give in exchange, Shells, Corals, Indian Relics, Minerals, Birds Eggs or other curiosities. Send description of what you have to offer and state what you want for the same. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

Fossils, Agates, Shells, Corals and Curiosities. Cretaceous Fossils of Eastern Montana a Specialty.



SCAPHITES NODUSUS, M. and H.

Aporrhals biangulata.....	13
Actaeon attenuata.....	15
Anisomyon rotelliformis.....	30
Bacullites ovatus.....	10 to \$1.00
Callista Deweyi.....	15 to .25
Dentalium gracile.....	15
Haminea minor.....	15
Volseilla Meeki.....	15
Veniella subtumida.....	15
Inoceramus convexus.....	20 to .75
" (Crispii).....	15 to .75
Lunatia concinna.....	15
Lucina subundata.....	15
Margarita Nebrasensis.....	15
Nucula cancellata.....	15
Scaphites nodusus.....	10 to \$2.00
Martesia cuneata.....	15
Turnus Stimpsoni.....	15
Fossil wood, containing Martesia, or Turnus.....	25 to .75

Rock containing a variety of small fossils.....	25 to .50
Tregonucarpus nuts (ossil) size of Hickory nut.....	20 to .25
Fossil leaves.....	15 to .75
Agates, rough.....	10 to .50
" polished.....	25 to \$2.00
California Onyx, polished.....	40 to \$1.75
Petoskey Agates, ".....	25 to .75
Fossil ferns.....	15 to .75
Petrified wood.....	10 to .50
Agatized wood.....	10 to .50
Porcelainite.....	10 to .25
Honey-comb lava.....	10 to .25
Sponge lava, will float in water.....	15 to .50
Lava, has been melted, and run like molasses candy.....	15 to .50
Antelope horns, on upper part of skull, per pair.....	\$1.50 to \$2.00
Buffalo horns, per pair.....	.50 to \$1.50
Rattles from Rattlesnake.....	10 to .25
Corals from Bahamas, Florida and Singapore.....	25 to \$2.00

Small mixed shells from West Indies, per pint, .50
 Large Assortment of showy American and Foreign Shells.....10 to \$5.00 each
 10 per cent discount on cash orders of \$10.00 or more.

Send for price lists.
Homer Squyer,
 Mingsville, Montana.

THE RIPANS TABLETS regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Bileusness, Blistches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetis, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Pimples, Rash, Stomach, Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c, 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1892.

NO. 11

Osteology for Amateurs.

A goodly collection of skulls or a fair number of skeletons will give a naturalist more knowledge regarding the birds represented than a like number of first-class skins. This assertion may be disputed by some, but it only proves that such persons have never dabbled in the pleasures of an osteological study.

Probably the main reason that so many naturalists have omitted avian osteology is the great difficulty experienced in preparing cabinet specimens.

Recognizing the need of a good method for preparing specimens it is the object of the writer to present to you clear and simple directions for the manufacture of good preparations for osteological study.

About a year ago Mr. Will T. Shaw, a naturalist well known to many readers of the OÖLOGIST, while studying this interesting branch of ornithology discovered a new process for preparing skeletons and skulls for the cabinet.

That process combined with the experiences of the writer is herein condensed and respectfully submitted to the American Naturalists.

The process—simple but efficient is as follows. In preparing skeletons, skin the bird and remove all the flesh possible with the scalpel. Then boil for one hour in a solution of water and lye, in the proportion of one teaspoonful of lye to every quart of water.

After one hour steady boiling the remaining flesh may be easily detached from the bones by the use of a water blower. Rig up your blower in some out door situation, and get a good strong stream of water playing on all the parts. You will be surprised at the ease with which it is done, the force of

the water easily dislodges all matter contained in the various crevices of the avian frame.

Skulls are prepared in the same manner only it is not necessary to remove any of the flesh before boiling. The water blower will be found especially useful in removing the brains through the orifice of the spinal column.

It will sometimes be found necessary to boil the preparation longer than an hour in order to remove all traces of flesh. Care should be exercised in this direction for if the bones are left in the solution too long, the lye will "eat a hole" through—an accident not easily repaired.

When all traces of flesh have been removed, they are ready for drying, which can be accomplished best by placing in the sun, the sunlight bleaching in a first-class manner.

When dry label all the miscellaneous bones and place in the cabinet.

You will experience difficulty at first in putting a skeleton together, however practice and a careful study of "Osteology" in Coues' Key will overcome this also.

Place the completed skeleton upon a neatly varnished stand of hardwood. Ah! how valuable your first skeleton will seem.

As naturalists are always "orderly souls" perhaps an idea of an osteological work room will not be out of the way. If possible always have a place especially set apart for your work. You will find a corner of the barn or out-house more convenient and satisfactory, for manufacturing skeletons is not a very inviting job to many of the family. Have your work table here, four or five light wooden trays, size about 7 by 14 and one inch high for carrying preparations.

I find an oil stove almost indispensable, they are so cheap and yet so convenient a tin pail holding from 6 to 12 quarts for use in boiling, another pail for refuse, forceps and scalpels, besides a big pair of wooden forceps, useful in taking bones from pail while boiling.

If you wish, arrange a barrel of water fitted with a faucet. You will see "what for" when you begin real work.

All bones of birds skinned, those shot for identification also those so badly torn by shot that they cannot be used for skinning, can all be utilized in making preparations for osteological study. Do not waste time in making skeletons of the smaller birds. Keep the pelvis, sternum and skull, also any peculiarity of construction that may occur, such as the tibia of a grebe, etc.

Finally, my brethern, "go at it to win." You will find many obstacles in the path but do not give up Osteology. Let us build our knowledge of the avian family upon the avian framework. and in the end you will find that your osteological researches have brought to you a knowledge of the parts of a bird, but, (what is more valuable) knowledge of a Creator's mind, a Creator's power, and above all, a Creator's love. For if we study the creature, there will surely creep into our minds and hearts some knowledge of the Creator, whom to know is life eternal.

A. MOWBRAY SEMPLE,
Poydette, Wis.

Buzzard Island.

One of my earliest recollections on coming into the field as an enthusiastic young ornithologist is an island located about 5 miles above the head of navigation on the Chattahoochee River, which from the multitudes of Black and Turkey Vultures which inhabit the place, is called "Buzzard Island."

I had always longed to make a visit to the island and collect some Buzzard eggs which were said to be plentiful

there, but as the river at that point is about half a mile wide and nothing but rocks and rapids, the island has always been considered almost inaccessible. Under these circumstances I had about come to the conclusion that I was never to take the much desired trip, when one day last May, my chum and brother oölogist drove up in a buggy and announced the fact that his brother had the day before; while on a fishing excursion up the river, succeeded in reaching Buzzard Island in a batteau and brought away a couple of sets of eggs of the Black Vulture. That was sufficient; I jumped into the buggy and we went by and picked up another enthusiastic friend and having been re-enforced by the aforesaid successful brother who was to act as guide, we immediately set out up the river for Buzzard Island.

Having arrived at a point nearly opposite the island, we found the batteau moored safely in a little nook where the water was quiet; she was quickly unfastened and we all four secured paddles and shoved off into the rapids. Our "guide" was confident we could make it all right but after having passed the first slue by hard paddling and careful steering I don't think we were all quite so anxious to tackle the next one, which if anything looked less inviting than the first. We were all good swimmers but in rapids like that the best swimmer would not have much chance, for the moment he touched the water he would be dashed against the rocks and disabled by having his leg or arm broken. However, it was too late to turn back now and no one felt like saying he was afraid, so we again pushed off from the temporary landing we had made and after considerable hard paddling and yelling and a profusion of entirely unnecessary orders given by ail members of the party we succeeded in making about a quarter of a mile through the rapids. Here we came to a succession of shoals where the rocks were so

numerous and the water so swift and shallow, it was impossible to navigate the boat, so all hands jumped out, up to our knees in the swift water, where it was very hard to keep your footing, and with two of us at the bow and two at the stern, we succeeded by lifting, hauling and dragging, in making about 200 yards more. We had now gotten away from most of the rocks and were among a series of small islands covered with trees and undergrowth, and could travel with ease as the water was deeper, not so swift and in some places quiet.

Turning the point of a little island, we came in sight of Buzzard Island which was about 50 yards further. As soon as we came in sight hundreds of Vultures rose from the trees on the island with a noise almost like thunder and soaring round and round, gradually rose until they looked like a swarm of bees against the blue heavens. A low sand bar projected from one end of the island for a distance of about 300 feet, and this was also covered with Vultures pluming themselves and hopping about in their awkward, ungainly manner. As we approached the bar to make a landing they rose and either alighted among the small trees on the numerous small islands or soared away to the sky in their cork-screw fashion. I noticed that they were nearly all Black Vultures, the Turkey Vultures being very scarce. I think there were a hundred of the Black Vultures to one of the other species.

Numbers of the birds remained in the trees on the island and watched us curiously as we made our way among the dense undergrowth and canes. It was almost impossible to stand erect as the reeds and vines were matted together and we were forced to crawl along on our hands and knees through the well defined paths which the birds had made through the canes. These paths wound around in every direction all over the island, and had it not been for them I

doubt if we could have made our way at all. I had crawled about 30 yards through the canes when I came upon two young Vultures cuddled up together in a slight depression in the ground, gazing stupidly at me. They were about half grown and were covered with white downy feathers. While I was looking at them I heard a yell from one of my companions as he announced that he had bagged a set of eggs. This was immediately followed by a similar yell and announcement from another of the party about 20 yards off. I pushed forward a few feet further when I was rewarded by a set of two eggs which were laying on the bare ground by an old log. The eggs are a dirty white, spotted and blotched all over with lavender and brown and are generally, somewhat larger than those of the Turkey Vulture. Having tied them up in my handkerchief I pushed on and after finding another pair of young birds and numerous nests which had recently been occupied, I bagged another set of eggs. My companions were more successful and when we reached the other end of the island, which was only about 500 feet, they showed up with 3 and 4 sets, respectively.

They had also found several young birds and old nests, which were only slight depressions in the ground without any attempt at lining, except the dead cane leaves which covered the island. The ground was almost white with bones of birds, chickens and small animals carried there by the vultures, which would seem to indicate that the place had been used by these birds as a breeding and roosting place for years.

On the way back to the boat I found another set, which made a total of ten sets or twenty eggs. Our guide had preferred to remain in the boat as he had explored a portion of the island the day previous and was not sufficiently interested in bird eggs to put up with the almost suffocating, musky odor

which you have to endure while crawling about on the island.

Highly elated, we started back and arrived at the opposite shore without any mishap save the loss of our 'guide's' coat, which was lying on a seat and got over-board during a little excitement caused by the boat getting jammed among some rocks.

All the eggs were those of the Black Vulture, and some were highly incubated. I think if we had arrived about 3 weeks earlier we would have secured a great many more eggs. However, we were very well satisfied and returned home with the full intention of visiting "Buzzard Island" again next Spring.

BEN HUDSON,

Columbus, Ga.

Winter Visitors.

When late in the autumn the deciduous trees lose their verdant summer foliage, and the landscape appears desolate and barren, a number of northern birds come to spend the rigorous months of winter with us.

