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THE OOLOGIST

FOR THE

STUDENT OF BIRDS

THEIR NEST AND EGGS

VOLUME XXXI

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VOLUME XXXI.

Away back in May, 1884, Frank H. Lattin began the publication of THE YOUNG OOLOGIST at Gaines, N. Y. Its circulation at first was very limited, and largely among boys engaged in making collections of birds eggs. At the end of the first year the name was changed to "THE OOLOGIST." As years went by the circulation increased, and the journal—a mere leaflet—began to acquire a rank among other amateur bird publications. Dozens of such blossomed forth and died—yet there was something about THE OOLOGIST that appealed to the bird students of the country and it survived. Its circulation grew, its influence increased, until finally THE OOLOGIST became the recognized organ of the oologist's of the country, and likewise an authority with ornithologists. About 1905 Mr. Lattin retired from active connection with the magazine. He was succeeded by E. H. Short. Both Lattin and Short were egg dealers, and looked more to the commercial than to the scientific side of birdom. THE OOLOGIST gradually neared the brink of the abyss of oblivion, into which so many of its contemporaries had plunged to emerge no more. In March, 1909, we purchased the little magazine of our early days, largely as a matter of sentiment, to save it from such a fate, believing there was a field for such a publication. As we had no ax to grind, being a dealer in neither

ornithological or oological specimens. Not being in the game for commercial gain, having nothing to sell; we believed we were in a better position to impartially serve the patrons of this publication than others were. Our aim has been to conduct a real Oological magazine representative of all interested in the science, without fear or favor. One in which all had an interest, and a voice.

At once upon our assuming control, there rallied to the support of THE OOLOGIST scores of its old friends, bound to it by ties of former years, and the result was gratifying indeed. We are now publishing a class of bird literature not excelled by any other publication, no matter how pretentious. Our illustrations are the best that money and science can produce. Our columns are open and free to our contributors; are not controlled by any click or circle. Young as well as old are welcome to record interesting observations, for we realize that the young naturalist must begin somewhere, we are willing to help them begin. The egg fraud has been almost exterminated, as the result to the campaign waged by THE OOLOGIST. We begin the new year and the new Volume XXXI as the oldest existing bird magazine in the United States—save one which is but five short months our senior—with flattering prospects for 1914. We appreciate the cordial support of our friends, in the past and crave a continuance thereof for the future, assur-

ing you all that we will do what we can to deserve the same.

That you may all know what is in store, we will take you into our confidence long enough to tell you that the first article published in THE YOUNG OOLOGIST, Vol. 1, No. 1, page 1, was entitled "Instructions for Collecting Birds Eggs." The writer has been engaged for 38 years in making a collection of the nests and eggs of North American Birds, and as the result of such extended experience, believes himself reasonably competent to discuss this subject, and purposes during the coming year to publish a series of articles relating to the modern methods now obtaining in the making and arranging and keeping of such collections. This may be illustrated.

We will also publish a complete authentic "List of the Birds of the Isle of Pines," by C. A. Read. An exhaustive review of "The Two Species of North American Swan." A paper on "The Humming-birds of the United States." An "Bibliography of the Amateur Natural History Magazines of the United Staets relating to birds." by Frank A. Bursa. Also a large number of other splendid observation papers relating to the birds. We really believe that we enter the new year better equipped to serve our readers than ever before.

Kind reader, please put YOUR shoulder to the wheel and see if you cannot secure at least one new subscriber for us, even if you have to send THE OOLOGIST to some young friend for the year. It will help a little, and all the money received by us goes back into the publication to improve the same.

Beginning with the next issue THE OOLOGIST will be mailed flat. Let us make 1914 the banner year for the little monthly visitor, that we all have a common interest in.

The Editor.

The Lano Collection.

The public press contains information to the effect that the collection of bird skins gathered by Albert Lano of Excelsior, Minnesota, and comprising 1500 specimens, has been recently acquired by the University of Minnesota.

This collection contains skins of birds that are no longer found in Minnesota. It represents the life work of Mr. Lano and is one of the most perfectly prepared private collections of birds skins to be found anywhere in the West, and the University is to be congratulated upon their luck in securing them.

A Rare Find.

Mr. William L. G. Edson, of Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y., reports seeing one Hudsonian Chickadee December 11, 1913, and January 2, 1914, two more. These birds are unusual in this locality.

Books Received.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE ORNITHOLOGIST, 1912.

This document just comes to hand, being issued by Edward Howe Forbush. It contains 34 pages of very readable matter and a number of interesting illustrations, and contains much that is interesting to the bird lover; especially matters relating to the unlawful killing of birds and the propagation of wild birds in confinement.

Subscribers Notice.

With this issue we cease mailing THE OOLOGIST to all subscribers whose subscription expired with No. 305. This is in compliance with the United States Postals Laws. We should be glad to have you renew your subscription.

The Oologist.



Typical Miami River Country, Connecticut
—Photo by P. G. Howes

Nesting of the Killdeer near Stamford, Ct.

June 11th, 1912, broke clear and hot, a perfect day for a collecting trip. Soon after day break I was on my way and by 9 a. m. had reached the wilder country back of Long Ridge, some eight miles north of Stamford.

The day's hunt was started along the Mianus river, a beautiful stream which winds its way for miles through great virgin hemlocks which keep the temperature down and at the same time boost up the spirits of one who enjoys the glories of nature. I first visited a nest of the Louisiana water thrush, from which I had taken a fine set of five well incubated eggs on May 24th. There was no second set awaiting me however. This nest was placed under the over-hanging roots on the bank of a small brook near the river and was well set in so as to be completely protected from rain or anything dropping from above. Dead leaves served as a foundation, the remainder of the nest being entirely of fine grasses and roots. Placed exactly one foot above the water and about the same distance from the top of bank.

After examining this nest I started through some thickets to the north east of the river and had not gone far before I came upon a huge Black snake encircled around a Wood thrush's nest. The snake was sucking the life blood of the last nestling, who was still weakly struggling for its life; when a blow from my axe put an end to the tragedy. The entire morning was spent in these thickets without finding anything of note.

About 1 p. m. I was greatly surprised to see a Killdeer fly across the road in front of me and settle close by in a field of thin, stunted grain. As I approached, the bird became

very much excited and acted as though there was a nest close by. After two hours I succeeded in finding the four badly incubated eggs. It took me days to save them, but they are the pride of my collection. The nest was fully five hundred feet from where the bird first attracted my attention. This was probably the male endeavoring to lead me away and I admit that he succeeded for a considerable time. The nest was placed upon a slight rise in the ground and consisted of a collection of bulbous roots, pieces of bone and small stones raked into a two-inch hollow in the sod.

Both birds played the broken wing trick and at the same time gave vent to mournful screams and notes of alarm. The female was by far the bravest of the two birds, allowing me to approach within fifteen feet of her. The male never came closer than fifty feet.

I found the nest by allowing the female to settle. Then I would walk rapidly toward the spot where she had disappeared into the grass. Each time I came closer to the spot and finally after a great many tries, I saw the four beauties about ten feet to my right. The eggs measure as follows: 1.51 x 1.10, 1.50 x 1.12, 1.49 x 1.12, and 1.45 x 1.13.

The Killdeer arrives here about March 25th, when it may be seen singly or in pairs, but I have never observed it in flocks during the spring migration. The birds probably arrive mated, which would explain this fact. What they eat in the early spring, before the snow leaves the ground, would indeed be interesting to know, as it must be a far different diet from their summer fare of grasshoppers and earth worms.

What records are there of the Killdeer breeding in Fairfield county?



Nest and Eggs of Killdeer

—Photo by P. G. Howes

Near Stamford it is considered as a very rare and irregular breeder, the writer knowing of only one other record. No doubt there are others still in the depths of Oologist's note books.

◆◆◆
Paul G. Howes.

◆◆◆ Birds on the St. John's River.

On December 5th and 6th, I took a seventy-five mile trip down the St. John's river. The bird life on this stream is fairly abundant, especially in localities where a spring empties into a lake, as at Lake George. On one of these spots in the west shore of Lake George, the coots were present in large numbers, but all species of the order Anseres were remarkably scarce; I saw only half a dozen Saup Ducks and a couple of Mergansers.

Navigation on the St. John's is sadly hindered at times by great jams of Water Hyacinths. These plants drift about in small bunches, and on them, I saw flocks of Boat tailed Crackles, and Rusty Blackbirds, in company.

On the beacons set by the government to mark the channel, and on the limbs of the trees overhanging the river, the Anhinga and Florida Cormorant were frequently seen, the former in his characteristic pose with outstretched wings. The Black Vultures were gathered here and there in large numbers, choosing for a resting-place, a dead tree just as they chose a little later a dead anuman for a feast. The Turkey Vulture was seldom seen, and then always alone. This bird seems to hold aloof from his smaller and more abundant relative.

The tree Swallows, newly arrived from the North, were frequently seen, and another regular winter visitant, the Phoebe, was both seen and heard as we passed down the river. An occasional Marsh Hawk soared above the dismal cypress swamps, which bor-

der upon the St. Johns and a few flocks of Killdeer flew over them in search, I suppose, of more original beaches if the Mucky banks of this stream may be called such. Kingfisher, Sparrow Hawks, Fish Crows and Ospreys were seen at times. The Great Heron was more common than the Louisiana, the Louisiana more than the Green Heron. A Pileated Woodpecker was no uncommon sight as he flashed across the river, and dived into the woods on the opposite side. On the shores of Lake George I found Carolina Wrens, Cat birds, Mockingbirds, Flickers, Blue Jays, Vireo, and in the marshes a number of gallinules.

Robert J. Longstreet.

LeLand, Fla.

◆◆◆ Nest Notes.

This year a colony of Barn Swallows placed twenty-four nests on the pearl-line plates and rafters of the barn. The first settings all contained five eggs each, which brought 115 young Swallows to life, one nest being destroyed.

The second clutch run three to four eggs. One nest I examined was lined with feathers of the Quiana Fowl. With none nearer than two miles distant. On May 23d a pair of Barn Swallows began to build on a board that had been placed with one end on a grit and the other over the station in the cow stable, leaving about six inches space between the board and the floor above. Both birds worked at nest building, and each bird built a separate nest close to each other. The nests were finished on June 2d, and on June 3d one egg was deposited about 5:30 a. m., in the nest of the female. The next day at the same time one in the nest built by the male. On the 8th of June the female's nest had three eggs and the male's had

two. Both birds began setting on the 9th. The nests were destroyed on the 16th.

On several occasions during the late spring and early summer I saw both male and female of the Wood duck about a swamp in an open spot in a big woods. I was unable to find any nest even in the woods. But one day very early in August while out after berries I saw two old ducks and ten young on the pond. Saw them several times up to October 1st, and sure they nested here.

I examined 65 species of eggs this summer, but took none.

Ruffed Grouse nest found May 18, 1913. Situated under a fallen limb in edge of a thicket. Nest contained seven eggs at time of discovery. On May 20th it contained nine eggs; on the 21st the female began incubation. All hatched on June 11th, largest egg 1:56 x 1.12; smallest 1.50 x 1.08.

On May 19th, I found a nest of the Golden-winged Woodpecker, containing six fresh eggs, in a hole fifteen inches deep excavated in the end of a stub limb, where it had been cut off in pruning. All hatched ten days later. Young left the nest when twenty days old.

On May 25th, 1913, I found a nest of the Maryland Yellow-throat containing one egg situated in a small bunch of Swamp grass. On May 29th it contained five eggs; the female began setting on the 30th, and hatched June 12th. The grass about the nest was very thin affording no protection for the young. It was quite amusing to see the female sit on the side of the nest from 10 A. M. until 2 P. M. with outstretched wings making a shadow over the young, while the male bird brought soft insects to them for food.

On June 8th found a nest of the Blue-winged Warbler, containing six

young birds. The nest was composed of dry leaves with the stems pointing upward and lined with strips of bark of the wild grape vine. Nest placed on top of the ground no depression being made for it; it was at the foot of a small thorn bush in an open spot in the big woods.

June 15th found a nest of Upland Plover containing four eggs. They averaged in size, 1.76 x 1.30; eggs were placed in a small depression in rather tall grass in an old pasture. The nest was lined with a few pieces of broken straws. The eggs hatched July 2d; young left the nest next day. October 5th found nest of the mourning Dove with two very young Doves in it.

S. V. Wharram.

Austinburgh, Ohio.

Runt Woodpecker's Eggs.

Under the above heading, I note Mr. Richard T. Miller's article in THE OOLOGIST" for October, 1912. This article interested me greatly. I have a small series of Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) eggs, in my collection with abnormal eggs in the set.

One set of Flicker eggs, 1-8-06, collected in Decatur, Kansas, by myself, May 9, 1906, measure, 1.09 x .83, 1.13 x .85, 1.07 x .85, 1.03 x .79, 1.12 x .84, 1.10 x .85, 1.12 x .84, .77 x .65.

Flicker, set of six eggs including one runt, 3-6-08, taken in Decatur Co., Kansas, by Harley Riley, May 14, 1908; measures, 1.09 x .88, 1.13 x .85, 1.08 x .87, 1.15 x .92, 1.09 x .87, .75 x .59.

Flicker, set of six eggs, including one runt and one double yolked egg, 1-6-80, collected by Harley Riley, in Decatur Co., Kansas, June 10, 1908; measure, 1.15 x .91, 1.07 x .78, 1.07 x .78, 1.14 x .90, 1.32 x .98, .87 x .74.

Flicker, set of seven eggs including one runt egg, 5-7-08, taken by myself, in Decatur Co., Kansas, May 24, 1908;

measure, 1.06 x .84, 1.06 x .85, 1.10 x .87, 1.09 x .86, 1.06 x .85, 1.08 x .85, .88 x .71.

Flicker, set of seven eggs, including one runt, 9-7-08, collected by myself, in Decatur Co., Kansas, May 25, 1902; 1.05 x .90, 1.06 x .90, 1.09 x .88, 1.08 x .88, 1.05 x .88, 1.06 x .90, .89 x .78.

Flicker, set of six eggs, 2-6-09, this set contains the banner runt of the series, being about the size of a Bush-tit's egg. This set was taken by the writer, in Decatur Co., Kansas, May 18, 1909; measure, 1.13 x .86, 1.10 x .86, 1.11 x .87, 1.18 x .88, 1.07 x .84, .52 x .45.

Flicker, set of six eggs, 8-6-11, including one runt and one double yolked egg, taken by myself, in Decatur Co., Decatur Co., Kansas, June 8, 1911; measure 1.18 x .88, 1.20 x .90, 1.20 x .88, 1.18 x .86, 1.31 x .98, .80 x .63.

Red-headed Woodpecker, set of four eggs, 1-4-09, taken by Harley Riley, in Decatur Co., Kansas, May 23, 1909; measure 1.07 x .77, 1.05 x .79, .90 x .78, .84 x .70.

The sets that were collected by myself, were complete when found, so I was unable to find out when the abnormal eggs were deposited, whether the first or last egg of the set, or between the two. On June 10, 1908, I found an Orchard Oriole's nest with one normal egg in it; returning the 15th the nest contained three normal eggs with one runt, this would prove that this bird at least, did not lay the runt egg first but whether it was the last egg of the clutch or the second or third, is a matter of conjecture. This set measures .84 x .57, .80 x .56, .80 x .55, .45 x .34, and was collected in Decatur Co., Kansas, June 15, 1908.

Guy Love.

Oberlin, Kansas.

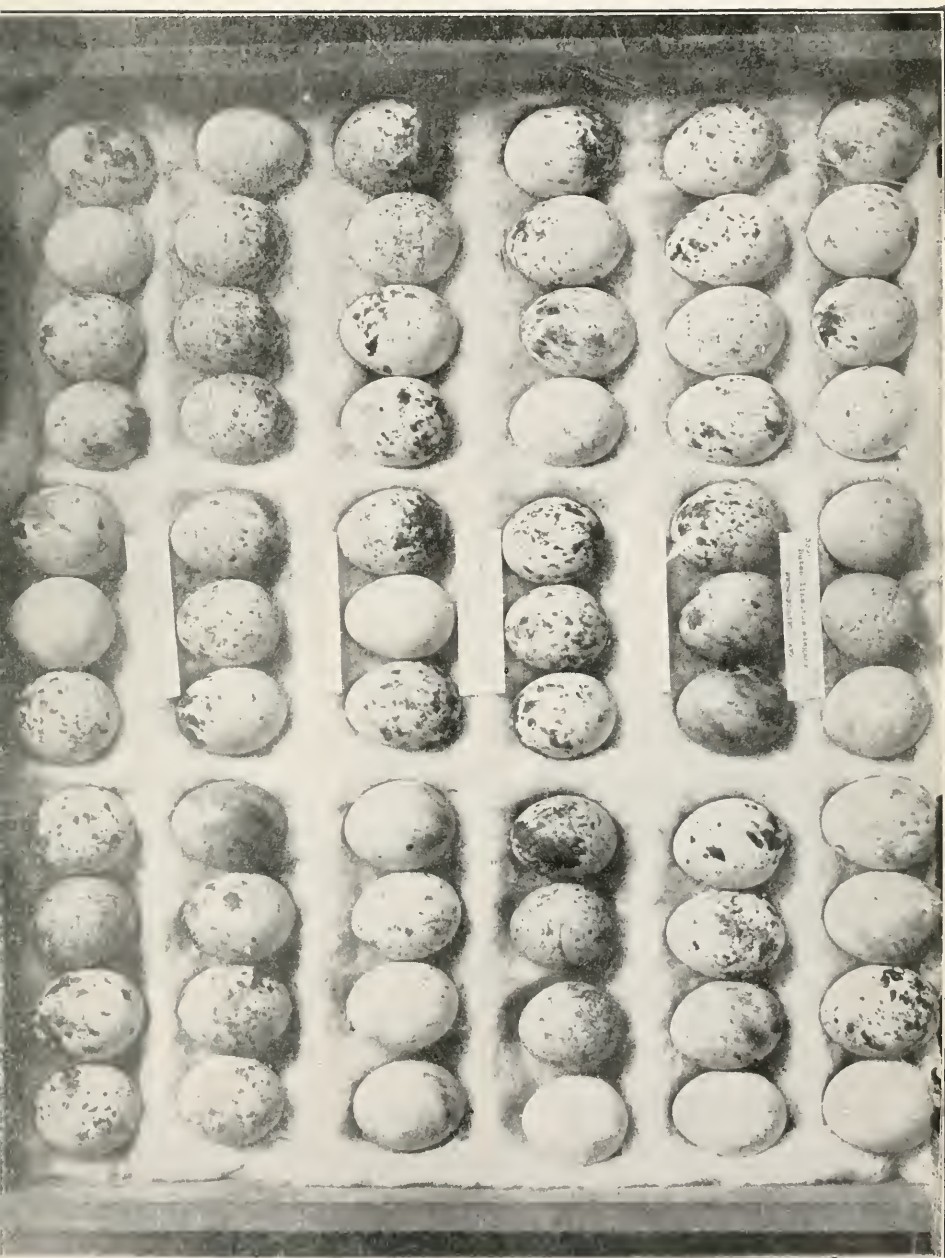
Bob White or Meadowlark?

On May the 9th, 1910, while out af-

ter a few sets in an upland pasture near Clinton, I heard a Bob White calling a short distance away and so I started over to investigate. When nearly over there I flushed a Meadowlark from her nest. I took a look at it and was surprised to find that it held four Lark and four Bob White eggs. At almost the same time the Bob Whites flushed only a few feet away. I was not after oddities that day so I didn't take them, but I have since wished that I had for I have never seen anything like it before, although I have heard of them laying with Guineas before and have often picked up single eggs in the fields. I even picked up a fresh one this winter while out hunting.

Bachman's Sparrow, A Summer Resident in Southern Pennsylvania.

During the past summer I spent several days in company with a Harvard Professor working out an old indian trail which runs near the border line of Pennsylvania and West Virginia, only a few miles from the extreme South-western corner of the former State. One rainy afternoon as we rested beneath some giant oaks which bordered a deserted field. I heard the peculiar song of a strange Sparrow. By carefully creeping near to where it sat perched, I was able to hear and watch it a little while. The song seemed to be composed of the following notes, "thee-ee-ee-ee-lut, lut, lut, lut." As we approached nearer the border line I noted several more of these peculiar Sparrows and watched them carefully. Upon reaching home some days later, I made a study of the recorded actions and habits of Bachman's Sparrow. From what I could learn this Sparrow has in recent years extended its range through Northern West Virginia. In several sections it has been found breeding



Drawer of Red-bellied Hawks Eggs in Collection of J. B. Dixon

—Photo by Mr. Dixon

during the past few summers. I feel sure the Sparrows I saw were Bachman's Sparrows. If I am right, this is the first record of the Sparrow as a summer resident of Pennsylvania.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

A New Vernacular Name of the Flicker.

In Hurst's New Nuttall's Dictionary published by Hurst & Co., New York, 1890, in the "Supplement of Additional Words and Definitions," many of which are of American origin and usage, and cannot be found in any other dictionary, on page 871, I find the following definition of the Flicker:

Flicker: — The Golden-headed Woodpecker, or Yellow Hammer; also called pigeon-woodpecker, high hole, clape, etc.

A Flicker with a golden-head would be a novelty indeed!

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

What an Editor Saw.

And Those He Met.

Friday, July 11, 1913, Ye Editor, together with his wife and mother and chauffeur, started from his home in Lacon, Illinois, and drove to Chicago, passing through the northerly third of the most productive and highly cultivated state in the Union. Of course birds in that kind of a territory were not overly plentiful, though many more seen of the more common varieties.

Saturday, July 12th, we rolled the machine onto a steamer at Chicago, and started for Buffalo. A trip over the lakes is never without interest. Sunday, an hour's stop was made at Mackinac Island, that gem of all creation.

Monday, we sailed down through the most placid of all the lakes,

Huron, which at that time was like a wide sheet of glass, lying under a blazing July sun. In the afternoon, the winding channels of the St. Clair river were traversed, through the St. Clair flats, and flanked on each side by continuous lines of summer cottages, club houses, shooting lodges and the like.

While we were nearly always in sight of Herring Gulls and Caspian Tern on Lakes Michigan and Huron, here on the St. Clair flats was a motley assemblage of water birds, ducks, gulls, terns, coots, redwings, yellowheads, and many smaller being observed from the ship's deck.

Tuesday, July 15th, we arrived at Buffalo and after driving over to Niagara Falls, returned and spent a half day with that Prince of oologists, Otthar Reinecke. We had never met Reinecke, but soon learned he was a typical German scientist of the old school, painstaking, precise and accurate in everything pertaining to his scientific pursuits, and genial to a fault. In looking over his collection, which was particularly rich in rare Warblers, we saw many sights that were a delight to the eye, including nice series of Hooded and Kentucky. Also the only set of five eggs of the American Woodcock that has ever fallen under our observation, these being personally taken by Mr. Reinecke, as, in fact, were nearly all of the more rare specimens in his collection. He also showed us a nearly complete series of mounted specimens of all the North American Ducks.

We left Buffalo for Rochester, Wednesday morning, running through a thickly settled territory and over the magnificent roads for which New York is noted. The next day, July 17th, we drove from Rochester, out to Albion to call on Frank H. Lattin, the founder

of THE OOLOGIST. We found the Doctor at his home, engrossed in business. As we had not seen him since the World's Fair, year of 1893, it was a pleasure to renew acquaintance. Lattin in his day was probably the best known bird egg man in North America. Though he is entirely out of the game now, he has not lost all his interest in the subject. He is at present coroner of his county, and one of the leading doctors therein, as well as largely interested in orchards, and he told us that apples, and not eggs, were his hobby at present.

From there we drove out a few miles in the country to the home of E. H. Short. Everybody that knows a bird's egg, knows Short, either by sight, correspondence or reputation. We had never seen him, and found a talkative, genial, active man of about thirty-five years of age. His den is a little one story building out in the country containing three rooms. Here he does all his scientific work, keeps his specimens, and packs and ships from this headquarters. Truly, a more disorderly appearing place of its kind has never come under our observation. It was an astonishment to us, the readiness with which he would lay his hands upon specimens, data, or anything else that he might want, amid the chaotic surroundings. The place may have been swept out and dusted since he first moved in, though it certainly showed no evidence of that fact. Yet, withal, in such surroundings, there was an air of the home of a scientist. Short himself was engaged in unpacking and arranging a large collection of eggs that he had recently got from F.T. Pember, the well-known scientist of Granville, New York, which included such rare and desirable specimens as Black Rail, Swallowtail Kite, Whooping Crane and the like.

Driving back to Albion, we called at the establishment of A. M. Eddy, from which THE OOLOGIST is printed and mailed, and found a first class, thoroughly equipped establishment of its kind, though we were disappointed in learning that Mr. Eddy himself was in Europe.

Leaving there we drove Southwardly to Penn Yan, N. Y., arriving there at supper time. From here we probed Verdi Burtch of Branchport, and soon were on a little electric road and at his home. Burtch is overhead in business, being the leading merchant in that vicinity, and apparently doing nearly all the business thereabouts. His collection is one of the best kept and neatest that we have ever seen. Of course his series of Warblers is one of the finest in America. The arrangement of the nest being unique so far as we know. Each Warbler's nest is placed in a small basketlike contrivance made of wire under which, extending downward, is another wire similar to the stand of a glass tumbler. This is inserted in a square, thin piece of wood forming a base. These bases of wood are painted black and are all of the same size, about four inches square, as we remember it. The eggs are placed in the nests and in this way the nests and eggs may be moved about in a manner similar to the movement of trays in the ordinary arrangement of a collection.

Mr. Burtch's home is ideally situated for one with his tastes, being on a high hill, the back yard sloping down to the reed grown shores of a lake, and he told us of the taking of rails and similar birds' eggs in his own back yard. Our only regret was we could not remain longer here.

At this place we were sorry to miss C. F. Stone, a phone to his home bringing the word that he had gone hunting.

July 18th we ran from Penn Yan to Syracuse and from there to Oswego. On the 19th from Oswego to Watertown, and on to Alexandria Bay. Stopping long enough at Laconia to meet Lewis K. Snyder, whom we found away from his home. During this run we saw many of the more common birds of Northwestern New York, and of course at Alexandria Bay, again came in contact with the Gulls and Terns. Here we remained among the Thousand Islands until the 21st, driving on that day over about the worst roads we have ever seen, to Ogdensburg, and from there to Malone, in the northern part of the state.

The next day a pleasant drive through the heart of the Adirondack Mountains, passing Saranac Lake, Paul Smith's, Lake Placid, etc., over perfectly splendid roads, brought us to Plattsburgh on the shores of Lake Champlain. Here we remained until the 25th. At this point we met Lieutenant Francis B. Eastman of the United States Army and examined some of his ornithological treasures, including the only set of really authentic Great Gray Owl's eggs that has ever fallen under our notice. The story of this set is interesting. The Lieutenant was travelling through the interior of Alaska in the early spring, before the snow had commenced to melt with a detail of soldiers; and in crossing a heavily timbered ridge, discovered the nest of this bird about thirty feet up in a coniferous tree. Much to the disgust of his fellow officers and the enlisted men, he stopped the whole expedition until these eggs could be procured, for which we personally are exceedingly thankful, because this set now rests in our collection, and is among our most treasured specimens.

We had never met Eastman before,

but soon learned he was a very lovable and entertaining gentleman. To hear him detail his experiences at the far away points where he has been stationed during his service, is better than reading a book.

Friday, July 25th, we left Plattsburgh and drove to Chazy on the shores of Lake Champlain. Here we visited the noted Minor Farm, which, even to an Illinoisan who lives in the heart of the best farming district in the world, was a revelation. The vast expenditure of money and the wonderful results produced upon the Muskag-like lands of Northern New York, were a revelation; not the least interesting object there being two immense Martin houses, one of which was reputed to have two hundred fifty rooms, and every room apparently was tenanted with a pair of these beautiful birds.

From here we crossed Lake Champlain on a ferry to the Island, and drove southeasterly across this island, crossing a bridge into Vermont, winding up in the evening at Burlington. While on this island, we several times noted small bunches of Black Duck that rose out of the edge of the Lake as we rolled along.

Saturday, the 26th, we drove from Burlington through the Green Mountains to Montpelier, where we took lunch and from there to St. Johnsbury. The roads were indifferent here, though the trip was one of much interest.

At St. Johnsbury we stayed Sunday forenoon, and visited the Natural History Museum in that place endowed by Mr. Fairbanks. There are many specimens of interest there. In the afternoon, over very poor roads, we drove to Lancaster, New Hampshire, much out of our way, to call on Fred B. Spaulding, whom we had never met but had known by correspondence

for nearly thirty years, spending the evening at his residence and examining his splendid collection of eggs. This collection is perhaps the richest in Warblers, personally taken, of any egg collection in North America. For authenticity, accuracy and care in preparation, Fred B. Spaulding has never been excelled. We found a tall, studious, sandy complexioned gentleman who had every bearing of a real man, and it is with regret that at the time of writing this short review of our stop at his home, where we were so nicely entertained by himself and his good wife, that he has passed on. Would that there were more Spauldings engaged in ornithology in North America.

Monday, the 28th, we drove from Lancaster, southeast through the White Mountains over one of the most splendid drives in all North America, to Portsmouth. The next day driving from Portsmouth down the seashore to Boston. A more interesting trip could scarcely be found, stopping a half day at Salem, noted for its literary genius and ancient witchcraft.

At Boston of course, one of the first places visited was the Agassiz Museum on the Harvard University grounds. Here we were fortunate in meeting Professor Hinshaw, and unfortunate in not meeting Outram Bangs. Professor Hinshaw generously placed himself and his time at our disposal, showing us through the Museum, where for the first time our eyes rested upon an egg of the extinct Great Auk. Also a set of two eggs and a number of adult and juvenile skins of the exceedingly rare Spoonbilled Sandpiper. These had just come in from Northeast Siberia, where they were collected the past spring by our friend Dixon, of Escondido, California. At this writing (January, 1914), Dixon had not return-

ed from the south and his friends are much worried.

From Boston we skirted the seacoast southeasterly passing by and paying tribute to Plymouth Rock, and followed the road around to the very point of Cape Cod, at Provincetown over a rolling, sandy, brush covered country where many small and a few large birds were observed.

This territory is sparsely settled, being occupied almost exclusively by sea going people. The roads however are as good as the best boulevards in our largest cities. Remaining over night at Provincetown on the point of Cape Cod, we returned the head of the machine westerly, August 2d, and arrived at Taunton, Massachusetts, about six o'clock in the evening. To get into communication with A. C. Bent was but the work of a few minutes, and in a little while, a small, thin, wiry scholarly appearing gentleman called at the hotel and took us to his bachelor quarters. Bent is old enough to know better, but he still persists in remaining a bachelor. Here we spent a number of hours examining the accumulations of this scientist, who is known as an ornithologist of the first rank from one end of the country to the other and who, from all the bird men of America has been selected by the Government to continue the preparation and publication of Bendire's Life Histories.

Mr. Bent's collection of eggs was the largest private collection we had seen for many a long day, and is in excellent condition, being arranged, kept and stored after the manner of a true scientist. Here we saw many rare and unusual eggs, including several sets of different varieties of the Alusian Island Ptarmigan, which, so far as we know, were unique in their class. Bent has a collection of which he may be proud.

Our next stop was at Worcester, from which a short street-car ride landed us at the Mecca of all ornithologists, the private Museum of Honorable John E. Thayer at Lancaster. Here we were met by a short, fat happy dispositioned man of fifty-one years of age, much to our astonishment. It had always been our understanding, and we think is the general understanding of ornithologists, that Mr. Thayer was quite an old man. He looks really much younger than he is.

This Museum, which is open to the public on certain days of the week, is devoted entirely to North American ornithology, and contains the best representation of this subject to be found anywhere outside the Natural Museum. One-third of the lower floor is given over to the storage room for skins, of which there are series upon series, including many of the very rarest. Another third is given over to the storage of eggs, which of course, particularly interested the writer. Here our eyes feasted upon a series of nine eggs of the extinct Great Auk, the largest series to be found in any one place in the world, and of which there are but sixty-seven specimens all told known. We also saw a series of seven California Condor's eggs, of which there are but forty-three perfect specimens known. Eggs of the Black Rail, Yellow Rail, Kirtland's and many other rare warblers, being in series. Many specimens being represented by life groups showing the male and female and nest (in situ) with the eggs.

The second floor of this building contains Mr. Thayer's collection of mounted birds, of which the endeavor has been to secure a pair, male and female of each specimen and such species. This is perhaps the most

complete sequence of these specimens in existence, containing a very large number of rarities, including a mounted Great Auk, a Labrador Duck, a pair of Guadalupe Caracara, and many others, some of which are extinct. This museum is conducted upon a business basis. A careful set of books and records are kept pertaining to everything done and every specimen received and sent out.

One of the interesting books is a visitor's register, in which may be seen the autograph of all scientists visiting this institution. Strange as it may seem, the last person to register before Ye Editor was our friend, OOLOGIST—SEVEN. A. M. Ingersol of San Diego, California. We are under obligations to Mr. Thayer for the kindness shown to us while at his Museum, and appreciate it much.

From here we drove to Providence, Rhode Island, hoping to see John H. Flanagan and C. E. Dow, but neither of them were at home, so we wended our way along the coast of Long Island Sound westward, stopping at Saybrook to call at the home of the late Judge John N. Clark, and from there to New Haven, where we drove out to call upon Paul G. Howes.

We found Mr. Howes a young man who had celebrated his arrival at the age of twenty-one years a few days before. Here we spent one of the most enjoyable hours of the entire trip. Mr. Howes has built a small private museum of his own. While he is primarily interested in ornithology, yet he is a naturalist of broad attainments, as will disclose itself to any person visiting his place. Here we saw some of the most beautifully prepared specimens of birds nests that we have ever seen. While his collection of ornithological specimens is not large, yet the preparation is

unexcelled, and the other specimens cover a wide range. The place is equipped with every known modern device used in the most expensive museums and herein we observed some life groups after the manner of those in the New York Museum of Natural History, these being prepared by Mr. Howes, and are fully as good as those in New York. One of them when lit up by electricity, is as fine a thing of the kind as we have ever seen.

It is our prediction that twenty years from now, if Mr. Howes is permitted to remain that long, he will be one of the best known naturalists in North America.

From New Haven, our route led us to New York City, via Bridgeport, Conn. where we spent a very interesting evening, W. Linfred Dubar, John Garth and Oto C. Hestings all Oologist subscribers. While in New York we visited the Museum of Natural History, meeting, among others, Frank M. Chapman, who appeared unable or too busy to give us much of his time. This Museum of course, has unlimited means behind it, and is one of the great and growing institutions in America. Its collection of birds is exceptionally good. The collection of eggs is only medium. It is particularly known however for the life groups of North American birds prepared under the direction of Frank M. Chapman, to which there is devoted an entire room, and this display is well worth the time of any person, scientist or otherwise, visiting New York.

We likewise visited the Zoological Gardens at the Bronx, and here saw in life many birds that we had never seen before. Birds from all parts of the world, including the rare Secretary Bird of India, which is simply a long legged terrestrial hawk that runs down its prey instead of swooping upon it on the wing.

Here we were treated with extreme courtesy by Professor Hornaday and his assistant, L. S. Crandall, assistant curator of Ornithology, the Superintendent of the department of Birds. At this writing we have just received from this Institution a pair of *Seropsis* geese, an Australian species which is about half way between a true goose and the family of wader, in exchange for a pair of Blue Geese Sent by us.

Driving over onto Long Island we called at the home of Chauncey W. Crandall, but he was not there and we did not get to see his specimens. Later Mr Crandall called on us at the hotel. We found a dark-eyed, thin, nervous, active man, who has recently come to realize that he has practically worn himself out in the employ of one of the great New York corporations, having undergone a nervous breakdown. Crandall advised us that as soon as he recovers his normal state of health, that he is going to get back into the birds egg game with more energy than ever.

We also called at the home of John Lewis Childs at Floral Park, New York. He has a magnificent estate here and treated us royally, though at that time he was a lone "widdy man," his wife and family being in Europe. Childs' collection of birds and eggs is one of the best in existence, and he showed it to us with evident pride, and at much loss of time and physical exertion for himself; all of which we appreciated.

Many were the rare specimens we observed there, including a series of Yellow Rail and Black Rail; also eggs of the Carolina Parakeet and many others of equal rarity. Mr. Childs' private ornithological library is one of the best known. One of the books of which he is exceptionally proud, and with reason, is a compilation of

his own, relating to the birds of Floral Park, every breeding species of which is represented by a hand-colored drawings by Allen Brooks, the text being by Mr. Childs.

There is no private collection of North American birds eggs that is more complete or more generally known than that of Mr. Childs, and he is as enthusiastic in regard to this hobby apparently as a sixteen year old boy, and we have no doubt it has been beneficial to him both mentally and physically.

Our next stop was at Philadelphia. Here in the heart of the ornithological territory, formerly famed by Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon, we met many ornithologists, and had the pleasure of discussing amateur bird publications with Frank L. Burns, and renewing acquaintance with J. Parker Norris, Senior whom we had not seen for many years. Also of meeting his son, J. Parker Norris, Junior, who is an enthusiastic oologist, and took us to his home and permitted us to examine the famous J. P. N. collection.

This is without doubt the largest private collection of North American birds eggs in existence in point of numbers, and contains series after series of rare and almost unobtainable eggs. The collection itself showed something of neglect, and it is to be hoped that it will not be permitted to deteriorate from its former high state of care. No other collection in North America is better known. It is a life work of an ardent bird lover, and is being splendidly continued by his son. It is a monument of which they both can well be proud. We of course hunted up S. N. Rhoads, the book man and spent a pleasant evening with Messrs. Butler, Longstreet and Akin.

From Philadelphia, a twenty mile

drive over roads that were so bad as to surprise us brought us to the home of Thomas H. Jackson. Every reader of this knows Jackson by reputation at least. Jackson began to collect eggs, and exchange them way back in the early '80's and Jackson is at it yet. A short, spare, dark complexioned man with an iron gray mustache, closely cropped, took us out to his home and displayed to us his treasures. His wife apparently takes as much interest in his hobby as he does himself, and his collection, while not large in point of numbers, is one of the most complete so far as varieties are concerned, that there is. The care, preparation and arrangement, neatness and appearance of this collection is not excelled by any that we have ever seen.