Their advent is cheerfully welcomed by the lover of animated nature, who laments the departure of his summer friends. The following species are to be found in the inland districts of Bristol County, Mass: Black Snowbirds and Tree Sparrows are abundant, and they usually associate with each other; they are gregarious, frequenting bushy pastures, cultivated fields, and if there is a spot where weeds have grown, and have been allowed to go to seed, these birds may be found in large numbers feeding on them. After a snowstorm the birds under consideration become semi-domesticated, hopping around the veranda and even alighting on the window-sills, and peering curiously into the apartments. At this time they get a great many dainty morsels, which their superior bipeds expose purposely for them. When they find a sheltered

nook on a sunny day, they emit a low melodious warble. During the month of August I have seen Black Snowbirds among the rocky crevices, on the summit of Mt Washington, at an altitude of 6,300 ft. They probably breed on the slopes of the Presidential Range.

The beautiful Snow Bunting with his white plumage, marked with gray, yellowish brown and chocolate is usually first seen, during, or just after a heavy snowstorm. When snow, wind and a low temperature combine to make life, to the inhabitants of the temperate zone disagreeable, this hardy wanderer from the boreal regions is found in the greatest abundance. They move rapidly over the surface of the immaculate mantle of snow, in detached flocks, at times uttering their low call note.

As we ramble among the coniferous trees in winter we hear a very weak, squeaking note, and soon discover a flock of diminutive birds around us. They are all busily at work gleaning their insect food from the trees. Finally a bright-eyed little fellow comes close to you, and inquisitively peers into your face; his yellow and orange-crowned crest is slightly erected, and you at once recognize the Golden-crowned Kinglet. These birds often associate with the Black-capped Titmouse.

Later we may have occasion to climb over a stone wall, when with a rattling chatter a little brown body darts into the wall, out on the other side, gives you a rapid glance, and then disappears again. If you remain motionless the little eccentric will next appear a rod or more away having wended his way through the interstices of the wall.

You will first see his head over the top of a stone, next he is on top of the wall in full view, with his tail in a perpendicular position. There is no doubt but what you are in the presence of the Winter Wren. This genial little bird comes around the house, explores the recesses of the wood-pile, and the pump-

I once caught one alive, which was making himself at home in the barn.

In yonder pines, or birches we notice a flock of small birds industriously searching for food. Their under parts is whitish, with the feathers centrally streaked with dusky, and a slightly yellowish tinge around wings. It is perhaps needless to say that this is the Pine Finch, and that they are a common winter visitor in this section.

The White-bellied Nuthatch may be seen around the dooryard, in the orchard, and in the deep woods. His harsh and peculiar note is easy to recognize, it is uttered frequently as he goes up, down and around the tree trunks, regardless of the laws of gravitation, in his diligent search for food.

The Shore Lark frequents the salt marshes in flocks, making an occasional visit inland when they often accompany the Snow Buntings.

The Pine Grosbeak visits us in extremely cold winters, then it feeds on juniper berries to a great extent, and it has a low pleasing warble like a great many other northern birds. During a snowstorm it is easy to approach.

The Great Northern Shrike is most common in the open country, where it may be seen perched on a tree or a fence-post patiently watching for its prey.

The Bohemian Waxwing is rare in this section. I once came across two, which were perched on a juniper tree, and I had an excellent opportunity for observing them, as they allowed me to approach quite close without taking flight.

CHARLES L. PHILLIPS,
Taunton, Mass.

The Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Of all the birds which inhabit our North Dakota prairies, there is none with which I would part with more reluctance than with this bird. I never think of the prairie, that sea of waving

green speckled with floral gems of every hue, without associating with it this happy little songster. But what wonder, for it is, I think I may safely say, the most abundant resident of the prairie.

Unlike the Meadow Lark and Prairie Horned Lark which seem to prefer plowed land grown up to grass and weeds, and the Baird's Sparrow which makes its home in wet and low-lying prairie land, the Chestnut-collar abounds on the higher and dryer portions of the virgin field.

It arrives here from the south during the last week in April. This year I find from my note-book that I first observed it on April 22d. By the middle of May they are extremely common, and the fields resound with their melody. Once seen and heard they are not soon forgotten. They seldom sing except when on the wing. They will rise from the ground, make two or three undulating flights after the manner of the American Goldfinch, uttering a pleasing twitter, and, having attained a height of 20 or 30 ft., they will slowly descend to the ground with wings spread like a parachute, at the same time pouring forth their beautiful but unique song. From the first rosy messengers of morn till the last fading sky of evening they are untired in their singing.

About the third week in May they begin nesting and sets of eggs may be found from the latter part of this month to the end of July. The nest is a slight hollow in the ground lined with dried grasses, as is usual among other prairie *Fringillidae*. The usual complement of eggs is four (4), although sets of 3 and 5 are not at all uncommon. In this place the nest of the Longspur is a common repository for eggs of the Cowbird; three, two or only one being found per nest.

I think that two broods of Longspurs are reared each season.

These birds leave us in September.

I append a slight description of the birds and their eggs.

Male—distinguishable by the broad black of the breast, and the band of chestnut on the back of the neck.

Female—similar but colors less intense and marked.

Eggs—light reddish-elay with spots of dark reddish-brown, and sometimes scrawls of the same color; also shell marks of lilac.

A set of three eggs in my collection measure .75x.56, .75x.56, .76x.57, respectively.

In Ramsey Co., this species is associated with McCown's Longspur, which it resembles greatly, both in appearance and song.

ROLLA P. CURRIE,
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Fringillidæ in Newton, Middlesex County,
Mass.

There are about fifteen species of *Fringillidæ* here that have come under my notice, of which seven are known by me to breed and the others are only migrants or winter visitors.

The Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella socialis*) is perhaps the commonest here, and best known. It arrives here about the 6th of April and leaves in October or November. They begin in the spring about three o'clock in the morning and sing most all day. Their song is a prolonged trill all on the same key, and I have noticed two different trills one sharper and louder, the other softer and duller. In the fall their only note is a "chip." I found this year the prettiest nest of this species I ever saw, it was ten and one half feet up in an apple tree and was composed of fine weed stalks, rootlets and fine grass and lined with *white* horse hair entirely. It contained five eggs which were the usual color, light blue, spotted mostly at the larger end with black and lavender and measured, .72x.50, .72x.50, .75x.50, .75x.50, .75x.50.

The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) comes next in numbers. A few re-

main with us through the winter in some brush heap, or thick overgrown spot that is sheltered from the wind, but they do not begin to get very common till about the first of April. They do not sing in the winter at all, but by the first week in March while the snow is still on the ground one can hear them singing from their respective brush heaps, first one taking up the song, of which there are more than twenty, and the others joining in. They have also a peculiar squeaking song, which I have only heard in the fall of the year. About the last of April they commence nest building, and the nest is usually snugly tucked away in a tussock of grass or bunch of weeds but sometimes in a small bush. A nest I found this year on May 13th was four feet up in a hedge, and contained five eggs, four of them were light green, spotted mostly at the larger end with brown and lilac, the other egg was like the rest only the spots were smaller and more evenly distributed, they measured .81x.63, .81x.63, .72x.56, .72x.56, .72x.56. The nest was made of leaves, weed stalks and grass lined with horse hair, it was very fragile and quite bulky.

The Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) is rather common here, but breeds rather sparingly. It arrives here in the first week of April, and departs by October. The female is an insignificant looking bird but the males of the second and third year are very beautiful, being crimson above, each feather of the back having a brown stripe through the middle, wings and tail black edged with brown, throat, breast and sides are crimson, the belly being white. They feed off the buds of different trees, or seeds of plants or fruit.

I had the good luck to find a nest this year on June 11th, it was fifteen and one-half feet up in an apple tree, and was made of weed stalks, flower stems and rootlets lined with fine grass and

horse hair, it contained three eggs, which were light blue spotted mostly at the larger end with brown and black. They measured .87x.59.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hubia ludoviciana*) is rather common here arriving by the 12th of May and leaving by September. I found two nests of this species here this year; the first was found May 31st, it was fourteen feet up in a basswood tree and contained four eggs, which were light greenish blue, spotted and clouded with black and lavender, and measured .88x.50, .94x.69, .94x.69, .91x.66. The nest was composed of weed stalks and flower stems lined with fine weed stalks. The second nest was found June 4th, it was seven and one-half feet up in a little birch tree and contained two eggs; the first egg was the usual color except for a thick wreath of brown all around the large end, the second was the same only instead of a wreath the whole of the larger end was brown. The eggs measured 1.x.69, 1.x.66. The nest was made of weed stalks and small twigs, lined with fine weed stalks. The nests are always built near water and are usually quite shallow.

The American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) is one of our common birds and may be seen the whole year round. I have noticed young birds of this species here in September, that could hardly fly, and once I found a deserted nest in a pear tree, but the larger part of them go farther north to breed.

The Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) is quite common here, arriving about the first week in May and departing in October. They breed undoubtedly and I have been told of nests being found here but I have never found any myself.

The Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) is rather common here, arriving by the last week in May and remaining through the summer. I found but one nest of this species here; it was in a

large field covered with brake, in going through it one day a Field Sparrow flew from under my feet, upon looking down I discovered, under the top of a fallen brake the nest, containing four eggs, which were white spotted with red and lavender. It is pleasant at mid day, when most birds are silent, to hear from his perch on a small bush or perhaps a telegraph wire, the sharp, descending trill of the male, while the female patiently sets on her eggs.

The following are those which I have observed only as migrants or occasional visitors.

The Pine Finch (*Spinus pinus*) occurs only in small numbers, in fall or winter, and often with a flock of Chickadees. Their only note seems to be a wirey *see-see see-see*, the first note being the longest and the whole being given quite fast.

Avanna Sparrow (*Passerculus savanna*). I have seen but one of this species here. It was the fifth of May, this year, and the bird was in company with a large flock of White-throated Sparrows.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotricha albicollis*) these birds are very common here during the migrations. They take from the last of April to the second week of May for their passage north and return in September and October.

Tree Sparrow (*Spizella montana*) this bird occurs only as a winter visitor. I have often noticed large flocks around a marshy spot near here, where they feed on the seeds of the long grass that grows there. Their song is a subdued warble resembling very much the song of the Bobolink.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) these birds appear here by the middle of April on their passage north, which takes about three weeks, and return about the first of October.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotricha leucophrys*). I have but one record of this species seen by me on the second day of May, this year, in company with a flock of White-throated Sparrows.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). This bird is rather common here, arriving by the middle of May and staying through July. It may breed but it is doubtful.

Red-poll (*Acanthis linaria*). I have seen but two of these birds here, and that was about the first of September this year. One was alone and the other was with a flock of Chickadees.

GLOVER M. ALLEN,
Newton, Mass.

The Birds in the Bush Fields in Summer.

It has occurred to me, that the readers of the "OÖLOGIST" located here and there over Eastern North America, might be interested in an account of the birds spending the summer in a 40 acre bush field, near Washington. As I have occasion to visit such a field nearly every day from April till November, sometime spending many hours of the day there, my memory serves me readily in recalling its bird-life. The field is surrounded by a grand forest of oak, hickory and chestnut, in which the Wood Thrush, Wood Pewee, Scarlet Tanager, Blue Jay, Red eyed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee, Black and White Creeping Warbler, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Accentor, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will and Golden-winged Woodpecker are common.