One of the odd things about it is that the eggs of the larger birds rest on beds of very fine hickory shavings which Mr. Jackson gets from the factory with which he is connected.

Driving back to Philadelphia we started for Washington, and between Philadelphia and Baltimore passed over the most miserable roads that we have ever seen an automobile attempt to negotiate; miles upon miles of rocky hills, in many places with the soil entirely washed off the road bed, being simply a loose mass of jagged, sharp edged irregular shaped rocks.

In Washington we spent an evening with Paul Bartsch, a young enthusiastic, active, energetic oologist, who has a splendid collection of personally taken sets, and whose accuracy and care in preparation cannot be excelled.

At the National Museum, we placed ourselves in touch with J. H. Riley, Secretary of the Department of Birds eggs, and had the pleasure of examining such of the specimens of the 155,000

eggs there that we desired. Among others which we especially wanted to see and examine were eggs of the Trumpeter Swan, and of the Whooping Crane. The collection here is so large that no person could see it all in any reasonable time, or remember half that they saw if they saw it all.

The arrangement of this collection is peculiar. The eggs of each separate variety are placed in a separate drawer. These drawers contains medium sized trays. These trays are divided into separate compartments, just lage enough to hold one egg, by a series of cross sections runing both crossways and lengthways of the tray, made of cotton batting, and in each division of the tray so made, one egg is so placed in the cotton batting that the top of the egg and the top of the cotton batting are about equal in height. The sets are not kept separate, each set by itself, but they are run along crossways of these small trays similar to the way type is set up on a page, and in looking at the box containing the specimens, there is no way of telling where one set ends and another begins.

To our minds this is a defective system. Otherwise the method of nesting each egg in the cotton is a good idea. We have never seen a more carefully preserved collection of eggs, nor one that was in a more perfect condition.

From Washington our road took us to the Gettysburg Battle Field, then into Western Pennsylvania, then North over the National Pike from Bedford to Pittsburgh, and from Pittsburgh, nearly straight West, home on August 31st. We were gone 50 days ran 3800 miles and visited 15 states.

The above impresions we thought might be of interest to those who had not met the collectors who are above referred to.

A March Day in Texas.

March 29, 1913, I started from home in Houston, Texas, about 8:15 a. m., carrying a small package of lunch and a .22 target rifle; I never like to take a tramp in the woods without the .22 and a few mustard-seed shells, although one always sees rarer birds when he has no weapons.

It was nearly nine o'clock before I got out of the city limits onto an old country road running west of Houston and along the edge of a particularly fine strip of wooded land. A slight north wind was blowing, the weather was fine and clear, and it was just the day for an enjoyable trip through pine woods.

Very few birds were seen before entering the woods, but as several stages of landscape were covered during the day I was able to record a goodly list of species. A wet, grassy "flat," open prairie, pine woods, thickets bottom woods, cultivated fields, and mixed, open woods followed one another in due order.

I left the pine woods about 4:30 p. m., and reached home by 5:30. The list of birds for the day's amble is as follows:

Killdeer	7
Bob White	3
Mourning Dove	2
Turkey Vulture	11
Black Vulture	4
Marsh Hawk	1
Florida Red-shouldered Hawk.....	4
Barn Owl	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Yellow-bellied Wodpecker	1
Flicker	10
Chimney Swift	1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1
Crester Flycatcher	1
Phoebe	1
Blue Jay	11
Crow	1

Red-winged Blackbird	2
Southern Meadowlark	3
Brewer's Blackbird	22
Rusty Blackbird	5
Florida Grackle	6
Boat-tailed Grackle	6
Baird's Sparrow	5
Western Lark Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	12
Song Sparrow	7
Towhee	2
Gray-tailed Cardinal	11
Purple Martin	5
Bank Swallow	5
White-eyed Vireo	7
Black and White Warbler	4
Western Parula Warbler	3
Myrtle Warble	7
Sycamore Warbler	4
Black-throated Green Warbler.....	2
Pine Warbler	4
Northern Yellow-throat	3
Pipit	3
Mockingbird	17
Brown Thrasher.....	2
Carolina Wren	3
Bewick Wren	1
House Wren	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Brown-headed Nuthatch	2
Tufted Titmouse	13
Plumeous Chickadee	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	19
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Hermit Thrush	2
Robin	1
Bluebird	4
<hr/>	
54 Species	261

Finlay Simmons.

George Guelph's Migration Notes.

Mr. Guelph's scientific survey of wildbird migration on the shores of Lake Ontario follows:

"To those who love the birds simply from an aesthetic standpoint, to the student who wishes to become more familiar with the birds, or to the naturalist desiring to make a scientific

study of the mysteries of bird migration, there is no better vantage point than along the shore of Lake Ontario. It is the main line of flight, the aerial highway of both land and water birds in going to and returning from their nesting grounds to the north. Some species of land birds fly directly across the lake, but the great bulk of them follow closely along the shore. In the Spring their flight is from West to East, and in the Fall it is the reverse.

"There are over two hundred species of birds which may be looked for regularly along the lake during the time of migration, besides about twenty other species which may occasionally be found, and twelve which have been recorded but a few times, and are very rare. Then, also, there is always the possibility of finding something new.

There is but a short period between the time when ice first begins to show signs of breaking up in the Spring and the freezing again in the late Fall but what some species of birds are migrating. Hardly have the late Spring migrants all passed north before some species are beginning to return on their southern journey. The past Spring the Loons were still seen on the lake up to the fifteenth of June. The bulk of the Ring-billed and Herring Gulls did not leave until about the twentieth of June. By the first of July the Bronze Grackles were beginning to be seen in small flocks, and by the eleventh the Barn Swallows were gathering in the marshes at evening to roost. Most of the young Red-winged Blackbirds had begun to leave the marshes by the fifteenth. As early as the seventeenth of July the Black-crowned Night Herons began to appear, and by the twenty-third they were seen daily. They usually continue to straggle along until the latter part of Septem-

ber, when the few remaining ones leave for the south.

A few Semi-palmated Plover and Lesser Yellow-legs appeared on July 26th. At this time these birds had already covered many hundred miles of their journey south, as they breed in the far north, from the James Bay region almost to the Arctic coast. The Semi-palmated Plover is one of the commonest species in the fall and its migrations cover a longer period than any of the other shore birds. They are usually found along the lake from the latter part of July until the first of October.

On the twenty-eighth day of July there was a large flight of shore birds. Lesser Yellow-legs, Semi-palmated Plover, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers appeared very commonly, together with a large flock of Pectoral Sandpipers, or "Grass Snipe." All remained more or less common up to September first, when the Lesser Yellow-legs began to leave and the Greater Yellow-legs to take their place. By the twenty-ninth of July the Bartramian Sandpipers, or "Up-land Plover", as they are known to most sportsmen, had begun their long journey to the plains of Argentina, where they spend the winter. They appeared regularly up to the fourteenth of August, when the main flight had passed. This bird breeds in a few favorable localities in Monroe county.

Quite a number of Wilson Snipe have been seen about the marshes throughout the summer, and no doubt some have nested here. A solitary Turnstone was seen on July twenty-ninth. The first Golden Plover was seen August sixth, and the first Black-bellied Plover on the eighth.

On the fifth of August a few western Sandpipers made their appearance, and since then they have been

seen occasionally up to the first of September. In general appearance they are very much like the Semi-palmated Sandpiper, the little Sandpiper so common along the lake shore during August, but they are of a darker and more rusty color and have a longer and stouter bill. This western variety breeds in the northwest coast region of Alaska. During their fall migration some of them take an over-land trip to the Atlantic coast, a few stopping en route along the shore of Lake Ontario. These diminutive Sandpipers, hardly larger than Sparrows, at this early date were already more than three thousand miles in an air line from their breeding grounds. The power of flight and the long distances covered by some of the shore birds during their migrations are truly marvelous.

A few Baird and White-rumped Sandpipers have been seen, but they are never very common. But very few Sanderling have yet appeared, the main flight occurring during the latter part of September and the fore-part of October.

Three species of shore birds were observed that are of rare or unusual occurrence in western New York—the Hudsonian Curlew, Willet, and Knot. A single Hudsonian Curlew was seen on July twenty-eighth, and four Willet on August ninth. A single Willet was seen on August twenty-fourth, and it remained near the same locality for a number of days. Possibly it was a straggler from those previously seen. Willet are fairly common on the Atlantic coast, more so in the south, but their occurrence on Lake Ontario is very rare. A single specimen of the Knot (*Tringa canutus*) appeared on August twenty-seventh and remained for several days. This species was formerly fairly common along the Atlantic

coast during migration, but there are very few instances of its having been found in western New York, and its occurrence, with that of the Willet, are very rare bird records for Monroe county. The Knot breeds far in the Arctic regions, both in America and in the Old World. In America it migrates south in winter to the extreme southern part of South America. Its scientific name "canutus" pertains to Canute, King of Denmark, with whom this bird was a favorite.

A Blue Goose, one of the rarest of the larger waterfowl to visit this locality, was recorded here April fifth. There are but six records of its having ever been observed before in this State, four of which are from Long Island and two from the eastern part of the State, which leaves this as the only record of the occurrence of this species in western New York.

Another interesting record, probably more so to bird lovers than to sportsmen, is the occurrence in Monroe county of the Short-billed Marsh Wren. Four pairs of this species of Wren have nested in one of the marshes at the lake this summer. It is hardly distinguishable, except at close range, from the common Long-billed Marsh Wren. Its nest, however, is considerably different, being built of much finer material, averaging smaller, and is placed along the border of the marsh among the reeds and marsh grass; whereas the Long-bill's nest is usually placed deeper in the marsh among the flags, and is composed mostly of coarse dead flag leaves. The nest of these species, like that of the Long-billed variety, is a globular affair, with a small entrance in one side. It is attached to the stout upright marsh grass stalks, the leaves of which are closely woven into the nest. For an inner lining they use the soft down from the dead cat-tails. One pair of birds, or rather

the male will build several nests, only one of which is used. While the female is engaged with her household affairs the male occupies his time in nest building. These four families had a total of seventeen nests, and as late as August thirty-first one bird was still busily engaged in building another.

Gallinules, or "Mud Hens," are more plentiful this season than for a number of years, and numerous broods of young are to be found in nearly all the marshes along the lake. There was unusually high water in the lake this year, and as a result the marshes and flats have been flooded, making ideal conditions for marsh or shore birds.

Black Duck have been quite common throughout the season, and no doubt some have nested here. Some good-sized flocks of ducks are now coming in, and there will no doubt be some good shooting when the season opens. The early ducks are more plentiful now than they have been for some time past.

The nesting season being over, the Gulls have returned, the first flight of account occurring on August tenth. Marsh Hawks are returning, together with an occasional Sharp-shinned Hawk. A few young Bobolinks are still to be seen, although the main flight has passed. Several species of Warblers are now migrating, also a number of other species of our small land birds. Swallows of nearly all varieties have been very plentiful during the migration this year. The orioles have migrated, and with them many of the songsters that have gladdened our woods and fields during the bright June days.

While some species of birds are now migrating, and with some the main flight has already passed, a great many have not yet left the vicinity of their summer homes. With the passing of one species another arrives to take its place, and so on until late in the fall when the storms and chilling winds bring down from the north those hardy birds which spend the winter with us.

Bird life in general has been very plentiful along the lake this season, and the prospects for an early increase in the ranks of our feathered friends are very bright.

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FEBRUARY

February is the month the Great Horned Owl begins to "Hoo hoo hoo-ooo" as he hunts an abandoned hawk's nest, or a great hollow in some high forest monarch, in which his mate may lay two, three and rarely four great white spherical eggs. Likewise the Eagle looks up his last year's erie, and settles to home building or rebuilding. The Hawks careen through the sky looking for likely places in which to hide their coming treasures. The oologist hunts up his climbers and wanders over hill and dale looking for these same treasurers. But let us all remember that the Sparrow Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and all the Owls except *Bubo Virginianus*, are beneficial birds, and their eggs already a drug with collectors. So, fellow oologists, take no more of these than you want for your own collections. They are no good for exchange purposes.—Editor.

A LETTER

"I have been getting THE OÖOLOGIST for thirty years. It is better now than it has been in all those years.—George Miller, York, Pa."

AN APOLOGY.

In the last number of THE OÖOLOGIST we announced that hereafter this magazine would be mailed flat. We at that time thought that we had all arrangements for so doing completed. The envelope company had our money and we had their acceptance of the order. Since that time we have heard nothing from them. Unless we receive these envelopes in time for the March mailing we will arrange with some other concern than the Samuel Cupples Envelope Co., for our supplies of this kind in the future.—Editor.

Series of Eggs of the Red-Tailed Hawk

Two eggs, slightly incubated, bluish-white ground, speckled, spotted, and blotched with several shades of red brown and undermarkings of lilac scattered over the whole surface of the egg. In one, the heaviest markings are principally in the larger end with a few handsome blotches on the sides. Measure 2.24 x 1.78, 2.18 x 1.82 inches; form, thick oval. Nest of sticks in large Burr Oak. Locality, Dodge Co., Columbus, Wis.; date, April 6, 1895.

Two eggs, badly incubated, greenish-blue, one is without markings, the other is beautifully marked with dots, spots and blotches of burnt sienna principally toward the larger end, on which are the larger and heavier markings; form, thick oval; measure 2.33 x 1.79, 2.45 x 1.82 inches. Nest of sticks in White Peplar, against body. Locality, Columbia Co., four miles S. W. of Columbus, Wis.; date, April 14, 1895.

Three eggs, incubation slight, light bluish white ground, from quite coarsely and heavily marked in one, over the whole surface, to sparing marks in number three, with yellow-brown and lilac in spots and blotches, mainly blurred into each other; form, thick oval; measure, 2.45 x 1.91, 2.53 x 1.96, 2.46 x 1.95 inches. Nest of sticks, against body of tall White Poplar. Locality, Columbia Co., near Columbus, Wis.; date, March 21, 1898.

Two eggs, incubation advanced, white with a bluish tint; one is quite thickly marked over the whole egg, with specks, spots and blotches of dark yellowish undermarkings, heaviest on the smaller end, the markings grow finer and thinner toward the larger end; the other is very sparingly marked, having but a few of the dark brown blotches, mainly on the smaller end shows a few tiny scrawls;

shape, oval; measure, 2.33 x 1.86, 2.35 x 1.80 inches. Nest of sticks on limb of Black Oak. Locality, Columbia Co., four and one-half miles S. W. of Columbus, Wis.; date, April 2, 1898.

Three eggs, fresh, grayish or bluish white; the markings in all three is a middle marking of red-brown, over-marking of rich seal brown, under markings of lilac, layed on in specks, and spots and a few blotches; in number one very sparingly marked; number two slightly heavier, and number three quite heavily; the two browns are much blended and again blended into the undermarkings of lilac; in number one the markings are more toward the smaller end; number two, the larger end, and in three the smaller end. Form, oval; measure 2.50 x 2.00, 2.50 x 1.95, 2.51 x 2.00 inches. Nest of sticks against body of White Poplar. Locality, Columbia Co., four miles S. W. of Columbus, Wis.; date, March 20, 1899.

Two eggs, advanced, pale bluish white, one unmarked, the other lightly blotched with pale yellow, brown and lilac; form, thick ellipse; measure, 2.16 x 1.75, 2.24 x 1.80 inches. Nest of sticks on limb of Black Oak. Locality, Columbia Co., one and one-half miles west of Columbus, Wis.; date, April 15th, 1899.

Geo. W. H. vos Burgh.
Zion City, Illinois.

Albino Robin.

S. V. Wharram.

While visiting at a Taxidermist shop I saw, among other things, a snow white robin with pink eyes. The taxidermist said that a pair of robins had built in a small tree near his house. He watched them with some interest and found that they all seemed well when hatched. However, when they began to feather out one showed white and the old ones threw it from

the nest. Mr. Coon placed it in an old nest and fed it. It was able to fly when one day he found it dead beneath a tree in his yard.

Nesting of the Northern Raven in Pennsylvania.

(*Corvus Corvax Principalis*.)

It so happened that in the spring of 1912, a friend of M. R. C. Harlow's, while trout fishing in the mountains of Clinton County, Pa., discovered the nest of the Northern Raven which held young birds. Upon Harlow's hearing of his friend's find, he decided to visit the place later.

On the morning of the 13th of March, 1913, Harlow and I left the State College by train and landed at a small town nine miles from our destination. From this place we tramped southward through a mountain gap which finally led us into an open, level space of country. In the distance we could discern a deep valley formed by two mountain ridges, and toward this we made our way. From the report of Harlow's friend we were to tramp up this ravine for a couple of miles, but when we had traversed that distance we could find no traces of a rocky cliff where the nest was situated. However, after we had gone a mile further up the ravine we came to an abrupt turn in it, which revealed two sandstone cliffs, containing many indentations. The rocks were well covered with gray lichen.

We decided to investigate the upper cliff first. I walked up small logging railroad, over which the log trains passed frequently, and had a plain view of the cliff. Some distance up the side I could see a large indentation in the rocks; upon our making a noise a Raven flapped from this crevice and sailed away over the hemlocks which covered the mountain side.

It was not long until I reached the

above the base of the cliff, and peered over the rim of the nest, upon five large eggs of greenish color well blotched with darker green.

The nest was composed of large sticks and inner strips of Hemlock bark, and was well lined with dry grass, a little green moss, and white hair from the belly of a deer. It rested upon the bare, damp rocks.

The Raven did not utter a note; she was seen but once after she left the nest, and then kept out of our sight.

A few pairs of Ravens regularly inhabit the wilder mountainous country of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. However, few nests have ever been reported from either of these states.

It might be interesting to mention here, that we found on old nest of the Winter Wren built in a crack in the rocks, three feet above the nest of the Raven.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

Wild Fowl Notes.

G. T. Skarns of Minneapolis, Minn., shot a Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*) October 8, 1913, at Woodcock Lake, near Spicer, Minn. There was only this single bird. It was with a flock of seven or eight Canada Geese. We have seen the bird mounted.

One of the three Trumpeter Swans on our home grounds died the third week in January and is now in the Field Museum. It was a young bird trapped in Montana and sold to the Chicago Lincoln Park Zoo. This leaves seven known specimens of this species living in confinement. We have lost three of these rare birds within the past three years. They are much harder to keep than Whistling Swans.

We have recently added to our wild Fowl a peculiar hybrid. Without doubt Snow Goose (*Chen hyperbor-*

eus hyperboreus), and Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). And without question the only living example in confinement in the world. It has the size, shape, bearing and under coloring of the Snow Goose and the upper parts are typical Blue Goose. Indeed a rara avis.—Editor.

Hunting for a Barred Owl's Nest.

By C. C. Hart, East Berlin, Conn.

It was on Easter morning, March 21st, 1913, I arose early, ate my breakfast, placed some lunch in a paper and was off to the woods to look for an Owl's nest. The day was ideal. The sun shone brightly, and the air was as warm and balmy as a day in June.