In the field, especially along the border of the woods, the ever present Cat-bird scolds at you, with her cat like mewling, her nest, of course, being hung in the alders and tall black-berry bushes. Here and there among the bushes all over the pasture, the Brown Thrush and the Chewink make themselves heard; and their nests are frequently found, the Chewink in one case at least, placing its nest in a bush, about a foot from the ground. The Maryland Yellow-throat is abundant, its nest never being quite down on the ground, and the eggs not unfrequently having

peculiar pen-like markings, somewhat after the manner of the Oriole and the Vesper Sparrow. The Field or Bush Sparrow is in every part of the field, delivering its plaintive melody, and breeds abundantly. Occasionally the drowsy melody of the Prairie Warbler is heard. Not infrequently the Carolina Wren startles one with his spirited but rather monotonous melody. The King-bird perches on the tops of the bushes, and cuts his curves in quest of insects. The Cardinal calls to you in his quaint whistling tones, while his plainer mate nests patiently in the bushes.

But the most noticeable bird-voice to one from more northerly latitudes, is that of the Yellow-breasted Chat or Crazy-bird, as the boys sometimes call it.

It toots, clucks, whistles and chats, till its varied notes become so common as scarcely to attract attention. Should you approach its nest, hung in a thicket of bushes, it will scold you in notes not unlike those of the cat-bird, only with more of the pathos of anxious grief. These syllables of complaint sound not unlike *ercc-oo ercc-oo*. This is one of the birds which may be heard occasionally at any hour of the night.

Bob-white's whistle not infrequently greets one, and the Indigo bird is a common songster, often delivering its spirited warble while soaring high in air, after the manner of the Golden-crowned Accentor. The Blue-bird is also there, and nests in the holes of trees along the edge of the woods. In like manner the Great-crested Flycatcher passes its time between the field and the woods. The bright colors of the Goldfinch ornaments the bushes, and the cooing of the Mourning Dove is occasionally heard. Once in a while one hears the Robin.

Overhead one sees the Turkey Buzzards soaring majestically, and sometimes the Red-shouldered and the Broad-winged Hawks.

J. H. LANGILLE,
Kensington Md.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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Some Trips for Hawk's Eggs.

Many years ago I made my first successful trip for Red-tailed Hawk's (*Buteo borealis*) eggs, and long will I remember with what nervousness I ascended that ponderous oak and reached the large branch just below the nest. For a moment I stood, my whole frame shaking with excitement, then with all the en-

ergy I could muster, peeped into the nest.

Two eggs. How happy I was. The possessor of a clutch of fine large Hawk's eggs. My then small collection had never known such valuable accessions.

Young collectors all have similar experiences. And experiences wherein they are in extreme danger. Such incidents are not easily erased from memory.

In the midst of a small woods about three miles from my home, stands a mighty oak, lifting its head heavenward over a hundred feet, which rocks and nods, as it were, to its less lofty neighbors.

Although it has been nearly half-a-score of years since its construction, the fragments of a nest can be seen far up within a few feet of the top. I reached that nest once, but it nearly cost me my life.

Gaining the nest I was rewarded with only one fresh egg of the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) also new to my collection.

However as I do not wish to tire my readers with my earlier experiences I will proceed to describe some of my last successful trips.

On April 2nd of the present year I packed my "traps" and set out for a long tramp in search of nests of *Buteo borealis*.

After a rough walk of five or six hours, passing by two deserted nests from which I took sets last year, I came within sight of a nest from which I took a set of two eggs in 1890. Last year I was disappointed at this point as the nest was not used. But this time I had found the object of my search, for high in air was a small speck circling against the light flying clouds, which told conclusively that the male was watching his home. The female left the nest while I was yet some distance off and joined her mate.

The tree was a 'shellbark' hickory and

very tall and slender, and rocked and jerked dangerously in the strong wind which prevailed throughout the day.

The nest was placed near the top in a very small crotch ninety feet above the ground, and was extremely hard to reach, owing to the oscillating motion of the tree. The material used was sticks and twigs for the body of the nest with a lining of fine strips of bark and was rather bulky, measuring thirty-six inches in diameter and twelve inches deep, outside.

While I was nearing the nest both old birds swooped down toward me several times passing quite close.

The eggs were two in number, white with soiled bluish tint. One is marked over the entire shell with light cloudings of yellowish brown, thickest on smaller end. The second, which had become addled since incubation started, was marked sparingly and chiefly on larger end. They measure, respectively 2.44x1.88 and 2.40x1.92 inches.

Several other like trips made, but in no one day did I take more than one set of eggs.

Leaving the subject of Red-tails I will now describe my most interesting (1892) Hawk's nest trip, interesting because I found my first authentic nest of the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*).

Stimulated by recent finds of Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) nests, I decided on the evening of the sixth of May, to make preparation for a long trip the next day.

The morning dawned bright, and accordingly, I started on my route.

Four or five miles were traveled without success. Presently, while ascending a long hill I caught sight of what I supposed was a Cooper's Hawk's nest, among some vines, forty feet above the ground in a chestnut sapling, which, with three or four companions, was growing from the roots of an old stump long since mouldered to soil. Upon pounding on the tree I was pleased to

see a Hawk leave the nest and fly rapidly away.

Imagine my surprise upon climbing up to find a small richly colored egg in the nest. At first I thought it was a runt egg of *Accipiter cooperi*. But the nest was so small, constructed differently, and in such an odd situation. While thus engaged in pondering over my mysterious find the clear notes of a Sharp-shinned Hawk rang out, followed closely by the whispering of wings, as the old bird dashed past my head. Quickly whirling upward she turned and with lightning velocity darted past again. Again and again this performance was repeated, all the time keeping up her alarm notes.

Slipping down quickly I hurried away fearing my already long presence would cause the birds to quit their nest.

Pressing on four miles farther I came across a Cooper's Hawk sitting on her nest fifty-five feet up in a hickory tree. It contained four eggs, pale bluish green and unmarked. Size: 1.95x1.52, 1.94x1.54, 1.93x1.51 and 1.95x1.51 inches.

The nest was composed of twigs, sticks and bark. Bark, in this case as in general with nests of this species was used as a sort of lining, being scattered over inside wall of nest. This nest measured twenty four inches in diameter and twelve inches deep, outwardly including an old squirrels nest upon which it was placed.

Returning home by another route, I was so fortunate as to find another set of four. The nest was of the same material as the last, and was placed on an old crow's nest fifty feet above the ground where four oak branches formed a substantial crotch.

Eggs almost equal ended, pale bluish-green. One is unmarked and the others marked sparingly with blurred splashes of yellowish. Size: 1.82x1.57, 1.88x1.53 1.84x1.52 and 1.86x1.52 inches.

Returning to the subject of the Sharp-

shinned. I visited this nest again on the 14th, as this was my regular Saturday route and found the nest to contain only two eggs, which as I believed to be an incomplet set, concluded to leave a week longer. Going back on the 21st, I found no more eggs had been laid, so I took the set.

The eggs were still clean and bright, I was afraid they were badly incubated. But, notwithstanding the length of time, incubation was merely started. They are nearly equal ended and in color, are bluish white, with slight grayish tint.

No 1, which was the first laid, has numerous small blotches of lavender gray scattered over the surface. Laying the egg down with blow-hole upward, scarcely any spots of brown are visible; but upon reversing the position, a handsome egg lays before me. Marked in an oblique manner with rich chestnut and umber and hiding three-fourths of the ground in view.

No. 2 is marked with the same tints, but the smaller specks are very profuse over the entire shell, and a broad wreath of bold blotches encircles the larger half of the egg. Their respective measurements are 1.50 by 1.18 and 1.51 by 1.20 inches.

The nest which I also took is an infirm affair composed of small sticks and twigs, becoming finer toward the inner side. Outside diameter, 14 inches, depth, 7 inches. Inside diameter, 5.50 inches and 1.25 inches deep.

J. WARREN JACOBS,
Franklin Co., Pa.

SEPTEMBER CONTEST.

Forty-five Judges.

Prize Winners and credits received by each were as follows.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. The Breeding Warblers of Western New York. | 216 |
| 2. Acadian Flycatcher. | 157 |

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 3. A California Collecting Ground. | 116 |
| 4. A Tramp through Woods and Marshes in Western Iowa. | 67 |
| 5. How I Spent Easter Monday. | 47 |
- Three other articles received credits ranging from 6 to 43 each.

Twelve Judges named the prize winning articles, only two however named their exact order. Between these two in point of *priority* of arrival of decision the first prize belongs to the Indiana Judge—but from point of *fairness* the California Judge is equally entitled to the same as there was only three days difference in mailing decisions which is fully offset by the greater length of time required by the OÖLOGIST to reach the far distant Judge and besides the California Judge named a *sixth* article which was the non-winning article that received the 43 credits.

Taking the above facts into consideration we award *each* Judge a *first* prize.

The other three winning Judges named the articles in the following order:—1, 2, 3, 5, 4. A case of coincidence worthy of note occurs in that of the Judge winning the third prize, he not only wins a prize of same rank but his recorded number is also *identical* with that of last month.

The winners.

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | } | No. 11—Everett Baxter, South Bend, Ind. |
| | | No. 33—C. Barlow, Santa Clara, California. |
| 3. | | No. 12—A. O. Garrett, Lawrence, Kans. |
| 4. | | No. 13—L. C. Andrews, Elmira, N. Y. |
| 5. | | No. 19—J. S. Griffing, Cutchogue, N. Y. |

Prizes were mailed October 24th.

“85” is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST, and it was mailed to subscribers Nov. 3.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be a id with “Latin” must be based on the prices given in the New Standard Catalogue.

ERRATA:—The article on page 210, Sept. OÖLOGIST should have been headed "A Tramp Through Woods and Marshes in WESTERN IOWA."

Excursion Club to Attend the World's Fair.

If you have any desire to visit the World's Fair at Chicago, bear in mind that the United World's Fair Exposition Co. is a sound organization, with ample capital to fulfil their promises. The company sells tickets on the installment plan, refunding all but first payment if you fail to go, apply to United World's Fair Exposition Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange B'ld'g, Boston, Mass.

2d Hand Books.—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire *at once* good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgeway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should* be and with "Lattin" *must* be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Nov.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Dec. competition we will give a similiar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similiar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Dec. 10th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this months competition the Judgs whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earlist mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

The Little Schoolmaster in the
Art of Advertising:

Printers' Ink,

A Weekly Journal for Advertisers,

Will be sent to
any address
from date of order
to Jan. 1, 1894,
for

ONE DOLLAR.

ADDRESS
(inclosing One Dollars)

PRINTERS' INK,

10 Spruce St., - New York

For five dollars a copy of the American Newspaper Directory for the current year (1,500 pages) will be sent, carriage paid, to any address, and the purchase of the book carries with it a paid-in advance subscription to PRINTERS' INK for one year.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the Oölogist. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

56	signifies	your	subscription	expired	June	1890.
62	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
68	"	"	"	"	June	1891
74	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
80	"	"	"	"	June	1892
86	"	"	"	will	expire	Dec.
92	"	"	"	"	June	1893
98	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "74"—50c. Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oölogist your indebtedness to us is 15 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books Oct. 21, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

CARR'S NATURAL HISTORY STORE.

Sea Shells, Corals, Minerals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oölogists. Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquariums.

40 page Illustrated Catalogue for 2c stamp.

C. F. CARR

Madison, Wis.

NEURO-KON

—THE—

New and Wonderful

Cure for

NEURALGIA!

This medicine is warranted to cure or money refunded. It is for NEURALGIA only. One bottle enough for the most obstinate case. PRICE ONE DOLLAR. We employ no agents and do no business with Druggists. Send us one dollar—postal note, money order, or currency—and we will send you (all charges paid) our regular One Dollar package of the medicine, ready for use. If it does not cure your neuralgia you may return us the package and we will refund your money. No cure, no pay.

PARISH MFG. COMPANY,

Parish, Oswego, Co., N. Y.

CLOSING OUT SALE
BIRDS EGGS.

I desire to close out my entire stock at once and in doing so, wish to call your attention to the following:

	Per Set.
Noddy Tern.....	1.....14
Sooty ".....	1.....09
Man O' War Bird.....	1.....70
Bridled Tern.....	1.....55
Booby Gannet.....	1.....90
White crowned Pigeon.....	2.....90
Great-tailed Grackle.....	4.....49
Texas Thrasher.....	1.....50
Curve-billed Thrasher.....	4.....50
Texas Sparrow.....	4.....80

Will sell lot \$5.00 postpaid. Send for my October list at once. New list every month. Lowest prices in America for nice eggs. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

NOVEMBER LIST
OF
BIRDS EGGS.

My entire stock of over ten thousand eggs is being closed out in lots to suit purchaser. Offer in October Oölogist will be continued this month.

Send for above list at once, if you have not received a copy.

Have a good assortment of Trays and Datas that are going cheap.

Until Dec. 15th, I will allow a discount of 5 per cent to readers of the Oölogist. Orders not less than \$2.00. I want to hear from every working Oölogist during next thirty days.

ADDRESS Walter F. Webb,

Geneva, N. Y.

POP CORN.

Rice, the best Popping Variety, crop of '91, shelled.

By freight or Express at purchaser's expense; 5c per lb. In lots of 50 lbs. or over, 4c. Only about 500 lbs. left.

Crop of '92, ears, \$1.00 per bu.
F. O. B. and no charge for sacks.

** Will exchange for desirable eggs in sets.

FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

Duplicates can be returned.

AN UNUSUAL OFFER

W. F. GREANY,

827 BRANNAN ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
Catalogue for stamp.

\$2.50 FOR 50 CTS.

We have recently purchased several desirable articles and specimens in enormous quantities at "Snap" prices.

Rather than hold them a life time (?) in order to obtain fabulous prices or to wholesale to other dealers in order that they may derive benefit from our "snap" we have decided to share our good luck with every reader of this advertisement.

The specimens and articles are as follows:

1 New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs.	\$ 35
1 Egg with data of Noddy.	50
1 Egg of Hammer head Shark. (A great curio from the Pacific.)	25
1 Egg Drill, hand made from best Stubb's steel.	10
1 Nickeled White Metal Blowpipe.	25
1 Embryo Hook, long handle and nicely finished.	15
1 Sea Urchin from Phillipines, rare.	25
1 Fossil Shark Tooth from Virginia. Can be mounted for scarf pin or other jewel purposes.	10
1 Fossil <i>Scaphites Nodosus</i> from Black Hills.	20
1 Sea Horse from Delaware Bay.	35
Total value at fair retail prices.	—\$2.50

The lowest possible price which the above Lot could be ordinarily purchased of any Dealer in America would not be less than \$1.50 and at *lowest possible wholesale rates* at not less than \$12.00 per dozen.

We propose to send every reader of the OÖLOGIST one of these Lots PREPAID for **ONLY 50 CENTS**

PROVIDING—that you will either subscribe or renew your subscription to the OÖLOGIST for 1893.

The subscription price of the OÖLOGIST, including Coupons, is 50 cts., making an even \$1.00 for the Lot and the OÖLOGIST.

If in arrears, the same must be paid in full at the time, or before accepting this offer. If you have already paid IN FULL for 1893, we will under this condition and *no other* allow you to purchase *one* lot separately.

The only condition on which we will allow a person to purchase more than one of these Lots, would be, that they subscribe for the OÖLOGIST for two or more years—that is, a year's subscription must *invariably* accompany every Lot purchased.

This Offer will Hold Good until DECEMBER 15th Only.

At which date we will either withdraw or extend the same to the Holidays—the offer if extended, will positively expire on December 31st, 1892.

Remit an even \$1.00 in most convenient manner, at once to

Frank H. Lattin, Publisher of the Oologist, Albion, N. Y.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS,
 ASPARAGUS ROOTS,
 SEED POTATOES.

I have choice plants of twenty leading varieties of Strawberries, Tips of the Ohio Raspberry, Extra Fine 2 year old roots of Barr's Mammoth, Palmetto, and Conover's Colossal Asparagus and Fifty selected varieties of Seed Potatoes. Will sell at low rates, or will exchanged for desirable Eggs, specimens or Books in Natural History.

FRANK H. LATTIN,
 ALBION, N. Y.

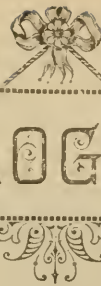




O O L O G I S T.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.



VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1892.

NO. 12

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales." inserted in this department for 50c per 15 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

SETS to exchange of 12 x-1, 16 x-1, 50 x-3, 120c x-3 x-4, 122 x-3 x-4, 37-1 8-2-4, 131 n-1, 146 2-3 1-4, 476 2-4 2-3, 486 1-2, 510 x-5, 591b x-4, 96 2-3 1-4, 642 1-2, 736a n-4, 743a 2-6, 758 3-4. Many common sets wanted. FRED A SCHNEIDER, College Park, Cala.

FIRST CLASS skins, minerals and plants with full data to exchange for the same. DR. W. E. ROTZELL, Narberth, Pa.

TO EXCHANGE.—A large collection of first-class birds eggs in sets with data to exchange for stamps, coins or Indian relics. All letters answered. D. A. KINNEY, Box 73, Waseca, Minn.

WANTED.—Books and Papers on Ornithology and Ology; in exchange offer 3 volumes of Golden Days and 3 volumes of Youth's Companion. GEORGE H. SHERIDAN, Highland Ave., Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

TO EXCHANGE. Foreign and domestic sets including 311, 315, 330a, 410, Nightengale, Merlin, etc. Wanted, books, Mark Twain's especially; a parrot, or pure bred poultry. Wyandottes preferred. ARTHUR E. PRICE, Grant Park, Ills.

OLD and NEW Violins and Violas wanted. Have to exchange Musical Instruments. Natural History books, Birds eggs in complete sets with data, Fire Arms, etc. P. P. NORRIS, Lock Box 99, North Topeka, Kans.

FOR EXCHANGE. Several new and complete Volume of Naturalist's magazines also several odd numbers, also have a few single eggs and some nests. Address GEO. W. VOSBURG, Box 307, Columbus, Wis.

FOR EXCHANGE. A skin of the Great Blue Heron. Any sets of A. O. U. 197, 199, 200, 203 taken in exchange. M. L. WICKS, JR., Los Angeles, Cala.

FOR BEST OFFER. Fine first-class set, Reinhardt's Pterodigm 16 824) Wanted first-class sets, brearins, pair fine canaries, field glass, fine dark lantern, ornithologica books, etc. B. S. BOULISH, 109 W. 103d St., New York City.

EXCHANGE.—I have about 150 first-class bird skins, such as A. O. U. Nos. 139, 167, 367, 149, 221, 254, that I would like to exchange for a 22 or 32 cal. rifle. I only want a good one. W. R. BIRD, Mason City, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Double roller self inking press with 20 fonts type, furniture and \$10 for Safety Bicycle. THOMAS GADSDEN, 725 Fullerton Ave., Chicago, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—Chamber's Encyclopedia in good condition, cost \$20, for first-class mounted birds. EVERETT E. JOHNSON, 29 High St., Lewiston, Maine.

WANTED.—Cones' Key or Ridgeway's Manual. Write stating condition and price for cash or fine specimens of Oregon skins and eggs. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318-320 Exch. Bldg., Salem, Oregon.

WANTED.—Fire arms, reloading tools, etc., or any good offers, in exchange for birds eggs, singles and sets. Lattin's list to select from. Describe what you have and send exchange price. N. P. BRADT, Johnstown, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE.—1st class sets with data, of 35, 269, 278, 385, 429 with nest, 466, 481, 552a, 597a, 683a, 710, 765 and many others. Wanted common Eastern sets. DR. A. DAVIDSON, Los Angeles, Calif.

FOSSILS from different ages to exchange for fossils. Fossils exchanged for land shells (snails). Send list of what you have to exchange. CHARLES S. HODGSON, Albion, Illinois.

TO EXCHANGE.—Set Loading Tools, 50 paper shells 12 gauge, Stamp album. All value at \$1.25, for Eggs or Back numbers Oologist. CHARLIE E. MATTHEWS, 31 1/2 N. Third St. Newark, Ohio.

I HAVE a fine lot of European Birds Eggs to exchange for Am. species, also want Bird skins and Standard books. Only strictly first-class specimens given or accepted. Send list and receive mine. FRANK HARRIS, La Crescent, Minn.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sample bottles of Tanning Liquid for any 25c. worth of eggs I can use, regular price \$1 per quart, also a few sets and singles, chiefly of this locality. J. E. HOUSEMAN, Aymer, Ont.

EXCHANGE.—Nicely mounted Great Horned Owl, on stand, for first-class eggs in sets or first-class skins. Mounted Hummingbirds and nests wanted. Few sets of A. O. U. 384 wanted. WHIT HARRISON, La Crescent, Minn.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A Clipper safety bicycle for wooden cruising canoe, shot-gun and outfit, or eggs. Also Fancy tumblers and White Jap. Bantams for eggs or "O and O" books. "A Tramp Abroad," Twain, for "Samuel's N. and E. Birds," "Historic Waterways" for "Cruise of the Canoe Club." Have sets 619-1-5 1-4, 633a 1-3, 474b 1-3-1-5, 263 1-4, 390 1-6, 461 1-3 for 1st class sets Am. Crow, small warblers and hummers. R. S. LOUDON, Big Rapids, Mich.

A COLLECTION of over 500 stamps in an International album, including U. S. envelope stamps valued at \$2.50 each, the whole catalogued at \$22.70. Wanted, cornet, camera, or rifle. Will sell for \$12 cash. E. G. RUANYAN, 633-1st St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

OPERATORS ATTENTION.—One Pony Re-lav, good as new, and A 1 specimens Oregon skins and eggs for Coues' Key or Ridgeway's Manual. A bargain for some one. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318-320 Exch. Bldg., Salem, Oregon.

WANTED.—Live Canaries, Goldfinches, Siskins, Linnets, Parakeets, African Finches, Cardinals, Bobolinks, Indigo and Nonpariel Buntings, Owls and Hawks. Will give good exchange in Fire arms, 4x5 Camera, Stuffed Birds and Mammals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Mammal Skins, 1 Centennial Business Press, War Relics, 1 Silver mounted Infantry Officer's Sword, finely engraved blade, latest style, new, 1 Miners Teit, 10 oz Duck, and other useful things. THAD. SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, West Va.