I started out through the open lots and followed along the Mattabassett River in the direction of Mt. Higby, which is located about three miles south of my home. Many common birds were seen and heard, Robins, Bluebirds and Meadowlarks were singing everywhere, and now and then an early Butterfly would flutter to and fro in the warm sunshine. At length I reached a small piece of Hemlock woods joining the main portion of woodland that extends down on the Mountain for two or three miles. Here was a beautiful waterfall, from a stream that empties into the Mattabassett River. As I stood watching the torrents of water leaping over the falls, a Hairy Woodpecker fluttered across to a dead tree and drummed for a while and as I started up a steep wood road, a flock of about fifty Cedar birds flew from tree to tree along a row of large Cedars. On my right was a number of large dead Chestnut trees, some of which appeared to be good nesting sites for the Barred Owl, but after banging on them with my cane I decided that there was "nothing doing." I followed along examining all the dead trees and old Hawks' and

Crows' nests in sight, but with no results so when I came to a suitable spot I sat down and lunched, had a smoke and thought over the situation. The woods were mostly second growth in that section so made up my mind to cut across to the east for about a mile and try a large piece of timber where I had taken Red-shouldered Hawks' eggs the previous year. I followed down the side of the mountain through a small grove of Hemlocks, where I discovered a couple of old nests which appeared to have been those of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, one of which may be fruitful in May when I will make another trip. It was only a few steps across a small stream and up over a knoll when I was to reach the big woods, but you can imagine how I felt when I beheld the timber all cut off, and a portable engine with lumber piled on each side looming up in the center of the cut-off. My hopes of finding an Owl's nest were certainly discouraging. I had tramped the woods year after year, mile after mile, looking for Barred Owls' nests, all with no results, but I was determined that I should find one this year if such a thing were possible. I was rather dazed to come on to such a situation so unexpectedly and, therefore, hardly knew what turn to make next. I strolled through the cut-off and sorrowfully gazed at the remains of a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest in the top of a large Chestnut tree that had been cut down and from which, the previous year, I had secured a beautifully marked set of eggs. At the eastern extremity of this cut-off was a small piece of Hemlock woods situated on lower ground, so I concluded to wind up my day's hunt with this. As I entered the edge of the woods I noted two large trees near by—a Chestnut and an Ash; two small Hemlock trees had been cut down, which I was afraid in-

dicated that this piece was soon to get the axe. I sat down on one of the fallen trees to meditate and as I was just about to go and bang on the Chestnut, I noted a shadow pass over the ground, and upon looking up, saw a Barred Owl flying over my head and in a direct line leading from the Chestnut tree. Casting my eyes along the large dead tree I noticed that the top looked as if it had been broken off, but from the ground I was unable to tell whether it was hollow or not. It appeared to be and as I could see no cavity in the large Ash tree close by concluded that it must be the right one. Although I was looking for Owls' nests, I had left my climbing irons at home so would have to leave my hidden treasures until the following Saturday, when my half-holiday from business would again permit me to make the trip. I disliked very much to go away without a look into the nest, nevertheless, I felt that it was rather early for a full set of eggs. But what if they should cut off the woods before the next Saturday! Well, I decided to take a chance so withdrew and journeyed toward home. I saw nothing of very great interest on my return trip, but was well pleased with the day's results.

On the following Saturday afternoon, March 28th, I loaded myself up with climbing irons, collecting box, hatchet and large strap and boarded a car that took me within about a mile of the woods. I hurried along up the mountain and through the woods and in due time reached the nesting site, put on my climbing irons, placed the strap of my collecting box over my shoulder and proceeded to climb the tree. The bark was thick and corrugated and it was slow, hard climbing, but I stuck to it and soon had about sixty feet of tree between me and the ground. Did I find a cavity?

No! The top of the tree was as solid as the rock of Gibraltar. Well! I was simply stung, and after I hugged the tree long enough to recover from the shock, I gazed around back of me over to the big Ash tree, and there on the upper side of a large limb, not visible from the ground, was the real nesting cavity of the birds, a couple of fluffy feathers at the edge of the hole told the story. I was disgusted, came down the tree, rested and pondered on how I would be able to reach the nest. It was no use, the Ash was a giant, about four feet in diameter with thick brittle bark, too uncertain and risky for me to climb with irons. It was then late in the afternoon and I was forced to give it up and return home. I gave the problem considerable thought during the next few days but was unable to ascertain just how I could safely reach the nest. However, nearly a month later, on the 26th of April, while hunting for Hawks' nests in this same locality I made another visit to the tree. I carefully sized it up, and noted a limb about 8 inches in diameter that grew out over a tall Hemlock tree which stood about twelve feet from the Ash. If I could get from the top of the Hemlock on to that limb and work myself along to the crotch of the Ash tree I would have no further trouble in reaching the nest. It was a ticklish job, but nevertheless I did it, and reached the nest where I found two pipped eggs just on the verge of hatching. I carefully examined them, placed them back in the nest, and covered the opening I had made with a piece of loose bark. I then proceeded to get back along the limb to the Hemlock tree which required all the coolness and nerve that I possessed but I felt that the satisfaction of examining the nest and eggs repaid me for all my trouble. The bird left the nest as soon as I reached the

top of the Hemlock tree, she hooted several times and stayed about in close by trees, occasionally snapping her mandibles, her feathers were slightly raised, which gave her the appearance of an unusually large bird, but the eggs appeared rather small, as I compared them in my mind with those I have in my cabinet. They rested on a thick bed of dry leaves at the bottom of a cavity of about a foot in diameter by four feet deep.

I hope that some others who have had more experience in taking sets of owls' eggs will tell us something about their trips.

The Eagles and Herons of Oneida Lake.

Fifteen miles north of my home town (Syracuse, N. Y.) on the north shore of Oneida Lake, is a large wooded swamp, caused by overflow from the lake. For many years this swamp has been a nesting place for numbers of Great Blue Herons, and a pair of Bald Eagles, have nested there also for a number of years.

Having heard of this herony from a local bird student, a Mr. Eames, my father, a naturalist friend of his, and myself determined to visit the swamp, and see the home life of the Eagles and Herons.

So, on the morning of June 7, 1909, we three, Mr. Eames, and a friend of his, Mr. Parsons, who was to be the climber of the party, took a trolley to the point across the lake from the swamp occupied by the Herons. Here we rented a launch, and two flat-bottomed row-boats and set off across the lake. After about a thirty minute run we reached the opposite shore and anchored the launch a couple of hundred feet from the land. Then we got into the row-boats and began to make our way over the logs and through the brush and reeds of the flooded woods.

After an hour of this strenuous work the Eagle's nest came into view, a great mass of sticks and grass, about sixty feet up in a dead Ash tree. As we drew near, the mother bird flew off the nest and circled around it, screaming at the top of her lungs. When we reached the foot of the tree, the climber put on his climbing irons, and taking a long rope and a bag, in which to lower the young birds, started to climb to the nest. As he drew near, the female Eagle became very excited and flew around him, uttering piercing shrieks, but she soon flew away. When he reached the nest, he found it occupied by three young Eagles and the remains of several fish. Mr. Parsons, the climber, caught the Eaglets, and putting them in the bag, lowered them, by means of the rope, into one of the boats at the foot of the tree. They were queer, ungainly looking fellows. Evidently they had been hatched at different times, for they varied greatly in size, the smallest being about the size of a small hen, and completely covered with down; while the largest was about as large as very large rooster, and had most of his wing feathers. They were not old enough to stand on their feet, but were very active with their large curved beaks and immense claws. We set them on a log and although the light was very bad we succeeded in getting some pictures of them.

While we were thus occupied with the Eaglets, Mr. Parsons was making himself comfortable in the great nest. It was composed of sticks, some of which were a couple of inches in diameter. A layer of sod was on top of the sticks. It was about four feet across the top and five feet through.

When we had finished with the young birds we put them again into the bag, and they were hoisted to the tree top, and placed in their aerial

home, none the worse for their little adventure. Then Mr. Parsons descended, and we set off in the two boats in quest of the Heron Rookery. As we drew away from the tree, the old Eagles returned to their nest with a couple of large fish, and when we last saw them, the Eaglets were greedily eating, and probably telling their parents of their strange adventure.

After we had worked our way through the swamp for about a half hour we began to hear the coarse croakings of the Herons, and soon we saw the great birds flying around their nests in the tree tops. The nests were mostly in Water Elms and there were as many as five or six nests, sometimes, in one tree. We did not try to make any estimate of the number of birds nesting, but it is claimed that about three hundred pairs nest there annually. The nests all seemed to contain young, so there was no use trying to get any good eggs. After enjoying the unusually interesting sights offered by this Rookery, we started for the lake. Arrived there, we boarded the launch and made our way to the opposite shore, where we took the trolley for the city, having spent a delightful day in the open.

J. W. Penneck, Tarrytown, N. Y.

••••• Bread-winged Hawk.

May 31st, 1912, while R. C. Harlow and myself were working along a steep mountain side that faced the river we heard a hawk note that was strange to me. I just got a glimpse of the bird itself.

Locking about we were unable to see a nest. Nothing but a Porcupine in sight, low down in a little hemlock, so after getting the prickly fellow down and having a little fun with him we let him go and started on out the mountain. We had gone but a little distance when a Hawk, alighting close

by and calling her note which was new to me, but was at once recognized by Mr. Harlow as a Broad-wing.

Climbing up I found four nicely marked eggs, pretty well covered with fresh Birch leaves. According to Mr. Harlow's experience in the Eastern part of the state four eggs is a large set. Two or three being the usual number.

I had never expected to find this Hawk breeding here as in over twenty years I have never seen or had but positive records. One being of an adult Broad-wing that was brought to be mounted. The other record was of one that I shot myself a few years ago.

R. B. Simpson, Warren, Pa.

••••• Nesting of the Osprey at Pompton Lake, New Jersey, During the Spring of 1912.

On the 13th and 14th of April of that year a pair of Ospreys (*Pandion halieetus carolinensis*) appeared on Pompton Lake, Passaic Co., New Jersey, and were seen diving and fishing throughout both days over the entire length of the lake. Later on May 2d, I was informed by several of the natives that a pair of Fish-hawks had commenced a nest on the west shore of the lake in a dead poplar.

On May 15th I visited the site of the nest and found the female incubating a clutch of three eggs apparently completed only several days prior to this visit. These eggs measured 2.35 x 1.86; 2.44 x 1.80, and 2.36 x 1.92 and were pale cream color heavily blotched with brilliant chestnut brown especially at the large end where the blotchings were intermingled with a decidedly deeper shade of brown. The nest was a bulky mass of sticks about three feet across and one half feet deep and was placed on a horizontal branch close by the trunk of the tree about forty feet from the ground.

On June 9th the nest was again visited and was found to contain a breed of three, about eight days old and in perfect condition. The parents remained in the close neighborhood while I was near their offspring uttering noisy cries of protest and occasionally the male would sweep down within a dozen feet of their home apparently with the idea of frightening me away. All about on the platform of the nest and on the ground were many fragments and bony masses of catfish, pickerel and sunfish.

This breed remained in the vicinity throughout the summer and disappeared about September 1st.

This is the first nest of this species at this point since the year of 1903, when another pair located here and reared a family of two.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. J.

Some Experiences with the Red-Tailed Hawk.

The Red-tailed Hawk is the most abundant species of Hawk found in South-western Pa. One who tramps over any of the ridges of hill in this region will scarcely fail to notice one of the fine birds sailing gracefully over the fields or woods in search of its prey. Each fall and winter numbers of these beautiful birds are slain by hunters and farmers who believe that any member of the Hawk family is their enemy.

The Red-tailed Hawk may be found nesting in most any of the woods that contain trees suitable for the purpose. Generally, I believe, these Hawks select the larger white oaks that stand in deep wooded hollows,—at least that is where I have found a number of them nesting. Another situation after chosen, is a steep wooded bank above some creek or river.

During my boyhood days I frequent-

ly accompanied a local ornithologist on his long tramps in search of nests of the Red-tailed Hawk. Many times I saw these graceful birds swoop from their nests with a shrill scream. Then, I also saw a number of beautiful sets of Hawks eggs which this man brought down from the oak-tops. Such experiences caused me to become greatly interested in these Hawks so that as I grew older, each spring found me tramping through the woods in search of new nests. Quite a number of times I found occupied nests, high up in great oaks; but to climb those trees and procure the eggs was a task beyond my ability. At times I ascended part way up the trees, but then a shaking knee and a look downward were sufficient,—Hawk's eggs were certainly not worth their pains!

When March of 1907 arrived the usual "Hawk fever" attacked me and sent me in search of nests. Several I found up perhaps eighty-five or ninety feet—and the trees! mercy! But finally I did locate an accessible nest. I could see it from a distance of half a mile down the valley, and sailing above it was the male Hawk. As I came near the place, a small clump of oaks, chestnuts and hickories, I found that this nest was in the dead top of a large chestnut tree which leaned over the deep ravine. The nest was up sixty-five feet, above the base of the tree. A hard rap with the climbing irons caused the setting bird to swoop from the nest and join her mate in a tall hickory nearby. As I ascended the tree both birds circled over the ravine and screamed frequently. When I reached a point some ten feet from the nest I found that the trunk of the tree was dead the rest of the way up. I summoned my "reserve force" and crept up, the remaining ten feet expecting to hear a crash and feel myself passing downward through the at-

mosphere. But upon reaching the nest I peeped over the rim upon two dirty, poorly spotted eggs. All fear of falling now vanished. My first set of Red-tailed Hawk's eggs was at hand! I packed the eggs carefully and descended the tree. During all my experiences with nests and eggs I can truly say that never before nor since did "bliss and felicity reign supreme."

March of the following year was as warm and pleasant as any June time. The Red-tails built early and had about completed laying by the 24th. The first nest found was in the top of a large white oak that stood on a wooded hillside. It was eighty-five feet up, and proved to be a hard climb. From this nest I collected three of the handsomest Hawk's eggs I have ever seen. All three of them are beautifully blotched with dark reddish-brown.

Eight miles west of town I discovered an old Hawk at home in the triple crotch of a tall white oak that stood in a wooded hollow. No amount of pounding on the tree would cause the old bird to leave. But when the climber was half way up she sailed away to return time after time, almost hitting his head. I never saw such a pugnacious Red-tail.

Early in April another Red-tail's nest was found in a wooded ravine some two miles from town. It was ninety-five feet up in the top of a tall white oak. From the road, a quarter of a mile away, the nest could be plainly seen; so large and conspicuous it was! From this nest I secured two beautifully marked eggs. One is entirely covered with spots over the larger end; and the other is more or less streaked with dark red.

Since finding the preceding nests quite a number of others have come under my observation. Most of these nests held but two eggs. I noticed that some Hawk's would desert a nest

if the incompleated set were handled, whole others did not seem to care, and returned. Of over twenty nests which I examined I procured a number of good photographs, but not one showing the nest and eggs at a close range owing to the difficulty of securing a suitable position from which to take exposures.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

Eagle Notes from Virginia.

Haliaeetus Cleucocephalus. Bald Eagle.

Eagle time is nearly with us once more, a fact brought home to me forcibly a short time ago. I was out in the woods looking for a flock of wild turkeys that I had previously located, when happening to glance up I recognized one of my Bald Eagle trees. There it was, not twenty-five feet away, and going closer I found the tell tale marks of my climbers, worn by the Billy Crispin when last with me. This was the last tree visited in February, 1913, and yielded a fine set of two fresh eggs. Billy left me that afternoon for home, but expecting to stop in Maryland en route to collect a set from an old stand-by tree of his in that State. Little did I think when we said good-by it would be the last I would see of him. I made few notes of his visit in detail, as I expected to leave the write up to him, and so stated in the May OOLOGIST (pages 85-88). Should anyone have come into possession of his field notes, I would appreciate their writing up this trip, but if none appears I will try and utilize in a short article my notes from ledger and data sheets.

Crispin was a fearless and magnificent climber, and I cannot but feel that if he had stuck to trees, he would have been alive today. On his first visit to me, he became acquainted with a special strap and belt that I had made for eagle trees especially, and

he used it on every occasion when with me, as well as promising me that he would have one made like it for his climbing elsewhere.

During the latter part of October, November and December the eagles build new and repair old nests, and are now all ready to commence house keeping again. Every time I think of eagles I think of Billy Crispin, what good trips and hikes we had together. Every time I see an eagle tree now I take off my hat to the memory of Billy Crispin, and am proud to remember him as one of the best workers, good hearted bird men I have ever met.

H. H. Bailey.

Newport News, Va., Jan. 1, 1914.

Hints on Hawk, Owl and Vulture.

(Haunts and Locality.)

In my experience with these three most interesting birds, I find the old stupid Vulture among the most ignorant class of Birds. He is so absent minded that the moon and sun are both the same to him on many occasions. I have collected from one pair of Turkey Vultures four different sets in the same Boisdarc Hedge, and would still be collecting them had not the hedge been cut. I find Black Vulture the most weary of the Vulture tribe. The female will fly off the eggs long before one gets very close to the nest, at least that is the way for me. When hunting Vulture eggs, I walk very slowly along a rocky hillside inhabited by Vultures and keep close watch ahead of me to see them fly out. But the Turkey Vulture is quite different in my experience with them. I have honestly pulled them off the nest and have proof for it. The Vulture I pulled from under a large rock to secure her eggs had a very rare set, nearly snow white. I do not find white ones often. The Turkey Vulture inhabits mostly, hedges, thickets, bush

piles, etc. But one usually always finds Mr Black Vulture in the most rocky part of a hill side and many times they lay their eggs at the end of draws, anyone, valleys, etc, or any where there is shelter. I have never found them unsheltered, but have found the Turkey Vulture in the open, with no visible shelter. I have a large collection of both kinds of Vultures and some very rare sets.

Next, comes the Texas Night-hawk, or Bull Bat as some call them. I see no reason for calling them Bats. They can bat no better than the Crested Flycatcher. I usually find the Night-hawk's nest around places where there is a little gravel or rocks; also on Prairies and I have found them many times in the middle of untraveled roads, but never have found them in brush or timber. I have never found set containing three eggs, but there are naturalists here that have. I know of one young man here that found twenty-five sets in one season, and out of the twenty-five sets he found one set containing three eggs, although the third eggs were smaller. When the Night-hawk is flushed, one must go to the place where it is thought she flew from. The steps must be easy and light or the eggs will be stepped on. If the eggs cannot be found, if the hunter will go about a quarter of a mile distant, lie down, and watch for the Night-hawk, he will be sure to get her locality, and when she goes to the eggs again, they can be found. I have also had experience with Red-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and other of the species, but the Night-hawk is the most interesting of the Hawks to me.

The Owl next. I have found a number of their eggs, but will start out on the Texas Screech Owl. I find him located in a hollow tree, just down the creek out in a stump and maybe under

a bank or rock as he is likely to be any where any time and not the least frightened of mankind. My last set of Screech Owls was found in a hollow tree about ten feet from the ground. The set consisted of four round eggs of a dirty white color. Mr. Barn Owl is next on the program; and he may be called Barn Owl, but I have found him inhabiting large holes in banks. I crawled in a large hole in search of Owl eggs and saw a Golden colored Owl setting way back in the hole. I punched her with a stick and she came at me, because that was the only way she had of escaping. I caught her quickly but let her loose when she plunged her claws in my arm, but she had me and I could not get her off. I finally got her feet tied with a handkerchief. I caged her for study purposes. I have also caught Barred Owls, Screech Owls, and Burrowing Owls all in their respective nests. I find that the Short-eared Owls occupy mostly dark holes and caves.