DEAR SIR:—I enclose herewith "copy" for an exchange notice which I would like to have inserted in next issue of the OÖLOGIST. I enclose herewith in payment for same 70c. in stamps. I find that an exchange or want notice in your magazine always brings more replies than from any paper I've ever tried. Very truly, THAD. SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

SEND STAMPS for my price-list of N. A. Birds eggs, sets or singles, at Rock bottom prices. W. E. PRATT, Lake Forest, Ill.

WANTED—Pair of A 1 skins of Golden crowned Kinglet. Will give for same 1 first-class skin of male Anna's Hummingbird. JOE GRINNEL, Pasadena, Cal.

CORRESPONDENCE solicited with a reliable person living in Ontario, with a view to exchanging birds in the meat. F. BAKER, Box 33, Stratford, Ont.

I WOULD LIKE to buy a few guinea pigs, cheap or will exchange pigeons or Youta's Companions for same. FRANK E. SWEETSER, Danvers, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—Books, "Ten Thousand Miles on a Bicycle," by Carl Korn (new) for eggs (singles or sets) swells, bird skins, coins, etc. C. F. CARL, Madison, Wis.

WANTED—In exchange for western eggs, A. O. U. Nos. 105, 194, 208, 201, 331, 373, 387, 461, 513, 674, 735. OSCAR P. SILLIMAN, Box 245, Watsonville, California.

FOR SALE.—Fine telescope, achromatic lenses. An induction coil, and electric motor. Single eggs in exchange for others. L. B. CHADWICK, 1539 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, O.

TO EXCHANGE.—Foreign stamps in large or small quantities, many rare, for bird's eggs or natural history specimens. MALCOLM M. THOMPSON, St. Croix Falls, Wis.

OVER 1500 stone implements and spear heads from the mound builders to exchange for 1st class sets, or singles, or works on natural history. GEO. W. PITMAN, New Castle, Indiana.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs in sets with data and a few bird skins for singles and common sets. All letters answered. HARRY HEATON, Oerlin, Kans.

WANTED.—Collecting gun, books on natural history, bird skins and 12 ga. shell belt. Can give for same bird skins, mounted birds and eggs. JNO. L. HOOPER, Lake Mills, Wis.

WHO WANTS nice set 7 Canvasbacks for \$3.50; 3 Am. Ospreys .75; 2 B. W. Hawks \$1.50? Balance of collection containing many rare sets, at equally low prices. Send for lists. J. B. HUBBARD, 119 Fern St., Pittsfield, Mass.

FOR SALE or EXCHANGE.—Caligraph typewriter, microscope with two eye pieces and three objectives, 5x8 camera, surgical instruments and pocket cases, cabinets for mineral or egg collections 14k gold (warranted) Century fountain pens, pocket lamps, fancy pigeons eggs in sets and singles. Will exchange for first-class eggs in sets, arrow points and Indian relics. All letters answered. Correspondence invited. V. F. L. MUELLER, 316 Ninth Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

EXCHANGE.—Wood's Illustrated Natural History, Davie's Nest and Eggs of North Am. Birds (Paper) and Oölogist's outfit number two. All the above are perfectly new. Also the Oölogist for 1892. Will exchange for Hornaday's "Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting," or other desirable offers in books or anything else relating to natural science. Make offers. JAS. J. GRIBBLE, Box 213, Austin, Texas.

WANTED.—Gray's Botany, books on Taxidermy, violin, banjo, cornet. Will give first-class eggs in sets with data, small egg cabinet, rare terns of Vermont, mounted, egg trays, double barreled gun. All answered. C. E. BRYANT, Williston, Vermont.

NOW READY.—"Bird Nesting in North West Canada," full of illustrations of birds and their nests and eggs, hunting scenes, Indian camps, etc. The colored plates of Birds Eggs are excellent, send 12 cts in stamps for samples of Colored Plates and Birds, and list of testimonials from those who have read this book. W. RAINE, Toronto, Canada.

Eggs of California Murre.

Collected in '92 by the "egggers" on the Farallones. One specimen, prepaid, 25 cts.; three, 60 cts.; six \$1.00. By express at purchaser's expense, \$1.50 per dozen, \$10.00 per 100.

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1892.

NO. 12



EGGS OF THE CALIFORNIA MURRE.—*From photo by C. Barlow.*

Professional Egging; or the Collecting of Murre's Eggs in California.

"What kind of birds are those?", was one of the numerous queries I propounded a deck-hand on the tug-boat, while on my trip to the Farallone Islands this summer. We had just steamed through the Golden Gate into the surging Pacific, with the gray, barren, sloping shore on either side gradually creeping away from us, when a flock of beautiful birds, with black backs in striking contrast to their snowy white breasts, winged their rapid flight across the water from a point near the shore, and gracefully settled on the crest of a wave, a short distance from the boat. As these were the first sea-birds I had noticed, I did not recognize them at

first, though I could have done so had I referred to my prepared list of the birds I expected to see on the trip. This, however, was keeping company with a lime and a piece of codfish, (preventatives (?) of seasickness) in my pocket, and was left undisturbed.

So I did not attempt to identify the birds, but inquired of the deck-hand, who seemed to have a correct knowledge of the sea fowl, what they were. He glanced toward the birds and replied: "Those are Murres." Here was my first introduction to the California Murre, and I admired the flock as they executed many graceful feats in the water, until the mountainous waves hid them from view.

The Murre, common as it is, is a beautiful bird, and a nicely mounted

specimen vies well with most sea birds in one's collection. I suppose there are few collectors who have not one or more Murres' eggs in their cabinets, yet I know that by some they are considered quite rare, owing probably to the fact that they are usually found away from the mainland and are therefore more difficult to obtain. Probably a majority of the people of the United States are not aware that the collecting of Murres' eggs for food, by organized parties of men, is a business, so the operations of one of these "egging" parties may prove of interest to the readers of the OÖLOGIST.

The Farallones and other groups of islands farther down the coast of California, are the principal collecting grounds. The party of "eggers" who collected at the Farallones this year were Greeks, and a more hardy and healthy set of men I never saw. They ranged in number from five to eight at different parts of the season. The light-house keeper and his three assistants also engage in egging during the greater part of the months of May and June.

An industrious "egger" in full uniform, and hard at work, is not the handsomest sight in the world, for the nature of the work does not warrant his wearing fine clothes. To begin with, their shoes are made of canvass and the soles are of woven rope. This makes a durable shoe and one that will not slip on the steep, rocky cliffs. The ordinary leather shoe lasts but a few days on the sharp, granite rocks. A pair of overalls and a loose cotton blouse, tucked up at the bottom and drawn tightly about the waist, in order to hold the eggs, completes the costume.

The Murres begin to nest in May and in consequence of the depredations made on their rookeries, they continue laying until the early part of July, when the "eggers" cease collecting.

Each pair of birds then manage to hatch one or two eggs, and by the time the young are grown it is their migrating time. On some portions of the islands there are small caves and nooks where the "eggers" do not go, and here many of the persecuted Murres find peace. The caves are usually crowded with birds, squatting on their single egg on the bare rock, but they huddle into the most remote corner when a person enters. The foul odor arising from the damp caves and the birds, make too long a visit quite unpleasant.

A few days before the "eggers" intend to begin operations, they select routes covering all the cliffs where the Murres lay, and go carefully over them, breaking all the eggs in order to destroy any that may be incubated. In a day or two another lot of eggs have been laid, which can be collected as fresh. As the Murres nest on the same cliffs throughout the season, it enables the "eggers" to keep the same routes. Let us start out with the "eggers" in the morning and follow them through a collecting trip. They have no occasion to hurry in their work, so it is usually 8 or 9 o'clock before they start. A few minutes walk across the level "flat" of the island, which is covered with stones and bowlders, brings us to the foot of the cliffs.

We wind in and out among the gullies, now clambering over the wreckage old ocean has cast up; then walking for a few moments on a level stretch of rock. This brings to an artificial suspension bridge of wire and rope, stretching across a small yet rocky channel of water. Carefully crossing, we find a well-beaten path over the cliffs and rocks which leads to our destination. The party divides, and each man takes a separate ground. With their canvass shoes they scale the cliffs with ease and safety.

As an "egger" approaches a flock of

Murres the gulls begin their harsh screams, seemingly to assist in scaring the Murres from their eggs. The air is often black with multitudes of Gulls. As the "egger" nears the rookery, the Murres stir uneasily, but remain on their eggs until they are sure their enemy is about to rob them, when, with a last glance at their treasures, they shamble from the rocks and soar out over the ocean. The "egger" rapidly gathers the eggs and puts them in the folds of his blouse. The Gulls, however, manage to get their share, and should the collector overlook any, *Larus occidentalis* quickly discovers them. Owing to the voracity of the Gull, the Murre never leaves its egg for a moment unless compelled to.

As soon as the "egger" "cleans out" a rookery, he goes to his baskets and unloads himself, taking care to cover the eggs securely before he leaves for another collecting ground. Climbing about on some of the high cliffs is exceedingly dangerous and ropes are used for safety. A solitary "egger" on the summit of a high cliff at a distance, with thousands of screaming Gulls hovering about him is a weird scene to one who has never witnessed such. The Gulls are very fierce and many of the eggers carry clubs, which they wave vigorously above their heads, in order to prevent attacks from these birds. I am told that one saucy Gull swooped down on an unwary "egger" and, fastening its talons in his straw hat, sailed out over the ocean with it. I can bear proof to their attacks on persons disturbing their young.

As the eggs are collected the baskets are put together in some central spot, and are securely covered with weeds, weighted down with rocks. They are left here until all the rookeries have been visited, when each man takes two baskets and the party returns to the egg-house. Here all the eggs are washed and then piled up. The egg-house is a small structure with thick stone

sides to make it cool. In the middle of the season 250 dozen eggs are sometimes collected in a single day. When a sufficient number have been obtained they are put loosely into compartments of a large fishing-boat and taken to the San Francisco market where they are sold to hotels, restaurants and bakeries. 6,000 dozen eggs were shipped from the Farallones this year in a little over one month's time. In San Francisco, Murres' eggs are usually known as "Gulls' eggs. The latter are very palatable but seldom reach the market.

During my stay on the Farallones I had an opportunity of testing Murres' eggs as food. I could not detect any fishy taste in the fresh eggs and liked them fully as well as "hen fruit."

I suppose it is almost unnecessary to say that the Murres' eggs range in color from a plain bluish-white, through various shades of green into pure white as a ground color. The markings are brown and black and often have the shape of beautiful scrolls. The variations in color of Murres' eggs makes a series desirable for a cabinet. One egg is the full complement.

It is no wonder that the persecuted Murre seeks a nesting place "away from the busy haunts of men," for the despoiler of their homes can but be an object of fear to them. At present, I think the California Murre exceeds in numbers any species on the Farallones, but whether the depredations of the eggers will noticeably decrease these birds, or not is a question that only the future can solve.

C. BARLOW,
Santa Clara, Cal.

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A Collection of North Carolina Birds Eggs.

THOS. A. SMITHWICK.