Ramon Graham.

Fort Worth, Tex.

Series of eggs of the great Horned Owl.

Though my series of these eggs is small, I am very proud of same, for they are not plentiful here, and best of all I collected them myself and prepared them in A1 style; the whole lot being blown through exceedingly small holes and thoroughly cleasured. All sets are complete and with full data.

April 10, 1897, I found a nest of the Great Horned Owl containing young Owls, three in number at least five or six weeks old. I determined to do better the next time.

Great Horned Owl, three eggs, pure white, little gloss; form between thick elliptical and oval; measure 2.28 x 1.80, 2.22 x 1.78, 2.22 x 1.78 inches; very slightly incubated. Nest an old Hawk's nest of sticks, up fifty-three

feet, in a Poplar Tree, in a large piece of timber well retired. Locality, Columbus, Co., four and one-half miles S. W. of Columbus, Wis., date Feb. 18, 1898.

Great Horned Owl, three eggs, pure white, slightly glossed; form thick oval; measure 2.28 x 1.78, 2.25 x 1.80, 2.28 x 1.80 inches; incubation fresh. Nest in an old Hawk's nest in a Poplar fifty feet up, near public road, date March 21, 1898, locality Columbia Co., four miles S. W. of Columbus, Wis. This I think was the second laying of the same pair I robbed Feb. 18. Some boys had shot the old female this day and the crows had punctured two of the eggs.

Great Horned Owl, two eggs, pure white, and showing little gloss; form thick oval; measure 2.22 x 1.75, 2.24 x 1.78 inches; incubation advanced. Nest an old one up about thirty feet in the forks of a limb of a Burr Oak, not far from a road, in a grove. Date March 21, 1899, locality, Columbia Co., Columbus, Wis., (9 miles W.)

Great Horned Owl, two eggs, pure white with little gloss; form thick oval; measure 2.25 x 1.80, 2.25 x 1.86 inches, incubation slight: The same nest from which I collected the set in Feb., 1898. Date March 3, 1902, locality, Columbia Co., four and one half miles S. W. of Columbus, Wis.

Great Horned Owl, two eggs pure dull, glossy white; form thick oval; measure 2.18 x 1.77, 2.22 x 1.73 inches; incubation slight. Nest the same as I took sets from in 1898 and 1902. Date, February 28, 1903; locality Columbia Co., four and one-half miles S. W. of Columbus, Wis.

George W. H. vos Burgh,

Zion City, Illinois.

A Freak.

I have an egg that is quite a curiosity to me. A friend of mine shot a

hawk and removed the egg from the bird and brought it to me. The egg is about the size of a Sparrow Hawk's egg, of a pale green color, about the color of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's egg, with about a dozen pin point brownish marks.

When the egg was brought to me I could not name it, so asked the party to take me to the hawk. We went, but outside of a few feathers, there was nothing to be seen. Something had made away with the carcass.

Near where the bird was shot was a nest in a small pine tree that I examined, and think it was an unused Sharp-shinned Hawk's nest.

Now the question arises, do eggs change shape or size after the shell is formed, and at what stage of the game do they take on the markings?

I neglected to state that it was ten days after the bird was shot that I knew about it. C. E. Van Alstine,

Burning Springs, W. Va.

Two Months in the Everglades.

Part II. Continued from Vol. XXX,
Page 294.

On this trip I made my first acquaintance with the Florida Burrowing Owl. This happened out on what is known as the Big Prairie. These cunning little polite fellows are sure a sight and deserve more and better protection than they receive. Because of their holes in the prairie tripping up the ponies of the Cow hunters, these men never let an opportunity pass to kill a ground Owl. They nest in colonies of a couple of pairs to a dozen or more, although I was not fortunate in finding more than four pairs in any colony, this is due to many reasons. These owls seem to dislike settlers and will move away at once if anyone builds near them, also many are killed by Pollcats and I dug out in one day burrows of 12 Owls

that showed by fresh tracks they were occupied, and found in each a Pollcat but no Owls, no doubt in my mind but that the Cat had surprised both birds in the hole and devoured them. I killed the Cats.

These "Kitties" seem to be somewhat different species of Skunk. Burrowing Owls dig a burrow from 6 to 10 feet in length and have an enlarged chamber at end and eggs are laid on dry cow dung and sets I found were from 4 to 6 and incubation was started. I expect to spend some time in 1912 photographing and studying these owls as believe it is only a question of a very few years when the Florida Burrowing Owl will be no more.

Late in March I visited a large rookery of Wood Ibis. I had left my canoe as far up a creek as I could go and with a guide tramped through hammock and prairie to a cypress where they nested. When in $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the place knew it was too late to get eggs as the young could be heard at this distance uttering their continual grunting noise. This rookery contained over 500 occupied nests and nests were from 90 to 100 feet up in the tall cypress and each tree contained from 4 to 20 nests. In some instances as many as 4 nests were on one limb and would touch one another. I learned that Wood Ibis were very gentle and not given to quarreling. I picked out the tallest tree and climbed up so I could get a view over the rookery and it was a sight I'll never forget. Each nest contained young Ibis about the size of grown leghorn chickens, pure white with a heavy yellow bill and after the first start of surprise at seeing me the youngsters paid no more attention to me than if I were one of them. The old ones came and fed as near as 30 feet to me. It was raining when I left camp and had stopped about time we reached the rookery



Sugarberry Hammock, a camp in the Sawgrass

—Photo by O. E. Baynard



Hicopogee Camp, where Snakes were bad

—Photo by O. E. Baynard



Gathering Palmetto Cabbage

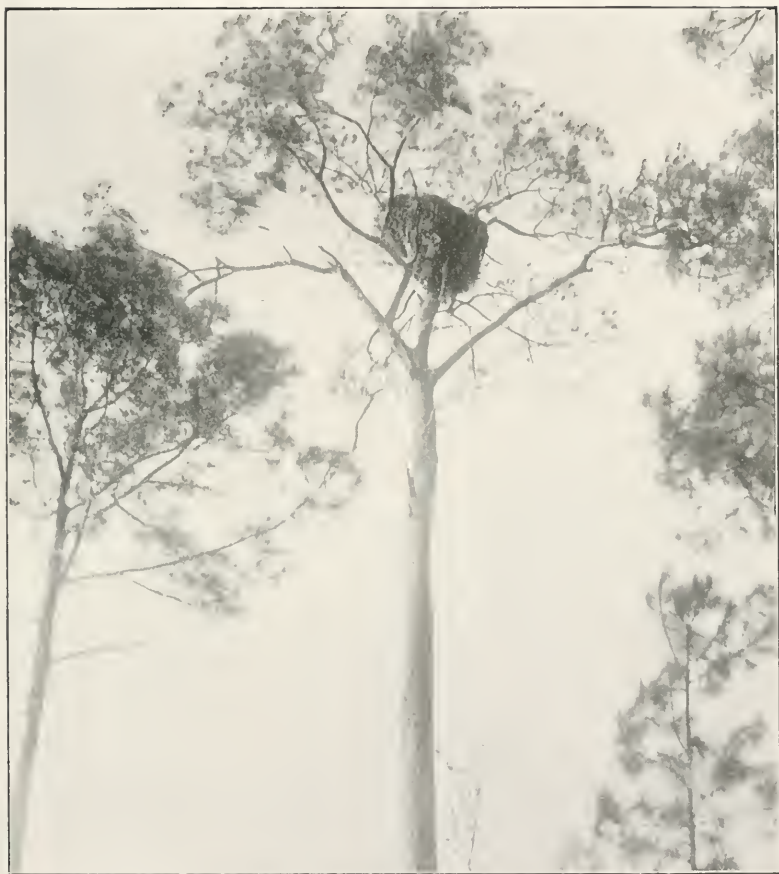
—Photo by O. E. Baynard

and when I had been up in the tree a few minutes the late afternoon sun blazed out in full force and shining on the immaculate white of the birds showing against the dark green of the dense Cypress trees, made a picture no one could fully describe. How I wished for my camera that I had left in camp. There is no telling what I would have given to have had it for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. I stayed around this vicinity for five days but it rained some all the time and I never had a chance to get a single picture. However it is as well as they would of been in the bottom of the canal with the balance of the plates. It was while up in this rookery I located a nest of Ivory Billed Wood-peckers. I had located the male bird on my arrival and he stayed around all evening. The hole was placed in a live cypress above a large limb and could not be seen from the ground and when I spied the new hole about 90 feet up, all thoughts of the Wood Ibis was abandoned for the time and I made a record, I am sure, coming down the tree I was in and going up to the Ivory Billed hole, felt sure the female was in the hole and was sure put out when I found that it was an uncompleted hole. I searched good the next five days I stayed here and never saw another hole or anything of the female bird so judged some one had shot her as the pair were seen here earlier in the Spring by the guide and that was the real reason I was here. However from his fondnes for this location I have hopes he will find a mate by 1912, and give me an opportunity to study and photograph this almost extinct bird.

Late one evening while hunting for Sand Hill Cranes nests I came across one in a bunch of flaggs in a small pond on a prairie. It was drizzling rain and the old bird never left the nest until I was within 30 feet of her.

I felt at once she had young just hatched or pipped eggs as at no other time could one get within 100 feet of them. She had one egg that contained a noisy youngster but was not pipped. As I wanted a young crane I decided to take the egg with me and if it hatched alright and if it died in shell I would save the shell anyway. After 3 hours I reached camp which was in an old cabin launch not in commission, that I used during the nasty weather. After supper the youngster in the shell seemed livelier than when first found and as I had no way of keeping egg warm, took egg to bed with me and held it in my hand up against my body all night. Some time near morning I was awakened by the crane pipping out and he made such an effort that the egg rolled out of the blankets and I was sure startled at first, thinking it was a snake. While I was a successful "incubator" I did not make out so well as a "brooder" and the young crane only lived 5 days, but it was so cold and rainy and having no way to keep it warm, he had no chance at all. The episode of the crane furnished lots of amusement to the few settlers in this region.

Cranes are an interesting bird. Their bugle like notes are heard further than birds can be seen. They fly in undulating curved line and each croaks in turn. I had a friend who hatched a few eggs and raised the young and he said they fed on Grasshoppers, worms, frogs and snakes. Think it was an "off" year on nesting as ponds on prairies were so low there were few available nesting places and saw hundreds of birds flying in pairs all the time. Before daylight one morning I left camp for turkey roost but failed to find any turkeys. I was just emerging from a hammock on the Prairie when about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away I heard the rolling calls of the Sand-



Nest of a Bald Eagle, 125 feet up

—Photo by O. E. Baynard

hills and stopping I soon made out quite a number of them congregated on a slight rise on the prairie and saw at once that I was going to be present at one of their Indian dances. There were over 100 birds and they would raise their heads high and slowly walk around, suddenly they lowered their heads and began bouncing and jumping high in the air. Sometimes with raised wings, often dropping across each others paths. After a few minutes they increased their speed and began croaking, becoming louder all the time to the "Big Noise." This dance lasted 5 to 6 minutes and died out until another bunch arrived, when the performance was repeated. I watched the dance for fully $\frac{1}{2}$ hour when I heard the guide blowing his horn, this seemed to alarm the dancers and they slowly made off feeding to windward. I always thought this dance was sort of a myth but I now

know better and feel proud I was able to see it once in my life.

While on the Prairie I learned to eat Palmetto cabbage. This is the bud of the Cabbage Palmetto and is a fine article to eat, much better than garden cabbage. I visited one place called the "Devil's Garden" so called an account of the Cabbage Palmetto growing in such abundance there. Camping on the Prairie in dry weather is no joke, fleas and red bugs keep one awake all the time. One night we heard a wolf, first and only one I ever heard in Florida. Found an abundance of small squirrels in places and they made a fine addition to our bill of fare. They seemed different somewhat to our grey squirrel in northern part of the state.

Had one experience on the Prairie with Moccasin. Was wading ankle deep in flagpond looking for Crane nests, seeing a large moccasin ahead I shot him with rifle, and was reload-



Everglade Sand Hill Crane Fruit

—Photo by O. E. Baynard



Nest and Eggs of a Bald Eagle, 125 feet up, December 25, 1911

—Photo by O. E. Baynard

ing when I felt something tugging at my trouser leg. Looking down I saw a huge moccasin with his fangs hung in my pant leg trying to get loose. Quickly dropping the rifle I reached down and grabbed him by the neck just as he got his fangs untangled and we had it back and forth, I and the snake, I happened to have one foot on his tail and that gave me an advantage. I reached in my pocket with my right hand and getting my knife out opened it with my teeth and began to saw his head off, evidently a painful operation for him as he ejected venom all over my shirt and when I finally severed his head I picked up the rifle and staggered out of the pond to dry land where I lay down and put in an hour of as violent vomiting as I ever experienced and I was three days in recovering from the nausea caused by the peculiar odor of the snake.

While this trip was not as much of a success from a collecting standpoint as I had wished nevertheless it was a delightful experience and I shall always remember it as one of "the times" of my life. Now that I know the "ropes" I trust to have better luck with photographs, etc., in 1912. As I shall start early in January and spend about four months in this interesting and wild region. Oscar E. Baynard.

Cliff Swallow and Sparrow.

This summer late in June I visited a farmer friend of mine on a Saturday.

He has two large barns on his place and under the eaves of one of these was quite a colony of Eave Swallows. I counted forty nests under the eaves and on the side opposite the house I noticed that a considerable amount of straw and hay protruded from some of the Swallow's nests. By lengthing out a ladder I was able to get up to the nests and examine them. I found that ten of the

Swallow's nests had been appropriated by English Sparrows. The nests as soon as finished had been filled with straw and hay and all held young sparrows. Some were ready to leave and some just hatched. The undisturbed nests were full of young swallows or well incubated sets.

I don't believe I ever read or heard of the sparrows using Swallow's nest in this way before, and wonder if this often happens.

R. B. Simpson,
Warren, Pa.

Personal.

Mr. John Williams, one of the foremost naturalists of Iowa, writes us that last summer he enjoyed a trip, taking him to Boston, New London, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, etc., where he met many of the prominent naturalists and scientists, and of course, enjoyed the experience, the same as did Ye Editor.

A. M. Ingersol of San Diego, California, writes: "I made a seven months' sight-seeing journey last year, visiting various points of interest between Quebec, Cuba, Massachusetts and Idaho and had the pleasure of meeting some grand men who are interested in my hobby. Spent hours in examining specimens and talking over bird nesting experiences. Of course the greatest sight of all was John E. Thayer's collection.

"We were in Cuba two months and through kind assistance of Baynard, Martin and Nicholson, I was able to get an unlimited collecting permit, and had counted on taking a lot of good specimens in that collector's paradise, but my health again failed, and I was too weak to climb trees and lacked strength to wade swamps. So my entire take for the year was only forty-eight sets."

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ALBION, N. Y. MAR. 15, 1914.

WHOLE No. 320

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

ENFORCE THE GAME LAW.

The last Congress passed a comprehensive Federal Game Protection Act, which, if enforced as it should be, will be of great benefit to the bird life of the country. There seems to be an idea amongst some that hunters licenses issued prior to the passage of this game law and prior to its going into force would prevent the enforcement of the law against those holding such licenses. Such is not the case.

The Federal Game Law is now in force, and while it does not supersede, yet it adds to all other game protection laws in the states. A person may be fined under a state law for violating the local game law of such state, and may be arrested, prosecuted and fined under the Federal Law for the same violation. In other words, the Federal Law is cumulative and the killing of one bird, the killing of which is a violation of law, may subject the offender to a punishment both under the State and Federal Laws.

We trust that every subscriber to THE OÖLOGIST will appoint himself as a committee of one to see that the Federal Law is strictly and impartially enforced in his community this coming spring; at least so far as the same relates to all game birds and water fowl, without fear or favor.

Any assistance that the editor can be in producing such a result you are all at liberty to call upon him for.—R. M. Barnes.

A LETTER

Hon. R. Magoon Barnes,

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Please accept my hearty congratulations for the great strides that the paper has made under your leadership. The Oological fraternity is surely indebted to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Richard C. Harlow.

State College, Penna.

Red-Backed Sandpiper.

Tringa Alpina Pacifica,

also called Blackbellied Sandpiper or Oxbird, when in Fall plumage they go as Leadbacks, Blackbreast or Redback. To my knowledge this Sandpiper was never taken here.

A friend of mine, Mr. Rappich of 2293 Main street, was gunning this Fall, November 2d at Longpoint on the shores of Lake Erie on a marshy wet spot covered with herbage so familiar to the old time hunters like Charles Gerber, Steve Roberts, Ed. Fish, Arthur A. Bissel and others, and was fortunate enough to bag a great many Wilson or locally called English Snipe, several large Yellow-legs and last but not least a smaller Sandpiper that had the habit of bunching together.

After one discharge of his gun, he found six of them in the long marshy grass. As he had never seen any Sandpipers like these before, he concluded to take them home and present them to me for further investigation.

Several hundred feet from the shore is a bar where he saw a great many Wild Geese, presumably the Canada Goose, but it was impossible to get near enough to shoot some, as they were exceedingly shy and wary.

After coming home, Mr. Rappich was kind enough to send me the six Sandpiper. As coarse shot were used, I was fortunate in mounting two of them and used one skin for identification, which proved beyond any doubt that it is the Red-backed Sandpiper, which breeds within the Arctic Circle, and to my best information there are none of their eggs in any of our collections.

There is of course every degree of intergration between summer and winter plumage, but this species may always be known by its slightly curved bill. It flies and feeds in flocks and

is an unsuspecting rather stupid little Snipe. Less active than most of this family.

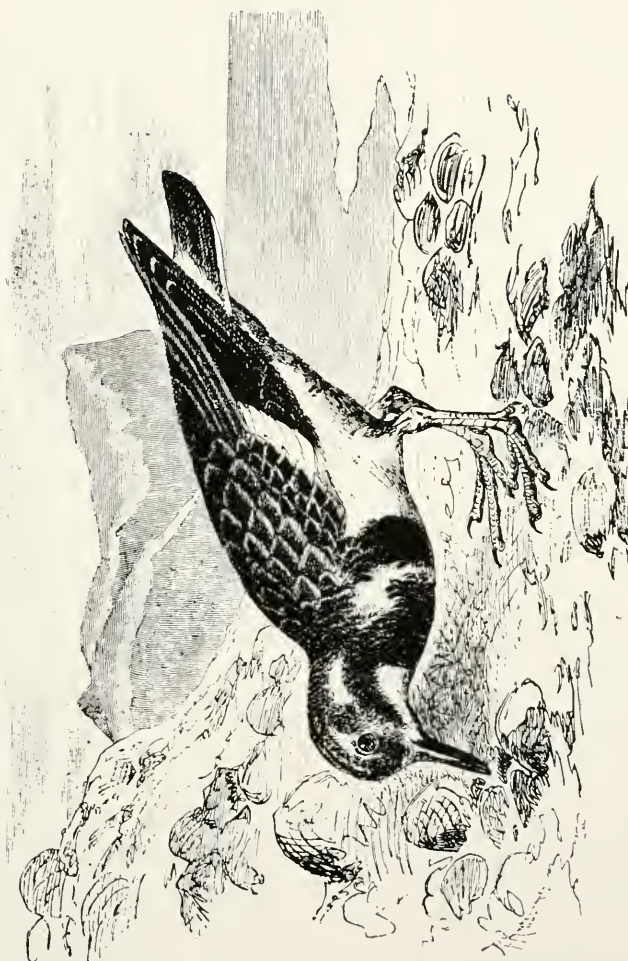
The accompanying picture was taken from the Work of John James Audubon, (1780-1851) the great American Ornithologist, made almost 100 years ago, now in possession of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences through the kindness of Dr. Roswell Park. Ottamar Reinecke.