1. Green Heron. 201.

Set a. Walke, Bertie Co., N. C., May 16, 1891. Nest of small sticks placed 12 ft. up in pine sapling. 5 fresh eggs, 1.48x1.10, 1.47x1.09, 1.49x1.09, 1.53x1.11, 1.52x1.09.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 2, 1892. Nest of small sticks and vines placed 12 ft. up on branches of small alder bush. 4 fresh eggs, 1.46x1.12, 1.52x1.15, 1.44x1.14, 1.55x1.12.

2. King Rail. 208.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., June 9, 1892. Nest in tall grass in meadow. 11 fresh eggs, 1.67x1.18, 1.57x1.20, 1.58x1.16, 1.55x1.16, 1.46x1.08, 1.62x1.17, 1.64x1.18, 1.57x1.16, 1.65x1.20, 1.54x1.15, 1.58x1.17.

3. American Woodcock. 228.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 16 1891. 1 fresh egg, found on the bare ground in an open field, 1.58x1.19.

4. Bobwhite. 289.

Set a. Weaverville, Buncombe Co., N. C., June 10, 1891. Nest on hillside; composed of grasses, etc. 17 eggs, incubation begun, 1.06x.89, 1.21x.92, 1.16x.91, 1.19x.92, 1.15x.91, 1.17x.91, 1.16x.91, 1.22x.92, 1.18x.92, 1.18x.90, 1.23x.92, 1.17x.91, 1.15x.90, 1.15x.92, 1.15x.91, 1.15x.87, 1.19x.92.

Set b. Vanceville, N. C., May 31, 1892. Nest as usual, on hillside, 15 eggs, incubation begun, 1.20x.94, 1.14x.95, 1.16x.92, 1.22x.94, 1.21x.93, 1.16x.92, 1.17x.93, 1.18x.93, 1.18x.92, 1.16x.92, 1.17x.92, 1.13x.92, 1.15x.92, 1.18x.94, 1.15x.92.

5. Wild Turkey. 310.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 23, 1890. Nest a few leaves, etc, in open place in woods. 3 eggs from a set of 10, incubation advanced, 2.70x1.95, 2.72x1.93, 2.64x1.87.

6. Mourning Dove. 316.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 15, 1888. Nest of twigs, in willow, 7 ft. from the ground. 2 eggs, rather large embryos, 1.08x.78, 1.04x.77.

Set b. Bertie Co., N. C., May 10, 1889. Eggs laid in an old Green Heron's nest, without any repairing. 2 eggs, incubation commenced, 1.15x.86, 1.23x.90.

7. Turkey Vulture. 325.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 1, 1891.

Nest under the end of a prostrate log near swamp. 2 eggs, incubation slight, 2.88x2.01, 2.83x1.98.

8. Cooper's Hawk. 333.

Set a. Statesville, N. C., April 6, 1892. Nest about 50 ft. from ground, composed of sticks and lined with a little bark. 5 eggs, 1.87x1.43, 1.91x1.45, 1.82x1.40, 1.81x1.42, 1.79x1.42.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., May 5, 1892. Nest 50 ft. up in a pine tree. 4 eggs, incubation begun, 1.94x1.54, 1.92x1.51, 1.97x1.53, 1.95x1.53.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., May 20, 1892. Nest of sticks and lined with pine bark, 60 ft. up in an oak tree. 4 eggs incubation well along, 1.85x1.51, 1.86x1.52, 1.90x1.51, 1.88x1.52.

Set d. Weaverville, N. C., May, 1892. Nest 50 ft. up in an oak tree. 4 eggs, incubation begun, 1.86x1.40, 1.83x1.46, 1.80x1.44, 1.81x1.42.

9. Red-tailed Hawk. 337.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 12, 1892. Nest in pine tree on steep mountain side, overhanging cliff of rocks, 60 ft. from ground, composed of sticks and lined with soft bark fibres. 2 eggs, incubation advanced, 2.07x1.80, 2.12x1.74.

10. Red-shouldered Hawk. 339.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., April 10, 1891. Nest 24 ft. up in fork of sweet gum. 2 fresh eggs, 2.14x1.66, 2.17x1.60.

11. Barred Owl. 368.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., March 14, 1890. Nest 20 ft. up in hollow in dead top of live birch. 2 eggs, large embryos, 1.97x1.57, 200x1.60.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1891. Nest 20ft. up in hollow in dead top of live birch. 1 addled egg, 2.13x1.68.

12. Screech Owl. 373.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 3, 1891. Nest in hollow oak, 35 ft. up, merely a few feathers. 3 eggs incubation advanced, 1.34x1.14, 1.35x1.14, 1.37x1.17.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., April 14, 1891. Eggs on rotten wood. 3 eggs, incubation advanced, 1.45x1.15, 1.38x1.17, 1.36x1.14.

13. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. 387.

Set a. Bertie Co., N. C., June 20, 1890. Nest of sticks and leaves, 13 ft. up in small gum bush. 2 eggs, incubation advanced, 1.13x.90, 1.10x.89.

Set b. Bertie Co., N. C., June 25, 1890. Nest 15 ft. up in a beech tree, of sticks, moss, etc. 4 fresh eggs, 1.13x.91, 1.14x.90, 1.22x.91, 1.15x.89.

Set c. Bertie Co., N. C., June 26, 1891. Nest made of sticks, 20 ft. up in an oak. 2 fresh eggs, 1.28x.90, 1.24x.90.

14. Hairy Woodpecker. 393.

Set a. Craggy Mountain, N. C., May 1, 1891. Nest in beech tree 30 ft. up. 5 eggs, incubation begun, .99x.76, 1.04x.76, .98x.73, .96x.73, .95x.75.

15. Downy Woodpecker. 394.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 26, 1889. Nest in dead limb of live oak, 25 ft. from ground 6 ft. from body of tree. 3 eggs, incubation fresh, .80x.60, .81x.58, .83x.60.

16. Flicker. 412.

Set a. Craggy Mountain, N. C., May 31, 1891. Nest in hollow beach, 25 ft. up. 6 eggs, incubation well along, 1.02x.86, 1.04x.87, 1.09x.88, 1.10x.85, 1.06x.86, 1.06x.84.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., May 15, 1889. Nest in hole 30 ft. high in dead top of live ash, depth of hole 15 inches, diameter about 9 inches. 8 eggs, small soft embryos, .98x.80, .58x.81, .97x.81, 1.01x.83, .97x.80, 1.02x.80, .97x.82, .95x.77.

17. Chuck-wills-widow. 416.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 14, 1891. Eggs on bare ground in woods, 2 fresh eggs, 1.43x.97, 1.47x1.00.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 16, 1891. Eggs on bare ground in woods. 2 eggs incubation slight, 1.41x1.00, 1.45x1.00. □

18. Whip-poor-will. 417.

Set a. How Creek, near Ashville, N. C., May 26, 1888. Eggs on bare ground. 2 eggs, 1 broken, incubation well along, 1.22x.90.

19. Chimney Swift. 423.

Set a. Walke, N. C., June 20, 1890. Nest of small sticks glued together, placed in a chimney of an occupied house. 5 eggs, small embryos, .76x.51, .74x.51, .72x.51, .70x.48, .76x.51.

Set b. Sans Souci, N. C., June 24, 1890. Nest in a chimney, made of sticks glued together. 4 eggs, incubation just begun, .77x.48, .78x.50, .76x.50, .75x.49.

20. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. 428.

Set a. Statesville, N. C., May 2, 1892. Nest of soft cotton like material, covered on the outside with bits of moss, fastened with spider webs. 2 eggs, .47x.30, .50x.33.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest 25ft. up on limb of an oak tree. 2 eggs, incubation begun, .48x.33, .46x.34.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., June 3, 1892. Nest 20ft. from ground on oak limb. 2 eggs, incubation well along, .52x.32, .47x.32.

21. Kingbird. 444.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest of vine stems, cotton moss, strings etc., lined with fine grass, placed 20ft. up in a sycamore. 3 fresh eggs, .90x.70, .94x.72, .92x.73.

Set b. Walke, N. C., July 6, 1892. Nest of cotton, roots, vine stems, etc., lined with fine weed stems and horse tail hairs, 12ft. up in an apple tree. 3 fresh eggs, .90x.70, .91x.70, .92x.70.

Set c. Walke, N. C., June 6, 1891. Nest 15 ft. up in apple tree. 3 fresh eggs, .86x.67, .90x.69, .90x.66.

Set d. Raleigh, N. C., June 19, 1891. Nest 7ft. up in pine, near end of limb. 3 eggs, small embryos, .91x.65, .92x.65, .88x.65.

22. Crested Flycatcher. 452.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 29, 1892. Nest of grasses, feathers, mosses, hairs, etc., 30ft. up in hollow limb of a white oak tree. 5 eggs, incubation well along, .87x.68, .93x.67, .88x.68, .91x.70, .84x.68.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., May 23, 1892. Nest 4ft. high in hollow in willow, very slight, dead leaves and stems, etc. 5 fresh eggs, .87x.67, .85x.66, .81x.64, .82x.66, .83x.67.

Set c. Walke, N. C., June 20, 1889. Nest in hollow of apple tree limb, 5ft. high, a few leaves, etc., with pieces of snake skin. 4 eggs, incubation advanced, .91x.72, .93x.72, .92x.72, .95x.72.

23. Wood Pewee. 461.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 30, 1890. Nest 20ft. high in pine tree. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .73x.53, .70x.52, .69x.53.

24. Acadian Flycatcher. 495.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 21, 1891. Nest of moss and a few other fibres, placed 9ft. up at end of a beech limb. 3 fresh eggs .71x.55, .70x.54, .71x.54.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 27, 1892. Nest of leaves, stems, fine black moss, etc., lined with moss, 10ft. up at end of a beech limb. 2 eggs, very small embryos, .71x.54, .70x.53.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., May 21, 1891. Nest 20ft. up in dogwood sapling. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .74x.56, .77x.56, .76x.56.

Set d. Cashoke Creek, Bertie Co., N. C., May 19, 1892. Nest of green moss, suspended below small branches

of swinging water-oak limb, 4ft. above the water. 3 eggs, small soft embryos, .75x.54, .77x.54, .78x.54.

Set e. Weaverville, N. C., May 26, 1891. Nest in fork of thorn bush, 20ft. up, composed of moss. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .71x.53, .73x.55, .72x.53.

Set f. Bertie Co., N. C., July 17, 1890. Nest 25 ft. up near the end of a beech limb. 2 eggs, incubation commenced, .76x.54, .76x.54.

Set g. Alexanders, N. C., June 20, 1892. Nest in a dogwood sapling, 10ft. up. 3 eggs, incubation slight, .70x.53, .71x.53, .70x.53.

Set h. Weaverville, N. C., May 19, 1892. Nest in fork of maple tree, 15ft. up. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .73x.53, .73x.53, .74x.53.

Set i. Sans Souci, Bertie Co., N. C., June 2, 1890. Nest at end of beech limb and composed of moss with a few other fibres. 3 eggs, incubation commenced, .72x.54, .73x.54, .72x.53.

Set j. Weaverville, N. C., June 1, 1891. Nest in fork of dogwood twig, 12 ft. up. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .70x.53, .68x.53, .71x.54.

Set k. Bertie Co., N. C., June 3, 1890. Nest 10 ft. up at end of a beech limb. 3 fresh eggs, .65x.50, .69x.53, .71 x.54.

Set l. Weaverville, N. C., June 20, 1892. Nest in a crab apple tree, 20ft. up, of mosses, etc. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .74x.52, .70x.52, .77x.51.

25. Blue Jay. 477.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 5, 1891. Nest in white pine, 60ft. up. 5 fresh eggs, 1.05x.83, 1.02x.81, 1.03x.80, 1.10x.80, 1.07x.81.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., April 24, 1891. Nest of grasses and rootlets, 40ft. up in chestnut tree. 5 eggs, incubation just begun, 1.03x.82, 1.08x.83, 1.03x.81, 1.03x.82, 1.04x.81.

26. American Crow. 488

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 24, 1892. Nest 45 ft. up in a pine tree. 5 eggs, incubation well along, 1.51x1.10, 1.56x1.08, 1.55x1.13, 1.58x1.09, 1.58x1.11

Set b. Walke, N. C., April 26, 1890. Nest 40ft. up in a pine, of cypress bark, sticks, moss and pea and potatoe vines. 4 eggs, small embryos, 1.66x1.13, 1.68x1.15, 1.62x1.12, 1.72x1.17.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., April 4, 1891. Nest 50ft. up in a white pine. 5 eggs, incubation begun, 1.54x1.10, 1.52x1.09, 1.57x1.08, 1.48x1.08, 1.58x1.09.

Set d. Weaverville, N. C., April 9, 1892. Nest in oak tree, 45ft. up. 4

eggs, incubation advanced, 1.58x1.15, 1.70x1.14, 1.59x1.19, 1.65x1.18.

27. Red-winged Blackbird. 498.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 18, 1888. Nest 3ft. high, in button bush. 4 eggs, incubation slight, .86x.65, .88x.66, .93x.67, .92x.67.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., May 28, 1888. Nest 5ft. high in willow in low grounds. 4 fresh eggs, .93x.70, .93x.68, .93x.68, .93x.67.

28. Boat-tailed Grackle. 513.

Set a. Plymouth, N. C., May 13, 1890. Nest in an old tree overgrown with ivy, of grass, etc. 3 fresh eggs, 1.27x.84, 1.12x.85, 1.20x.84.

29. English Sparrow.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 11, 1892. Nest on rafter of porch, of straw and weed stems lined with feathers. 4 eggs, incubation slight, .89x.59, .86x.59, .95x.60, .91x.59.

30. Vesper Sparrow. 540.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 15, 1891. Nest of grasses and fibre, corn shucks, etc. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .79x.62, .77x.63, .79x.61.

31. Chipping Sparrow. 560.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest of grass stems lined with hair, 10ft. high in an apple tree. 4 eggs, incubation slight, .65x.53, .63x.52, .64x.51, .65x.52.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 24, 1890. Nest of weeds, grass, etc., lined with hair, 15ft. up in an apple tree. 4 fresh eggs, .69x.53, .69x.53, .64x.52, .63x.53.

Set c. Walke, N. C., July 9, 1892. Nest 6ft. high on horizontal limb of an apple tree. 4 eggs, small soft embryos, .66x.47, .68x.47, .63x.46, .67x.47.

Set d. Walke, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest 8ft. up on a limb of a small oak. 4 eggs, small embryos, .67x.51, .71x.52, .76x.49, .71x.52.

32. Field Sparrow. 563.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., June 1, 1891. Nest of grass stems, lined with fine grass, 4ft. high, in top of a pine sapling. 4 fresh eggs, .62x.51, .65x.56, .65x.48, .65x.51.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., May 15, 1891. Nest of fine grasses, placed in small pine 2 feet from ground. 4 eggs, incubation begun, .73x.52, .70x.50, .73x.51, .72x.49.

Set c. Raleigh, N. C., May 22, 1891. Nest 3ft. up in small dogwood, of weed stems, lined with horse hair. 4 fresh eggs, .69x.48, .68x.48, .70x.48, .70x.48.

THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
Editor and Publisher.

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

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

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

Report of Western New-York Naturalists Associa n.

The first annual meeting of the W. N. Y. N. A. was held at Brockport, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1892. The business meeting was called at 2:30 p. m.

The following officers were elected:—
E. B. Peck, Pres.

Harry B. Sargent, Vice-Pres.

T. R. Taylor, Sec.

E. H. Short, Treas.

Executive committee; Geo. GuelF, Harry B. Sargent, T. R. Taylor.

There were seventeen active and two associate members present.

The following draft of objects was adopted:

I.—The object of the Association shall be to afford means for a more definite, thorough and systematic study of the Natural History of New York State by promoting the mutual acquaintance of those interested, and by bringing together and comparing notes of interest from different sections and disseminating information gathered therefrom.

II.—To awaken in the hearts and minds of all a truer love and deeper interest in the study of Nature, enabling them to "*Look through Nature up to Nature's God.*"

III.—To promote a truer knowledge of *The wonders of Nature*, by exhibits of specimens and the reading of articles relating thereto.

IV.—To lend its voice, its influence and its labors to insure the protection and preservation of animal life and to promote such measures as shall point to this end.

NEIL F. POSSON,
TRUMAN R. TAYLOR, Committee.
ERNEST H. SHORT,
GEO. F. GUELF,

Thirty-one new members were added to our roll:

At the evening session—which was open to the public—the following interesting papers were read:

"Was the North American Indian a descendant of the Mound Builders?" by T. Harry Derrick; "The Rough-winged Swallow," by Neil F. Posson; "What can we do, and how shall we do it?" by Ernest H. Short; "The winter birds of Harrison Co. Georgia," by B. S. Bowditch. Lecture by Truman R. Taylor, Lecture by Harry B. Sargent.

Several fine collections of Natural Science specimens were exhibited by the following: Harry B. Sargent, A.

E. Kibbe, Truman R. Taylor, Nathan Davis, L. V. Case, Bert Davis, Geo. Guelph and Ernest H. Short.

T. R. TAYLOR, Sec.

Two Western Birds.

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE. (*Contopus richardsonii*.)

This is a rather common bird of this locality inhabiting the young groves of willow and other small trees which grow in abundance along the brooks and river bottoms. The dull colored birds may be seen during the breeding season perched upon some twig watching for his breakfast or flitting through the green foliage after insects or with material for the nest.

The nest is a cup shaped structure placed from 5 to 20 feet from the ground in some young tree or among the wild grape vines, always near a stream and usually in some dark recess. Of about twenty nests I have examined all were placed either in an upright crotch or saddled onto the side of an upright branch. Nearly all were composed of the bark of the wild grape vine or of the inner bark of box-elder bushes and coarse grasses, occasionally lined with wild cotton and does not present so loose and flimsy an appearance and is also much deeper than that built by the eastern Wood Pewee, although I have never taken one covered with lichens.

Fresh eggs may be taken from the first of June to the fourth of July. Three eggs generally constitute a set and I have never taken more from the same nest. They are of a beautiful creamy or yellowish tinge sparingly spotted near the larger end with reddish-brown or lilac, I have taken some specimens that were *unmarked*. They vary greatly in size and shape, some being nearly round while others are quite long and drawn out but never pointed. An average specimen will measure .69x .53 inches.

The birds do not remain long with us after nesting but leave during the first half of August for their winter home.

WESTERN YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*.

This beautiful warbler with its bright yellow coat and black trimmings may be seen in this locality flitting along close to the ground wherever there is water and plenty of tall grass. Its favorite haunts are along some stream or lake over-grown with tule beds and enough trees around to darken the spot and make it picturesque.

The nest is usually placed near the ground among the high grass and therefore hard to find. And then it is often placed above the water and not a few times have I been lured away by the bird to soon find myself caught in a mud-hole with my boots full of water; but that matters but little to the collector who desires to add another set to his collection. The bird when flushed stays near the nest flying among the grass and tules continually uttering a plaintive "peep peep." The nest is usually composed of dry tule stems heavily lined with fine dry grass or bark and is extremely large for so small a bird.

A set of four eggs is the largest I have taken from one nest and I find it to be the usual number deposited although most authorities give four to six, I have found fresh eggs from the last of April to the middle of June. They are clear white with black and brown spots and streaks usually forming a distinct wreath around the larger end. A set of four in my collection measures; 70x53, 69x52, 71x53, 72x53 hundredths inches, which is somewhat larger than the average.

Most of the birds leave for the south as winter approaches but I have observed a few that remain with us during the winter.

H. M. HALL.
Riverside, Cal.

The Fascination of Oology.

One of the most fascinating pastimes of the age is the study of ornithology and the collecting of specimens of oölogy.

It is a study that never tires, and is one that is constantly full of new life and excitement. A collection began in boyhood days, and partly finished in the declining years of life is a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

As one looks over his beautiful collection, what pleasing recollections they recall to his mind. Well do I remember when I first found my nest of Canada Warblers, *Sylvania pusilla pilcolata* and Virginia Rail, *Rallus virginianus*, in fact each set of eggs brings back to me that day's experience, the place, and its happy recollections

Many a day have I spent

"In the forest dim and old,"

listening to the sweet voice of the Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, or watching the Wilson's Thrush, *Turdus fuscescens* as he called to his mate from a neighboring tree. There in that sweet solitude, it was the natural communion with nature, among the sweet wild flowers.

My brother Naturalists evidently recall to their minds, such scenes, which they treasure as some of their most happy days.

I am far from being an advocate of the annual nest robbing by the thousands of boys who, just for the sake of having an "egg collection" rob every nest of our songsters within their reach, but for those who love Nature, the scores of different species of birds which have their habitation within our vicinity, the study of their habits, and their peculiarities, together with the beautiful marking of their eggs, they are the persons to whom I suggest the formation of an oölogical collection, and the continuance of it through life for it will prove a constant reminder of days

long gone by and they will recall memories which time cannot eradicate.

My business being that of a traveling salesman, but a naturalist from birth, I see before me sets of eggs collected in various states, and each has a short history, which make them all the more dear to me, as they recall so vividly those pictures of memory.

Eighteen years ago, in the county of Chenango I commenced the formation of my cabinet, and it has slowly grown till to-day I have several hundred sets, from all parts of our country, and they have long reached that point, where their intrinsic value (with me) has passed, for they are rich in the history of oölogy, ever remindful of those summer rambles, vacations, camping parties and collecting trips.

My naturalist friends will all agree with me in saying that ornithology grows more fascinating year by year, and should we live till the "silver tints the gold," we will still be, but less active enthusiastic students in our study of bird life.

May the time hasten when we shall have more students of ornithology and less boy egg robbers.

WM. B. LIMBURGER,

Randolph, N. Y.

To the Ornithologists of Illinois.

The results from the short notice I placed in the November OÖLOGIST, for help in ornithological work on the birds of this state, have been far from satisfactory.

The general distribution of probably the majority of the Illinois birds has been sadly neglected by our most prominent writers. In fact, Illinois compared with some other states, has had very little systematic and scientific research among her birds. To partially remedy this and advance the knowledge of our Illinois birds, Mr. A. C. Murchison, of Kewanee, Ill., and I have decided up

on a plan to be accomplished only by the combined help of all Illinois workers.