Possible Nesting of Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*)

in Southern Pennsylvania.

S. S. Dickey.

A few years ago my friend, Mr. James Carter, discovered near Waynesburg, what I believe to have been the nest and egg of *Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*. Mr. Carter, who is an enthusiastic ornithologist, was walking through a field of grass and weeds that bordered on an oak wood, when he caught sight of a strange nest resting in a grass clump. Upon close examination he found that the nest was an arched affair of grassblades and stems, and that it held a single white, glossy, unmarked egg. Careful watching nearby failed to reveal the owner of the nest. At the end of a few days Mr. Carter returned to the field and found that the nest had been deserted as only the single damp egg rested within. It has been my great pleasure to examine carefully this single specimen (measuring .74 x .53 inches). It will be seen that the measurements closely resemble those commonly recorded for eggs of this sparrow. To my knowledge this species has never been recorded as a summer resident of Pennsylvania, with the single exception of my record of the past summer. At that time I found several pairs of the birds inhabiting the wilder country some ten miles south of Waynesburg and but a few miles from the West Virginia border line.



With Will Crispin.

For several years I had known and admired Will Crispin as a fearless and indomitable climber, but during the last year of his life I not only admired him because of his prowess but loved and respected him as a man who was clean and straight as an arrow. God might have made better men than Will Crispin but I never met them. We had been corresponding for about two years and through Will I came to know more of Jackson, Sharpless and Darlington, men whom I admired for what they had accomplished and of whom the student of oology can be just as proud as was Crispin to call them his friends.

About two years ago he wrote me and proposed a scheme to help each other. Crispin was very anxious to personally take sets of the Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Raven and Duck Hawk, while my ambition tended toward Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles. The result was that we planned to work together during the season of 1913. During late February I went all the way to Wilmington to meet Will on a trip to a Bald Eagle's nest but missed connections and failed to meet him. At that time he had just returned from a trip after Eagles and wrote me in glowing terms of the prince of Oologists, H. H. Bailey, whose recent book is an ever lasting monument to himself. Disappointed I returned to the College while Will collected several fine sets of Eagles.

A little later I sent him a set of four Northern Raven which he was very anxious to obtain, it being one of the five sets from Pennsylvania. Later we corresponded concerning the Duck Hawk's nest at Nockamison and when I wrote to Will that I contemplated a visit about April 15th he gladly offered me his ropes which he had used on an earlier trip and had left near

the base of the cliffs. At this time I remonstrated with him concerning his going over the cliff alone but he did not seem to regard the descent of the cliff as anything especially difficult and told me he would try for a later set in May. On April 8th I spent the day with him in a trip to the Great Blue Herony near his home and later we inspected his collection. Little did I suppose as I bade him farewell on the morning of April 9th and heard his cheery "Good luck, Richard" that they would be the last words that I would ever hear him utter. We found the Duck Hawk's nest empty and were informed by another party who was also in search of the eggs that only one bird was about so on we went, after my climbers had made successful descent to the nest over the slippery rocks.

On May 5th, 1913, Will wrote me that he thought there would be eggs there by that time, and ended, "By the time you get this I will be over the rocks." My feelings may well be imagined then, when I picked up the paper and read of his tragic death. Later I learned that the eggs had been secured by another party who deliberately slandered me and accused me of taking them. At the present time I could in a half hour secure affidavits to show that I was not within a hundred miles of the nest after April 11th and as to the party's reason for accusing me after he had secured the eggs for himself, I am at a loss to state. The one thing I wish to make clear is that Will Crispin to the day of his death was one of my firmest friends. He always played square and how a person could treat a man like Will dirty is beyond my comprehension. And I can't help thinking that if there is a heaven, Will is there, for if ever there was a disciple of the Golden Rule, it was he, Frank,

cheery, open-hearted and fearless; cool, collected, careful and conscientious—Oology can justly point to his record with a finger of pride and the only consolation to us who remain is that we may ever follow his example and place honor first, and self last.

Richard C. Harlow.

William B. Crispin Collection.

After disposing of nearly all the eggs that belonged to the late William B. Crispin, a description of some of the most prominent sets will no doubt be of interest to those who never saw them. I will only mention those collected by him personally.

Nest and sixteen eggs of Wood Duck found while in the woods hunting Great Blue Herons. The eggs were far advanced in incubation, making it necessary to bore auger holes about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in size in order to save them. The nest, eggs and portion of the tree that contained them are now at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, a permanent and safe resting place for such a valuable set.

Crispin had a very large series of 3-4-5-6-eggs of the Great Blue Heron, also Black-crowned Night Heron of 3-4-5 that were collected in the state of New Jersey.

A set of five eggs found on May 26, 1912, of the Bartramian Sandpiper near his home, pleased him more than any other single set. The eggs are very handsome and containing the unusual number of five eggs, makes it rare and desirable. His series of Red-shouldered Hawks of 3-4-5 eggs all taken in New Jersey, were also very fine and handsome.

He had a large series of Bald Eagle consisting of 1-3 8-2 4-1. These eggs were found in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. As these eggs were described before in this magazine I will only

say that some of them were blown with very small holes. There was a rivalry between Crispin and I as to who could blow an Eagle egg with the smallest hole. He spent two hours on one set and was a little ahead of me as my patience would not hold out that long.

In Ospreys Crispin had some of the most handsome sets of three and four eggs that any one could find. I have no hesitation in saying that Crispin collected in his time nearly a thousand eggs of this species and he retained about one hundred for himself. He no doubt kept the best eggs for his own cabinet consisting of 20-3 12-4. A set of three has one runt egg, 1.82 x 1.52; the only runt egg of the Osprey I know of. Of all the eggs in the bird family I think the Osprey offers the greatest diversity of shape, colors, sizes of any and gives the collector the best opportunity to make a display of egg beauty that is a constant joy and delight to admiring eyes.

Crispin's sets of Barn, Barred, Long-eared, Screech, and the Great Horned Owls all found in New Jersey were pleasing to look upon. They were all blown with small holes, clean and white as a new sheet and mostly in large series.

A set of seven Short-billed Marsh Wrens found in the state and the only one he ever collected, was considered by him a very rare find. One set that he prized highly was N-6 Worm-eating Warbler found in Pennsylvania in 1911 while out hunting with Sharpless and Jackson.

Crispin's collection was small in quantity but rich in quality. What he had was accurate in identity and genuine beyond question. It was most unfortunate that he was taken at a time when he was apparently at the zenith of his career, having just secured a permit for the state, a thing

he had craved for a long while. I have several of his sets which I hope to keep if possible because each one has a history known to Crispin and I only. They were collected when we were out together far from home in wagon or auto.

E. J. Darlington.

Wilmington, Del.

Eggs of the Black Swift.

(*Cypseloides niger borealis*.)

By John E. Thayer.

I had the good fortune to obtain from M. A. G. Vrooman of Santa Cruz, California, his whole series of Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger borealis*) eggs. Mr. Vrooman was the first to discover the eggs of this species. He first found the bird breeding in Santa Cruz County, California, June 16, 1901. The egg was placed on a small shelf, behind a tuft of green grass, in a slight depression in wet mud, on the face of a dripping cliff under a projection, about 90 feet from the breakers below. He described this set in *The Auk*, Vol. 18, Page 294.

It is a curious fact that this bird lays but one egg. Mr. Vrooman kindly gave me the skin of a nestling about five or six days old. I give the measurements of the eggs I have, in Millimeter:

1. 30 x 19.
2. 29⁵ x 19⁵.
3. 30 x 20.
4. 28 x 19½.
5. 28 x 19.
6. 27 x 19.
7. 28 x 18½.

Great Gray Owls Eggs.

J. Parker Norris, of Philadelphia, calls our attention to the fact that while in Philadelphia last summer we saw in his collection a set of the extremely rare eggs of the Great Gray Owl. This fact we had overlooked

in writing our review of our last summer's trip.

The eggs in Mr. Norris's collection are accompanied by the skin of the parent.—Editor.

Florida Notes.

By a Tenderfoot.

My people moved to Miami this fall and I had the pleasure of coming south with them, for the first time. School has kept me tied up in the North until this year, and the letters that I have received from father in the past winters, while he spent the cold season here, have made me anxious to see the South.

The southern end of Florida is a wonderful place in many ways. The tropical trees and flowers are a strange and beautiful sight to the "Yankee." Of course, the birds interest me the most, so I will give a few extracts from my note-book pertaining to them. Before I begin I wish to say that not being an authority on birds there may be a mistake or two in my identification of a few species, and I would appreciate it if some of my readers would correct me.

My father and I intended to get out on Christmas day but the rain sent us home, so just for spite we got up at five a. m. the next Sunday and made a day of it.

It was a warm, cloudy morning with a gentle south-east breeze, and the thermometer at twenty-six. We rode our wheels to the "Hammock" which is about two miles down Biscayne Bay, to the south of Miami. The "Hammock" is the most dense growth of trees and vines that one could imagine. The live oaks, covered with Spanish Moss and orchids are most common and they darken the woods much. This thick growth extends for about a mile and a half along the bay and inland about a mile,

Upon arriving at the edge of the woods, we dismounted and walked along the white, rock road which extends through to Cocconut Grove, five miles to the south. The place seemed alive with birds in the trees and over head. Five turkey buzzards were sailing over head and five pine woods sparrows were chattering in the bushes on the edge of the woods. On the way from home we had seen seven buzzards, one sparrow hawk, six gulls, ring billed(?), two pine warblers, and one loggerhead shrike. As we proceeded the familiar note of the black-throated blue warbler was heard and five of these little fellows were busily getting breakfast. Two more were seen a few moments later and then not a bird was seen or heard until we arrived at the fringe of low bushes on the south end of the Hammock, where the open pine land begins. Here we saw a catbird, carolina wren and two cardinals.

Near the road was a trail which wound back through the Hammock to a private road, this runs parallel with the country road and is used by the people who have winter homes along the bay front. Wm. Jennings Bryan owns a beautiful place in the center of the thick jungle. To continue my story, we hid our bicycles and started down this trail. I was a few yards ahead and jumped a good three feet off the ground when a covey of at least fifty quail went up right in front of me. The air was full of them for a minute. Also saw a blue jay as we walked along. Crossing the private road we continued to the bay shore and found that our trail led to an Indian well, called "The Devil's Punch Bowl." The well is cut out of solid rock. A space five feet deep was cut back into a ledge and then the well was cut about six feet deep and two and a half across. The water is fresh

although the well is not more than twenty feet from the shore of the bay, which is salt water. The underground flow is toward the ocean.

Coming back to the road two catbirds and a Fla-red shouldered hawk were seen. We left the Hammock and rode along a bit of glade land. On the inland side of the road lay a reef covered with pines and saw palmettoes. Saw a cardinal, kingfisher, sparrowhawk, loggerhead shrike, red-cockaded woodpecker, blue jay and a great blue heron as we rode along. A red shouldered hawk was screaming back in the open pines. A little farther on two ducks, a buzzard, and a man-o-war bird were in the air over the bay.

Turning inland through the open pine country and citrus groves, we headed toward the glades. Put up another covey of twenty quails, saw five sparrowhawks at one time, also more buzzards and shrikes. We rode on till our rock highway turned into a trail which led along a glade containing about fifty acres. This land was covered with tall waving marsh grass and down through the center a few bushes grew, giving the appearance of a creek bed. All this does not have much to do with birds, but it may give some of my northern friends an idea of the country down here. This glade was walled in on all sides by tall yellow pine timber. They have a particularly tough and curly grained variety here which is known as Dade County pine.

Our trail led us to a rock road and we stopped to eat when we reached it. Saw a ground dove and a couple of hawks were making the woods ring back of us. A shrike sat near and was imitating the hawks. I had never heard one do this before and am wondering if it is a common occurrence. A mocking bird was the first bird seen as we started on. Two sparrow hawks

were seen, also two pine woods sparrows and three buzzards.

We stopped at the grove of an old cracker, with whom we became acquainted on a previous trip. He is a bird lover and knows a lot about the feathered tribe. Even birds come up to his door and eat crumbs. Pine warblers, phoebes and ground doves were about in his front yard.

Starting on we saw two wrens. I may say here that these wrens are undoubtedly Florida Wrens, a sub-species of the Carolina, but of this I am not positive. We were riding back to the northwest of town and before we crossed the Miami river we counted twenty-one buzzards, four pine woods sparrows, one ground dove, one red-shouldered hawk, six pine warblers, one shrike, one mockingbird, one sparrow hawk, and two phoebes. We rode about two miles northwest of the town then circled around coming home along the bay. On the way one mocking bird, three phoebes, two pine warblers, two sparrow hawks, and two Florida jays were seen. The last bird, as well as the first seen was the turkey buzzard.

The day turned out fine and always that cool breeze from the ocean which makes a trip like this enjoyable. In all we saw twenty-one species and two hundred and sixteen individuals.

Miller T. Mercer.

Birds Scarce.

The birds began leaving this section very early, last Fall the Swallows and Swifts leaving by the middle of August. From that time on there was a noticeable decrease in the number of all species of birds. Although the winter has not been so very severe and the usual supply of food seems abundant, very few birds of any kind have been about. I have been in the fields and woods every day and many

days I have not seen a single bird, even the Barred Owl that has been so abundant seems to have left this section. A few Golden Crowned Kinglets have been here all winter.

S. V. Wharram.

Birds Observed Around Marshall, Texas, February 1, 1914.

Chipping Sparrow	59
Blue Jay	11
Turkey Vulture	9
Loggerhead Shrike	2
Slate colored Junco	27
Mocking Bird	7
Cedar Wax Wing	18
Blue Bird	30
Red-Tailed Hawk	3
Meadow Lark	24
American Flicker	15
Sparrow Hawk	3
Tufted Titmouse	6
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	22
Tohee	1
Crow	5
B. C. Chickadee	20
Cardinal	4
Cow Bird	17
R. W. Blk. Bird	10
Brewer Blk. Bird	13
Purple Crackle	29
Bohemian Wax Wing	6
Total	281

DeLoach Martin.

An Answer.

The February number of THE OOLOGIST contained an article from Mr. R. B. Simpson, of Warren, Pa., in which he wonders if the English Sparrows often use the nests of Cliff Sparrows. I regret to say that this condition prevails in this section to a great extent. Formerly the Cliff Sparrows were numerous here and I have seen as many as sixty Swallows' nests under the eaves of a single barn, with from fifteen to twenty of them occu-

pied by the sparrows. The Swallows are becoming quite scarce about here, only a very few barns are now inhabited by them and then but a very few nests in a place. The Barn Swallows are also being imposed upon by the Sparrows but the Purple Martin seems to be holding out with this nuisance.

S. V. Wharram.

Austinburg, Ohio.

The English Sparrow has driven the Cliff Swallow entirely out of Marshall Co., Ill. Formerly they were here every summer by thousands. None have nested in the county within ten years.—R. M. Barnes.

Bird Books.

Perhaps some of the readers of THE OOLOGIST will be interested to know that a few days after Christmas, 1913, when I was in a Boston book store, I saw a set of eight volumes of the small edition of Audubon's "Birds of America," which were offered for sale at Fifty-seven Dollars for the set. The books were, of course, second hand, but they were in fine condition.

Some time ago, in another book store in the same city, I saw D. G. Elliott's large work in two volumes on the "New and Hitherto Unfigured Birds of North America," which was offered for sale at Ninety Dollars.

Whenever I visit the city and have any spare time, I look around the book stores to see what bird books they have on hand. Occasionally I notice a copy of Wilson's Ornithology. Studer's "Birds of America" was formerly not uncommon in two of the larger stores but I haven't seen a copy on sale there for the last three years. However, it is not so rare as the others anyway and usually sells for less than Fifteen Dollars.

The last copy of Studer's which I saw on sale was in a small store which deals almost exclusively in second

hand books, and the price asked was Thirteen Dollars, but the proprietor of the store finally said he would let them go for Seven Dollars. The book was bound in leather and was undoubtedly a bargain at that price, but I did not care especially for it so did not take it, but I understand that it was sold shortly afterward.

I thought that possibly some of the collectors in other parts of the United States would like to know the prices at which some of our old bird books could be obtained by watching closely the Boston stores. The prices quoted above are the lowest I have found on the books mentioned and are considerably lower than I usually find them.

H. O. Green.

Stoneham, Mass.

Newspaper Ornithology.

We are in receipt of a marked copy of the Santa Ana (Cal.) Daily Register of February 26, 1914, wherein some person by the name of Andrew Joplin gives a hair raising description of the manner in which the Road Runner is exterminating the California Valley Quail, by eating up the young. And he describes an imaginary contest between a pair of old birds and a Road Runner to save their brood; all of which is pure fiction, and has a tendency to do a vast amount of harm. Publications of this kind are distinctly injurious to real ornithology and proper game protection.

The Road Runner is a beneficial bird, living largely upon insects, small reptiles and lizards. As illustrative if the mighty knowledge possessed by the aforesaid Joplin, it is but necessary to call attention to the fact that in the article above referred to, among other misstatements will be found the following, viz:

"The Mountain Quail lays WHITE EGGS!"

An Important Commission.

Milo B. Denny, the artist of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has just received a commission from the "Bund denbscher Forscher," a naturalist society of Hanover, Germany, to furnish over two hundred water color drawings of the birds of this country to illustrate a book "Near Arctic Bird Life" to be written for said Society by Reverend W. F. Henninger of New Bremen, Ohio, and concerning this employment Mr. Denny writes us:

"I also beg to state that my contract to do this was landed through the publicity in THE OOLOGIST."

Anent Rough-Winged Swallow's Nests.

Does the Rough-winged Swallow ever line its nest with feathers? Most of the Bird books say that this material is used, but never in my experience have I found any feathers in the many nests I have examined. Nor has my friend, R. C. Harlow; and the late Harry K. Jamison, another careful observer, remarked upon the absence of feathers in the Rough-winged Swallow's nests, that he and his friends had found.

Let us hear from competent observers regarding this subject.

Is the picture in Reed's "North American Birds' Eggs," purporting to be a Bank Swallow's nest in situ, really a nest of the Sand Martin or is it a Rough-winged Swallow's nest, (which it certainly looks like)? We should like to know and expect to have more to say at another time on the subject.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Notes.

Charles R. Keyes, one of Iowa's foremost Naturalists, has returned from more than a year's absence in European countries.

It is with sorrow that we announce that J. Claire Wood of Detroit, than

whom few Michigan ornithologists are better known, is now and has been for the past three months, confined to a hospital, suffering with tuberculosis. We extend our stricken brother our extreme sympathy.

We are pleased to notice the improvement in "The Guide to Nature," published by the Agassiz Association under the management of Edward F. Bigelow. Last summer we came through its home town, Arcadia, Connecticut, and were much impressed with the appearance of the place as a desirable location for a naturalist.

Observation of Bird Life in the Dominguez Sloughs.

By Alfred Cookman, Ornithological Investigation, Southern Div., California.

During the nesting season of 1913, Professor L. W. Welch and the writer spent most of our spare time on the area known as "Dominguez Sloughs," about four miles north of Long Beach. The sloughs are not at Dominguez proper, but about two miles south from the junction.

Recently a great waterway has been built, which attracts many birds found in bays and marshes. The slough is about two miles in length and one hundred yards in width. On the north-western section there has grown a dense growth of swamp willows so compact one finds it difficult to go among them. On the southern side are small rolling hills, covered with mustard stalks and grain. All through the marsh are tules towering from five to ten feet in height. The slough is margined with a dense growth of water plants.

As we approached this region, the air seemed filled with the songs and call-notes of the marsh birds. The San Diego red-winged black birds, hundreds of them, seemed to be holding a meeting that reminded one of a political convention. Their harsh



Wild Fowl at the Editor's Home, Lacon, Ill.
—Photo by F. C. Willard.

notes echoed and re-echoed among the tules and could be heard half a mile away. Over this great pond dragon-flies hawk at midges; on a dead tree near the bank a kingfisher has his perch from which, on our approach, he swooped down, twirling his watchman's rattle; in the swamp near by we frightened up a bittern and several American Coots; and in the shallows, near the shore, the White-faced Glossy Ibis was seen, standing knee deep in the water, waiting patiently for his victims.

On one occasion we directed our attention to the willows and cottonwood trees bordering the slough on the north and northwest and observed the following birds: Willow Goldfinches, Brewer Black Birds, Bullock Orioles, House Finches, Black-crowned Night Herons, Arkansas King Birds, pair of Black-chinned Humming Birds and one lone Black-headed Grosbeak. The Willow Goldfinches were nesting in the swamp willow trees.

They construct a compactly woven cup-shaped nest, composed of plant fibre, lined with down and other soft materials.

The Willow Goldfinch of California is in form, color and habits so exactly like the goldfinch or "thistle bird" of the east that one wonders why western ornithologists have made a subspecies of him. His shorter wings and tail and his small black cap are the only points of difference.

The House Finches were nesting. We counted fifteen nests on our first visit to the slough. They construct a beautiful little compactly woven cup, composed of grass and vegetable fibre, lined with feathers, horse-hair and leaves. The House Finch is popularly known through California as the Linnet, and is one bird for whom the residents have little praise. So numerous are these birds and so destruc-

tive to fruit that a continual warfare is waged against them by poison and gun. To the tourist, the pretty pink-breasted songsters are one of the attractive features of the garden, where they take the place of the robin of the East.

We have watched the finches feed their young, by regurgitation at first and later with fresh food, and very rarely do they bring fruit to the nest. Seeds of various weeds and small green caterpillars formed the larger part of the diet, at least of the nestlings. We firmly believe they will some day be found to have accomplished a fair amount of good to offset the evil charged against them, if in no greater way than by eating the seeds of injurious weeds.

We will not go into detail, and describe the characteristics of all the birds in this locality, but among the mustard stalks on the hillside facing the slough, was seen the Western Meadowlark, Arkansas and Willow Goldfinches, a flock of a hundred or more feeding upon the seeds of the weeds or plants and would fly up as you come near, only to alight again a few feet farther on singing the same gay "perchicorese, per chic-o-ree" as do their eastern kinfolk. The California Horned Lark was seen hopping about in company with a large flock of House Finches and Intermediate Sparrows.

During the six hours we spent on our last visit to this great bird land, the following birds were observed: a flock of American Coots, known by the hunters as the "mud hen" swimming on the northwestern bend. We saw that some were nesting among the tules on the eastern side. The same flock of Blacked-crowned Night Herons at rest among the cotton wood trees on the south side, we expected to find them nesting in the tules, but the sea-

sen was yet early and no nests were found. They are abundant residents in all parts of California, breeding in suitable localities.

As we approached this region from the southwest end, the pretty plover announced its name in plaintive cries "Kildee, Kildee." It is abundant every where and is known to every country boy. Its nest is on the bare ground at the edge of an upland meadow or marsh, but the eggs are so protectively colored that you might pass it without notice. A large flock of Killdeer were feeding at the edge of the slough and upon our intrusion into the marsh, rose high over our heads crying "Kildee, Kildee."

Professor Welch spied a canoe hid among the tules and with it we were able to row in and out among the tules and visit the many nests of the San Diego Red-winged Black Birds that were nesting so abundantly all about us among the reeds. They usually breed in large colonies, though single families, consisting of a male with several wives, quite Mormon like, may be found sometimes in a small slough, where each of the females builds her nest and rears her own little brood, while her liege lord displays his brilliant colors and proudly struts in the sunshine.

As we were returning home from our recent visit we noticed several White-crowned Sparrows, chasing each other round and round, as if at play, while the sweet voiced Mocking Bird sang his evening song from a telephone pole but a short distance away, and as one of our sweet voiced poets sings:
The birds around us hopped and played;
Their thoughts we could not measure:
But the least motion which they made,
It seemed a thrill of pleasure!

An Unusual Find.

On November 8th, 1913, while walk-

ing through the woods near the Wakefield and Stoneham town line I found five small birds lying dead on the top of a stone wall. Presumably these birds were shot nearby by boys and were afterward thrown away as useless. Three were Golden crowned Kinglets, one was a Slate-colored Junco, and the remaining bird was an Acadian Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus littoralis*), the first one I ever saw here, although I have been over that same territory hundreds of times. I understand that these Acadian Chickadees have been observed in several places in southern New England this winter.

H. O. Green.

Stoneham, Mass.

A Flight of Pine Grosbeaks.

Although the present winter (1913-1914) is severe, with heavy snows and much cold weather, very few northern visitors have appeared and with the exception of a few American Mergansers and Golden-eyes and an occasional Herring Gull about the open water on the river, and a few common land birds the fields are nearly deserted.

The cold and snow however, brings to mind other winters when northern birds were common, especially the winter of 1906-07, when the only real flight of Pine Grosbeaks appeared that we have had in twenty-five years.

During the winter of 1903-04 a few were about but during 1906-07 they were quite common, together with large flocks of American and White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins.

The first of the 1906-07 flight was seen on Thanksgiving Day when, while hunting hares back in the mountains I first heard and then saw two birds. From then on until December 21st on about every trip I saw or heard Grosbeaks. On the 21st I found a flock of twenty-five feeding in an ash. The day was dark and the tree was tall. I

could not tell whether there were any adults or not.

On January 11th I found eight feeding in a large maple and as it was a sunny afternoon I soon saw that one was a fine red male. A shot secured it. On January 23d while fox hunting I found the feeding ground that I had been looking for all winter. It was a grove of Ash at the base of a steep and heavily timbered mountain. About seventy-five birds were scattered about feeding, and the snow was covered with their cuttings. But as the day was snowy and stormy I could tell nothing about their color, and as it was a couple of nice red fellows I wanted for my collection, I went away and left them.

Next morning, the 24th, was the coldest of the winter. At eight o'clock it was still 20 degrees below zero on my porch and bitter cold, but as it was clear I started. An hour and a half of hard walking through the deep snow and I had arrived at the feeding ground. The trees were covered with frost and I was often startled by the sharp pistol-like reports from the timber. It was much colder up there in the woods than in town and I was kept busy while there, keeping my fingers, face and feet warm. There must have been fully one hundred Grosbeaks there though and I could scarcely see the red fellows. After sizing them up I picked out two beautiful red ones and secured them in perfect shape. I then spent over two hours in watching them. I had to keep moving most of the time and finally got so chilled that I had to get a move on to keep from freezing.

All the time I was there there were always plenty of birds feeding. When feeding they were quiet and sat in one place as long as they could reach seed. Those not feeding were noisy and restless and were constantly call-

ing. Flocks were coming and going all the time. Some flocks would come around the mountain side while others would plunge straight down from the top of the mountain. Before starting to feed the flocks would almost always first alight in some big hemlock or hardwood and in a few moments drop into the Ash. On the tall dead hemlocks and large living ones little flocks would alight and every now and then one would sing. Couldn't tell whether or not just the red ones did the singing. About one out of twelve or fifteen was a fine red one so the proportion of adults was small.

While visiting with the Grosbeaks I saw some very large flocks of American and White-winged Crossbills but these always alighted in the hemlock and fed on the small cones. I was very much surprised to see one little bunch of four or five Crimson Finches come into the Ash and feed with the Grosbeaks.

I would like to have spent the day with them as I will probably never have such another chance, at least in this region, but it was so cold that when I did finally leave I had to plough along at top speed for a long ways before the blood got to circulating right and then I was half frozen when I finally reached home.

February 1st a flock of nine birds were still about the ash but a visit ten days later revealed no trace of them and I have not seen any since.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Penna.

Notes from Alberta, Canada.

To the writer's knowledge THE OOLOGIST has never been favored with any notes from this part of the country, so I will endeavor to give a few for the benefit of its readers.

On May 28th, 1913, a party of four composed of the writer and three

friends, took a trip to what is called Pigeon Lake; this lake is about 25 miles long and lays about 60 miles southwest of Edmonton.

We took a train on the evening of the 27th, which took us to a small town not very far from the lake, from where we drove out that evening. We stopped at a friend's place for the night and were up bright and early the next morning. The following birds and nests were seen:

- 488 Black Crows in great flocks. Nest containing three eggs, found in willow bush.
 498 Blackbirds in great numbers.
 552 Lark Sparrow.
 560 Chipping Sparrow.
 563 Field Sparrow.
 581 Song Sparrow; several were seen on wing.
 509 Rusty Blackbird.
 510 Brewer Blackbird. Nest containing three eggs, found in willow bush.
 495 Cowbirds. Great flocks of females.
 761 Robin. Several nests were found. Birds very plentiful.

In the afternoon we went to the thicker woods where we found the following:

- 735a Chickadees. Large number seen in a willow thicket.
 761 Robin. Very plentiful.
 709 Rusty Blackbird. Several were seen on wing.
 357 Pigeon Hawk. Pair was seen flying about several large stumps.
 360 Sparrow Hawk. Nest discovered in old Flicker's hole; 4 eggs.
 461 Pewee. Several were seen during the afternoon.
 348 On a high hill very thickly wooded we found a nest of the Ferruginous Rough-Leg in a high Poplar tree. The nest contained three eggs which were taken.
 334 About a half mile east of this

nest we heard the screams of a hawk and on investigating we were surprised to find a nest of the American Goshawk. I have never known Hawks to build as close as the above two did. The nest was an unusually big one in a tall poplar tree. It contained 1 egg which we did not take.

- 368 Barred Owl. One was seen flying past us towards a big wood on the left.
 484 Canada Jay. Several pairs were seen in the vicinity of the Hawks nests.
 393 Hairy Woodpecker. One was seen on a dry stump.
 406 Red-headed Woodpecker. Nest found containing 4 eggs.
 413 Red-shafted Flicker. Several were seen through the day.

This completed our first day's outing. The next morning we started for a trip along the shore of the lake, where the following birds and nests were seen:

- 497 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Large numbers along a certain part of the shore. Several nests were taken.
 132 Mallard Duck. Large flocks on the lake.
 77 Black Tern. Large numbers over our heads during the entire day.
 60 Bonaparte Gull. Large numbers were seen sailing above our heads.
 133 Black Duck. Large flocks. Nest found containing 8 eggs.
 143 Pintail. Several were seen.
 135 Widgeon. Pair were flushed from a bunch of cat tails.
 139 Green Winged Teal. Large flocks on the lake.
 140 Blue winged Teal. Several along the shore.
 147 Canvas Back. Pair flew over our heads.
 2 Holboell Grebe. Several were seen close to the shore.

- 3 Horned Grebe. Several flocks scattered over lake.
- 1 Western Grebe. In large numbers.
- 9 Black-throated Loon. One seen on wing.
- 221 American Coot. Several nests of these were taken.
- 331 Marsh Hawk. One seen flying along the shore.

This finished the day, which was thoroughly enjoyed. We saw a number of other birds which we could not identify, owing to the distance we were away from them.

If the Editor will be good enough to publish this account I will send in some more notes of birds I have come in contact with in this Providence.

I am going out on a trip this spring and I will be glad to offer some of the information I may gain, for the benefit of the readers of THE OOLOGIST.

Gus Crossa.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Oologists of the Future.

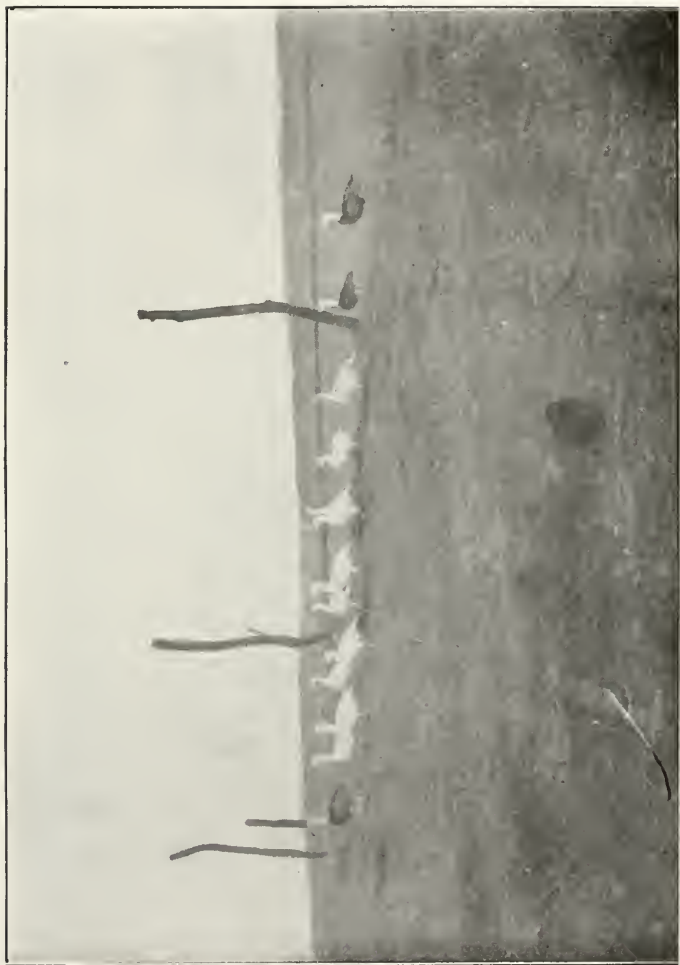
Audubon societies all over these United States have for some years past been using every means to suppress the oologists, and with such success that these devoted students of the natural sciences, among the younger men, are becoming rare. The only excuse for attack is that they destroy the birds. Some of the older egg collectors think they have been unreasonably persecuted, for be it known that the average collector does not take many specimens. Neither does he waste them. But even this poor prop has been knocked from under the Audubon Platform during the past year, for birds in many parts of the country are becoming so numerous as to be a serious nuisance and there is now absolutely no reason why the oologist should not take what specimens he needs even if there ever was

one. Here in my home town of West Chester, the Crow Blackbirds come into town by the thousands. Roosting on our trees, their droppings make the streets impassible for foot passengers in one district. Over in Chester Valley, some fifteen miles from here, is a Crow roost made up of probably thirty thousand individuals, and there is absolutely no danger of oologists exterminating them.

Last Sunday I read in the papers that ducks and geese were so numerous in Washington and Oregon that farmers had to go to the expense all the season of hiring men to keep the birds off the wheat fields. I have seen on the Sacramento meadows hundreds of acres so covered with geese that you could not see the ground between their bodies. On our own Delaware marshes and also on Long Island Sound the ducks are there now simply in myriads. Here in Pennsylvania all fall the fields and lowlands have been simply alive with Chickadees, a thousand times as many as there were five years ago.

And take the birds in general, they are nearly all of them much more numerous than in years past. Is there any reason for suppressing the oologist? I can see none. It is time to call a halt in this bossing of the Audubon societies. This country seems to have gone crazy on the bossing business. The women want to boss us at the polls; the temperance people want to boss us when we get thirsty, the national Congress wants to boss the trusts and banks; the doctors and the legislatures want to boss us with their eugenic laws; and now after fifty years of patient study we are stopped from collecting eggs when we need them. Say, I am going to move out if this thing keeps on.

R. P. Sharples,



Snow and Blue Geese at Lacon
—Photo by R. M. Barnes

The Migrant Shrike.

I have never noticed a record of the Migrant Shrike (*Lanius Ludovicianus Migrans*) (Palmer) in THE OOLOGIST. As the bird is rather rare, a few records may be of interest.

The first one I ever saw was on the salt marshes at Revere, Mass., quite a few years ago and unfortunately I did not make note of the exact date.

The second one I found was at the salt marshes bordering Forest River, Salem, Mass., on August 26, 1911.

On September 2, 1911 I saw another one on the Revere marshes, and on August 24, 1912, I saw one at Forest River, Salem, Mass.

Considering the rarity of this subspecies I feel very fortunate to have seen four of them.

H. O. Green.

Stoneham, Mass.

Collecting Birds Eggs.

How I Began.—R. Magoon Barnes.

I.

In the years that past, before the days of Audubon Societies, and kindred organizations, almost every boy at one time or another of his youth, made a collection of birds eggs. It was so in the course of the Natural evolution of the future man. His mother and father took it as a normal stage of development, and his sisters as a usual boyish freak. Soon strings of eggs hung in the boy's room, prepared by punching a hole in each end with a pin. Many were the rare and almost unheard of specimens obtained. The Pewee, Chippie and Robin vied with the "Knot Bird," "Squawk," and "The Henhawk" for first place. Many men gray and bent today look back to their egg collecting days as among the most pleasant of their lives. These collections were unusually short lived. One or two seasons usually sufficed to use up the enthusiasm, and the mice usually did the rest—to the eggs.

It did the boys a world of good. Exercised their young legs. Filled their growing lungs with outdoor air and ozone. Occupied their minds and kept them often out of greater mischief. No boy is learning much wrong nor going far to the bad while ranging the fields and hills, climbing mountains or wading swamps studying nature. Would that more mothers and fathers realized this truth. If so more boys would be encouraged and fewer discouraged in these healthful, beneficial pursuits, and there would be fewer boys on the streets learning evil every hour.

A different time is here now and a different condition confronts us all, Ornithologists and Oologists alike. Laws, some of them beneficial and some positively idiotic, stare us in the face. Clubs, societies and the like surround us on every hand. Some of the members of which are very practical and some complete cranks, fit only for the mad house. The field Naturalist and the student naturalist are today literally between the devil and the deep sea. There are no more earnest practical game, and bird protectionists than these very bird men exist. Yet they are far from being extremists. The extremist injure the cause, the conservative aids it. There must be moderation in all things.