This state has many ornithological students in the field and by bringing their observations together and combining them, very satisfactory results could be obtained. It is desired to make a thorough investigation into the distribution, nesting, arrival and departure of the birds throughout the state; to publish the same and give due credit to each observer. Therefore all Illinois workers are invited to help and to send in their names at once in order that circulars may be sent. This work cannot be carried on unless a sufficient number of stations be established. It is intended to commence work by the first of January, 1893, and your early and prompt reply will oblige.

WM. E. LOUCKS.

Peoria, Ills.

Cerulean Warbler.

In our rambles through the wood in the neighborhood of Buffalo, N. Y., I have often noticed some beautiful Warblers, mostly in the middle of May, when the foliage is not yet fully developed. Those wood that contain high and old beech trees, seem to be their favorite places, perhaps that insect life is more abundant there. Toward the end of May until the middle of June I stayed with friends near Buffalo and there observed on the border of a large wood in an elm tree a pair of Warblers building their nest. They seemed to be a species that differed from those that I had observed before. It was with a great deal of difficulty to watch them as the nest was on a very small limb quite a distance from the trunk of the large elm tree, I should judge not less than 40 feet from the ground. The construction of the nest and its final completion must have taken at least from 8 to 10 days. In the earlier part

of those, say 8 days, the male sang on a neighboring tree in the morning and toward evening splendid, but I am at a loss to give a resemblance of the notes. When the nest was completed and the female on it I would only occasionally hear a few notes which sounded like *zee zee zeeep*, this is as near as I can express it in words. It was a great treat to see these bright azure blue colored birds flit through the not yet whole developed leaves. They seemed to me with their partly light colored tail feathers similar to our American Redstart, but they are smaller in size. After, say, 8 or 10 days not a sound was heard by me, when I came near the nesting place and it took a minute watching to see the male bird, and only in one instance I observed the male close by the nest, perhaps bringing some nourishment to the female. On the 15th of June I thought it might be brightest time for me to see whether a full complement of eggs were laid. After a hard climb I came in a straight line of the nest. By walking out on a lower branch, I was within reach of the nest. The female looked at me with its bright eyes and staid on the eggs until I almost touched her. Four of the nicest eggs of a blueish white color speckled with reddish brown spots, partly lilac, almost uniform on the larger end, the largest the size of not quite a pin's head, were revealed to my gaze. Only one of them is a trifle smaller and the spots are fewer, perhaps the last laid egg. When blown the color changed into a clear white. The eggs were fresh. I cut the nest off which is in my possession. It is more a hanging nest, 3 inches in diameter and 1½ inches deep, you might say woven to a slender fork of an elm twig, constructed of fine grasses and hair in the inside, being from 3-16 to 5-16 of an inch thick, interwoven with spider webs and covered artistically on the outside with light grey colored lichens, which gives it a most charming appearance.

In order to be positive I shot the male bird which proved beyond any doubt the identity.

I have since then, this fall, shot several more of the Cerulean Warbler, which during migration time seems to be quite abundant in our neighborhood.

EDWARD REINECKE.

OCTOBER CONTEST.

Sixty-three Judges

Prize winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. Among the Hummingbirds. 255.
2. The Genus *Thryothorus*. 208.
3. The Californian Bush-Tit. 153.
4. A Ramble in May. 136.
5. The History and Mystery of Jacob Potter, Jr. 87.

Two other articles received 45 and 59 credits respectively.

Seventeen Judges named the winning articles—one their exact order and four in the following order:—1, 2, 3, 5, 4—these five received the Judges prizes.

1. No. 30—Chester Irvine, Georgetown, Texas.
2. No. 3—Frank H. Nutter, Minneapolis, Minn.
3. No. 21—A. O. Garrett, Lawrence, Kans.
4. No. 32—E. J. Shafer, New Orleans, La.
5. No. 47—C. Barlow, Santa Clara, Cal.

Prizes were mailed November, 23d.

Prizes for Best Articles.

We give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Dec.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For 1893 a more valuable series of prizes will be offered. Full particulars will be given in January Oölogist.

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Jan. 10th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of Oölogist and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this month's competition the Judgs whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

CARR'S NATURAL HISTORY STORE.

Sea Shells, Corals, Minerals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oölogists, Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquariums.

40 page Illustrated Catalogue for 2c stamp.

C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis.

YOU CAN MAKE \$4 PER DAY

Handling the FASTEST-SELLING article on record OVER A MILLION SOLD IN PHILADELPHIA!

No matter where you reside, everybody wants them. Write to-day, enclosing 2c stamp and we will mail you 4 Free Samples and full particulars, which will enable you to commence work at once. Circulars Free. SMITH MFG. CO., No. 171 Pepper Bldg., Phila., Pa.

CIRCULAR DISTRIBUTERS WANTED.

Publishers, Patentees, Manufacturers, etc., are daily requesting us to supply the addresses of reliable circular distributors, bill posters, etc. Brunn's success is marvelous, and will open up in 200,000 AGENTS HERALDS next issue, to be mailed to business men, new, profitable and permanent employment to one man, woman or youth in every town and hamlet in the U. S. and Canada. "The early bird catches the worm." We want a few such ads. as Brunn's (sample below) to start with in this month's MAMMOTH editions of AGENT'S HERALD.

BRUNN Nails up signs, distributes circulars, papers, samples, etc., throughout Blackhawk and surrounding counties only \$3.00 per 1000. Address W.H. BRUNN, Waterloo, Ia.

Brunn paid \$2.40 to insert above 4 lines, June '90. He began during the summer. That ad. paid then; is paying yet. He has been kept constantly busy, employs three men to assist him, clearing on their labor from \$10 to \$15 a day distributing circulars at \$3.00 per 1000 for many firms who saw his ad. in THE HERALD. It costs every firm at least \$10 in postage alone to mail 1000 circulars. A saving to each firm who employ you of \$7 per 1000. Ten firms may each send you 1000 at the same time, making 1000 packages of 10 each, for distributing which you would promptly receive \$30, \$15 in advance and \$15 when work is done. Parents make your boys a present. Start them in this growing business. Begin this neat business before some one in your county gets the start of you. "Come in on the ground floor." Instructions How to Conduct the Business. Free, to each distributor ONLY, who sends us \$2.40 cash or postage stamps for a 4 line "ad".

AGENTS HERALD,
No. 171 South 8th Street, Philada', Pa.

400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00
Duplicates can be returned.

AN UNUSUAL OFFER
W. F. GREANY,

827 BRANNAN ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
Catalogue for stamp.

MARLIN SAFETY



REPEATING RIFLES

Made in all styles and sizes. Lightest, strongest, easiest working, safest, simplest, most accurate, most compact, and most modern. For sale by all dealers in arms. Catalogues mailed free by

The Marlin Fire Arms Co.
NEW HAVEN, CONN., U. S. A.

BIRDS EGGS.

Christmas Offer.

December List Now Out.

My Entire stock of Eggs offered for sale at Christmas Prices. New List contains Bargains such as this:

Between now and the Holidays to every one sending me \$3. I will mail postpaid Chachalaca 1-3. Bridled Tern 1-1, Noddy Tern 1-1, Sooty Tern 1-1, Curve-bill Thrasher 1-4, Sennett's Thrasher 1-4.

Write for list at once if you wish to buy eggs. Address

WALTER F. WEBB,
Geneva, N. Y.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "La' tin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

THE DICTIONARY HOLDER

Did you ever learn what fabulous results grew out of the manufacture by Mr. Noyes of an ornamental stand to hold the dictionary? The story reads like a fable but to tell it one must ask another question Have you ever noticed the advertisement of the Aermotor Company, which starts out as follows:

45 sold in '88
2,288 sold in '89
6,268 sold in '90
20,049 sold in '91
60,000 will be sold in '92



A Steel Windmill and Cereb Tower every 3 minutes.
These figures tell the story of the ever-growing, ever-going, ever-improving Steel Aermotor, which one goes others follow and we "Take the Country."

Well, that establishment belongs to La Verne W. Noyes, and the means with which it was built up until it is the third largest user of steel in the West (being only exceeded by two of the great Ilwaco companies) was wholly furnished by the Dictionary Holder business. This brings us back to the Holder, and suggests inquiry as to how it took and held and still holds the field, increasing rapidly from year to year. The secret of that success is this: Mr. Noyes has made a most perfect, artistic and meritorious article, and has maintained a high standard of excellence and supplied the article at a low price. The merit of these Dictionary Holders has been so great that they literally sold themselves, and in such great quantities that a small profit on each one has made the result above mentioned. They have gone to almost every habitable portion of the globe, even to the remote islands of the sea, and are kept by all booksellers.

\$2.50 FOR 50 CTS.

We have recently purchased several desirable articles and specimens in enormous quantities at "Snap" prices.

Rather than hold them a life time (?) in order to obtain fabulous prices or to wholesale to other dealers in order that they may derive benefit from our "snap" we have decided to share our good luck with every reader of this advertisement.

The specimens and articles are as follows:

- 1 New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs. 35
- 1 Egg with data of Noddy. 50
- 1 Egg of Hammer head Shark. (A great curio from the Pacific.) 25
- 1 Egg Drill, hand made from best Stubb's steel. 10
- 1 Nicked White Metal Blowpipe. 25
- 1 Embryo Hook, long handle and nicely finished. 15
- 1 Sea Urchin from Phillippines, rare. 25
- 1 Fossil Shark Tooth from Virginia. Can be mounted for scarf pin or other jewel purposes. 10
- 1 Fossil *Scaphites Volosus* from Black Hills. 20
- 1 Sea Horse from Delaware Bay. 35

—\$2.50

The lowest possible price which the above Lot could be ordinarily purchased of any Dealer in America would not be less than \$1.50 and at *lowest possible wholesale rates* at not less than \$12.00 per dozen.

We propose to send every reader of the OÖLOGIST one of these Lots **PREPAID** for

ONLY 50 CENTS

PROVIDING—that you will either subscribe or renew your subscription to the OÖLOGIST for 1893.

The subscription price of the OÖLOGIST, including Coupons, is 50 cts., making an even \$1.00 for the Lot and the OÖLOGIST.


If in arrears, the same must be paid in full at the time, or before accepting this offer. If you have already paid **IN FULL** for 1893, we will under this condition and *no other* allow you to purchase *one* lot separately.

The only condition on which we will allow a person to purchase more than one of these Lots, would be, that they subscribe for the OÖLOGIST for two or more years—that is, a year's subscription must *invariably* accompany every Lot purchased.

This Offer will Hold Good until DECEMBER 31st Only.

Frank H. Lattin, Publisher of the Oologist, Albion, N. Y.

THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blotches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Painful Digestion, Pimples, Rush of Blood to the Head, Pimplexion, Salt Head, Scrofula, Skin Disease, Stomach, Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tablet after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross 42, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c., 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the Oologist. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired. The figures are according to our books Nov 15, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

56	signifies	your	subscription	expired	June	1890.
62	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
68	"	"	"	"	June	1891
74	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"
80	"	"	"	"	June	1892
86	"	"	"	will	expire	Dec. "
92	"	"	"	"	June	1893
98	"	"	"	"	Dec.	"

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '93 including all arrearages, at their earliest convenience, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.75. "62"—\$1.50. "68"—\$1.25. "74"—\$1.00

Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oologist your indebtedness to us is 50 cents less than the above amounts.

"86" is the publication number of this Oologist, and it was mailed to subscribers Dec. 6.



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