So today the Oologist must be one at heart and must be in the game with some definite idea or object in view. The old days of indiscriminate and unlimited collecting are gone, gone for good, and rightfully so. The day for real beneficial collecting for the purpose of permanently preserving the specimens ultimately for the public benefit is here. The day of commercialism in these matters is rapidly passing and with it the greatest incentive for fraud.

Believing as I do, that the young collector of these times must begin



Canada Geese at Lacon
—Photo by R. M. Barnes

with a definite idea of making his collection a permanent thing, either of his own and for his own, or by ultimately placing it in some public institution, or even of selling the collection when his interest in it wanes, to some other who will pick up the thread where it has been severed by the sale; I have determined to give the younger collectors, the beginners among THE OOLOGIST readers, the benefit of my nearly forty years of Oological experience along some lines.

Before doing so it might interest some to know how I began, and how I happened to begin. Here is the story:

One afternoon on a beautiful day in late May, 1875, while sitting under a shady tree on the lawn at my home in Lacon, listening to the conversation between my father, George O. Barnes, and a cousin of his, Charles A. Barnes of Jacksonville, Illinois, who later became a Judge and was also Supreme Chancellor of the Knight of the Pythias of the World and who died abroad in December, 1913: I took my first birds egg lesson. Charley, as we called him, had been a student at Ann Arbor and had been compelled to quit school on account of failing health, had stopped to make us a visit on his way home. I had seldom come in contact with a real college man in those days, so looked up to him on all occasions. During the conversation a Robin flitted past and into a small pine tree near by. Charley arose, walked leisurely to the tree, parted the boughs and looked into the nest while the old bird protested loudly. He then came back, sat down and turning to me said:

"Magoon, did you ever collect birds eggs?" I plead not guilty on the spot. Then with much interest he opened up and told me all about making a collection of birds eggs, of his own collection and of The Oologist of

Utica, N. Y., in which, dear reader, you will find his name more than once. All this to a thirteen year boy was a revelation. And with wide eyes I drank in his every word. The entire thing was new to me; but interested me mightily. That night I lay awake until away into the night formulating plans for the future "collection." The news was too good to keep! The next morning bright and early I was at my Cousin Charley Thomas' home and to him I excitedly unfolded the great news. Directly we bolted our breakfast and started out to spread the glad tidings. Soon we had a party of eight boys composed of ourselves, Frank Lester, "Beardy" Ames and others I do not remember. At once this army took the field against the poor birds. We agreed that the discoverer of the nest should have the first egg by right of discovery, the rest to be distributed one to each as far as they would go to the one who should first exclaim "First egg!" The second to the first saying "Second egg!" and so on. Many were the heated arguments and almost battles that day as to who were entitled to the spoils under this process of distribution.

Well I remember the first nest found. A Scarlet Tanager's, well out toward the end of a long bough of an Oak tree some seven feet above ground. In our haste and anxiety we spilled all four of the eggs on the ground and smashed them. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak, several Robins, Blue Birds and Chippies, one Cookoo and a King bird's nest were all raided. Holes from a quarter of an inch up were punched into the ends of each egg with pins and the contents blown out. Tired and footsore, we wended our way homeward, dinnerless and dirty, as the sun sank low that evening. But what of all that, we were making a "Collection of Birds Eggs." Great Sport!

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ALBION, N. Y. APRIL, 15, 1914.

WHOLE NO. 821

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

Arenaria interpres.

Turnstone.

also called "Brant-Bird," "Beat-Bird," "Horse-foot Snipe," and from its variegated colors, "Calico-back." This splendid looking bird derives its name "Turnstone" by turning over with its stout bill, well adapted for this work, small stones and shells to find crustaceans and worms for subsistence. It possesses a strong body, the head is comparatively large, the bill shorter than the head, constricted at base, somewhat concave above the nostrils, slightly bent up and tapering from the middle to a rather sharp point; nasal groove broad and shallow, similar to Plover, legs rather short and stout; wings long and pointed; plumage pied or somber.

In the latter part of May small flocks congregate on the edge of Bufalo Creek near Clinton Street and at Cazenovia Creek near the Glue Factory, when the Spotted Sandpiper is near its nest.

At this time it has beautiful bright colors as can be seen on the Photo. It is now on the migration to the far off northern countries. It breeds throughout the northern sections of both continents and wanders southward along the seacoasts of both countries.

In America it breeds commonly in the Barren Lands of the Arctic Coast to the Anderson River Districts, on the Islands of Franklin and Liverpool Bays, nesting in June and July. In the Hudson's Bay country the eggs are laid in June. I have an interesting set

of 4 eggs taken May 26, 1896 at Tornea, Lapland. They are very large for the size of the bird, and their color is greenish-drab, spotted all over with brown, size 1.60 x 1.17.

Beautiful plumage, lineliness and easy movements distinguish the Turnstone from other plovers. He is hardly ever seen to be quiet, except at noontime for a few minutes, standing still on one place. During the rest of the time the Turnstone is in constant motion from morn to sundown. During flight he is equally restless.

In the early part of September they migrate to the southern climate and finally winter in the Gulf States and South America. At this time they have changed their bright colors to a dark-grayish color. Of this kind I have a specimen which I shot on the stone pier near the Starchworks below Blackrock a great many years ago on Election-day.

This is one of the most interesting birds and a great many of our gunners have undoubtedly shot them without knowledge what a rare specimen it is for the Naturalist.

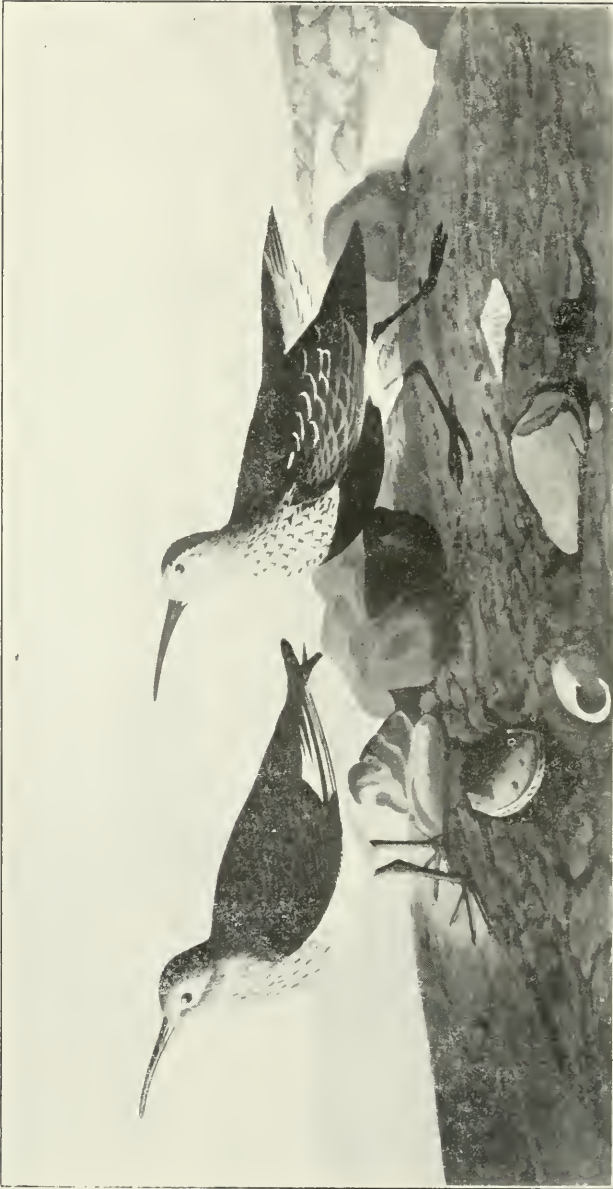
Mounted specimens in Spring and Fall plumage and a fine set of 4 eggs can be seen in my collection.

Ottomar Reinecke.

Junco-h-Carolinensis.

(Carolina Junco.)

Most oologists associate a Junco's nest with the ground, and so did I until the summer of 1913. A long protracted return attack of my tropical fever



For description see page 42 of this volume.—Ed.

made me seek the high altitude about May 15th, and in company with my father, who is still very much an active collector, we settled in a heretofore unworked section at 4500 ft. altitude. We were a little late for first sets of Junco, the majority having large young, but we were glad to find at last actual nesting birds, though they had long supposed to have bred in this State. By July 1st we were elated to find numerous handsome second sets, and it is one of these second sets in particular I shall refer to. Cold and rainy weather, and often snow, is prevalent at this altitude during their first setting, April 10th to 25th, consequently the birds make their nests under the overhanging rocks and road banks, giving the greatest amount of shelter from dripping water above. By the middle of June, the woods are carpeted with a luxurious growth of woodland ferns, grass and greens of every description. The farmers of the adjoining lowlands take advantage of this pasture for their cattle and drive up into the higher mountains nearly all their stock for the summer months. These countless bands cover every foot of ground, trampling down all the low vegetation they do not eat, and caving off or landsliding the road banks. It is evident therefore that most of the ground building birds, especially the Juncos, have a large percentage of their nests destroyed, unless they take to the very rocky ground or dense undergrowth bordering the streams. This we found to be the case with the Juncos; they had evidently learned the lesson from experience. While we were working up a bottom, adjacent to one of the largest streams, I almost fell over a Carolina Junco, calmly sitting on her nest in a thick clump of Rhododendrum, five feet above ground. She proved no exception as

a close setter, and allowed me to almost touch her before flushing. It was such an unusual location for a Junco that I called my father from the other side of the stream to see it, as well as to verify my identification. The date was June 14th, the nest a typical Junco structure of dry grasses, weed stems, and some moss, lined with hair. The four eggs were incubated about three days. Altitude 4000 feet. This was the only nest found at such a height or location above ground, though one other nest with four young was discovered in a dense clump of blackberry bushes, height $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet up.

Harold H. Bailey,

Newport News, Va.

A Great Tree Climber.

There lives in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, an admirable man. His name is Scott—Hugh Scott. Mr. Scott is now nearly sixty years of age and has, since his boyhood days, been an ardent hunter of racoon, "coon-hunter" is what he is popularly termed. It has been his delight for many years to follow the dogs in a hunt for his favorite game. Hugh's experience in coon hunting developed his climbing ability wonderfully, many a night has he mounted to the higher branches of some mighty oak and pushed a racoon to the ground for the dogs. Today I hail Hugh Scott as the greatest tree climber in these parts.

During the past Spring Mr. R. C. Harlow and I found some nests of the Red-tailed Hawk which were up in giant oaks and inaccessible to us,—one was exactly one hundred feet above the ground in a huge white oak, as straight as an arrow and fifty feet to the first limb. We were too eager to examine the set of eggs from that nest, so I called on friend Hugh for assistance. He stood at the base of the giant oak, strapped on his climb-

ers, and gazed upward. "She's the hardest one I ever tackled yet" was all he said. But he slowly ascended the great oak and finally reached the first limb,—poor old chap, he was well winded, but he reached the nest and secured the three large eggs. Few climbers could have reached the nest; Hugh did so because he is gifted with great nerve and a spirit that never says die.

S. S. Dickey.

Publications Received.

University of California Publications in Zoology; Vol. 12 No. 4, March 20, 1914.

An Account of the Mammals and Birds of the Lower Colorado Valley, by Julius Grinnell.

This is a splendid contribution of 221 pages, 1 map and 21 figure plates. It deals with a little known territory and describes a floating boat trip from Needles, California, to about the Mexican border near Yuma, Arizona, 285 miles by river and near 150 miles in an air line. Stops or camps were made at 29 different points beginning at Needles, February 15th and ending near Pilot Knob, May 15, 1910.

Besides other Zoological specimens, 1374 birds and 22 sets of eggs were obtained, all of which now rest in the Museum of the University. Professor Grinnell was accompanied by Frank Stevens, Joseph Dixon and L. Hollister Jones, all well known scientists.

The publication consists of an introduction, a description of the itinerary,—of the Colorado River, a resume of the Zonal and Faunal position of the region and of the associational areas and of the effect of the river on the distribution of birds and mammals. Also a bit of the birds numbering 150 and copious notes based on their observation, besides much other matter relating to the mammals.

This is an unusually good output relating to an almost unworked region and we are glad to say is rather freer than we might fear, of attempts to name supposed local varieties of birds based on superfine, infinitesimal, unimportant differentiation, for which the author deserves the thanks of ornithologists generally. We have had too much of that in the past.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PUBLICATIONS IN ZOOLOGY, Vol. III No. 14, February 27, 1914.

"A DETERMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WESTERN MEADOW LARKS," by Harold C. Bryant.

This is one of the most thoroughly exhaustive papers that we have seen in a long time. It is well prepared, nicely arranged, and will long stand as a last work upon the subject. As the result of 1920 Meadowlarks sacrificed in this investigation the conclusion is reached that the Western Meadowlark is a beneficial bird, and not an injurious one; a fact which was known to practically everybody before the investigation was inaugurated.

It is a mistake to give serious consideration to the carpings of a few hair-brained self-interested people who are to be found in practically every community relating to the tremendous distinctiveness of some particular species or family of birds, about which they usually know very little or nothing at all, and it seems a shame to sacrifice so large a number of our feathered songsters to prove that which everybody except a few people of this class already know.

Starlings.

The Starlings have come to stay. This winter thousands swarmed the country around Philadelphia in flocks, one containing fully seven hundred

birds, and, during the blizzard of March 1-2, they ventured into the city and fed in back yards and in gardens. Many frequented the city dumping grounds and found an abundance of food among the refuse.

Will the Starling prove to be such an obnoxious pest as the House Sparrow? I am afraid it will become a worse nuisance. If they continue to multiply and increase in the next few years as they have during the past several seasons, we shall have Starlings by the millions.

I think they are going to be a serious nuisance to our city nesting birds as they nest earlier than any of our birds that nest in holes and preempt all such places by being permanent residents.

Richard F. Miller.

The Pileated Woodpecker in South-Western Pennsylvania.

In the wilder and less frequented parts of South-western Pennsylvania a few pairs of the Pileated Woodpeckers are still found. During late summer and early fall hunters for squirrels report having seen four or five of these birds in the larger clumps of woodland. A friend of mine, who lives some twenty miles Southwest of Waynesburg, recently told me that he has seen as many as five of these Woodpeckers at a time. He said that late this summer he had seen two birds fly across a deep gully. One he shot into a bunch of five and killed a single bird. In a deep wooded ravine some three miles from town a pair of Pileateds spent their time for several seasons. A friend and I saw the birds picking at some tree trunks so we made a search for the nest. However, we failed to find it. One snag showed signs of old nesting holes, one of which I examined showed signs of recent digging. At another woods an

old man told me he had seen two birds and had killed one of them. The woods in this section of the country are composed largely of huge white oak trees, many of them over one-hundred feet high. In such places the Pileated Woodpeckers would certainly find suitable places to nest. Next spring I intend to make some trips to the larger woods and try to find a nest, and, if possible, secure some photos of a nest and eggs.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

A card from F. T. Pember of Granville, New York, advises us that he is wintering amid the orange groves of Riverside, California, collecting insects and botanical specimens, and that he will go north into the British Columbia country about April 1st. He says "March 16th, I found a Barn Owl's nest with six eggs."

Pileated Woodpecker of Northern West Virginia.

Late in July, 1913, in company with some friends I went for a fifty mile hike into the mountains bordering the Cheat River of Northern West Virginia. One morning as we ascended a mountain trail I noticed numerous "Diggings" in the trunks of the chestnut trees which abound there. I knew these injuries to the trees had been caused by the Pileated Woodpeckers. So I kept a close watch for the birds. Towards noon we reached the highest point of the mountain ridge, 2,800 feet above the sea level. As we emerged from a dense growth of young trees two Pileated Woodpeckers flew from the road ahead of us and lit on the trunk of a huge oak tree nearby. Soon one of them took fright and dashed away through the woods; the other bird remained a few moments then hurried after its cackling mate. In

talking with the mountaineers I learned that these great Woodpeckers are still quite plentiful in that region of the mountains. Many huge old snags showed former nesting holes of the birds. In such a dense growth of timber it would certainly be a task to find the Pileated's nest.
Waynesburg, Pa.

S. S. Dickey.

Punctured Cowbird's Eggs.

In the April, 1912, OOLOGIST, page 261, I published an article on Punctured Cowbird's Eggs, wherein I carelessly asserted that "during the many years I have studied the birds I have found but one or two punctured Cowbirds eggs," but after carefully searching my records of nests containing Cowbirds eggs I find myself mistaken in this belief as I have three other records of punctured eggs. These records I overlooked when I hastily searched my note-books for data upon this subject.

On July 8, 1908, at Bustleton, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, I found a rotten, punctured Cowbird's egg in an empty Indigo Bunting's nest. On June 2, 1910, at Fox Chase, this County, I examined a deserted Cardinal's nest containing a punctured Lazy-bird's egg. And the third punctured egg of *Molothrus* I found on May 29, 1905, at Torresdale, this county, also in a Cardinal's nest, which held one egg of the owner with the incubation fresh.

In the first two cases the Cowbird presumably deposited her unwelcome eggs in the empty nests and the owners promptly and quite rightly deserted them after breaking the eggs undoubtedly by jabbing their bills through the shells.

Let's hear from others upon the subject. In another paper I shall write about infertile Cowbird's eggs in nests

containing eggs and young of the owners, an occurrence as rare in my experience, as punctured Cowbird's eggs.

Richard F. Miller.

Late.

Isaac E. Hess of Philo, Illinois, reports birds very slow about arriving this Spring. "My winter list since January 1, numbers only twenty-six species. Everything about two weeks late here."

We note the same condition about Lacon.

Nesting of the White-Breasted Nuthatch in Central Pennsylvania.

(*Sitta Carolinensis carolinensis*).

About the village of State College, which lies in the middle part of Centre County, Pa., small tracts of deciduous woods are to be found on sloping banks and the tops of low rolling hills. These clumps of woodland seem to favorably attract the White-breasted Nuthatch. In this region I saw more of these birds than have come under my observation elsewhere.

It was my good fortune to be able to spend some spare time with these Nuthatches during the nesting season of 1913. On the afternoon of April 22, accompanied by a friend, I went to a woods a short distance back of the village. Here I had heard the Nuthatches utter their peculiar nasal "Zquack" as I walked through the woods at an earlier date. When we arrived at the woodland no Nuthatches were to be found, but we seated ourselves on a log and proceeded to watch for them. After waiting here a half hour we detected the faint note of a Nuthatch which seemed to come from the more distant part of the grove. We at once hurried in that direction and soon located the male bird. He flitted about the trunks of small oaks busily engaged in procuring insect

eggs. Finally he took wing and flew to a small grove of oaks that stood 200 feet from the main woods. Upon our hurrying to this grove we found the Nuthatch and were so fortunate as to see him go to a knot hole, 30 feet up in the main trunk of a straight black oak. This tree stood on the very border of the grove, and was one foot in thickness at the base. When we had watched a short time the female bird came from the hole and accompanied by her mate, searched over the tree trunks nearby. I soon procured the climbing irons and ascended the tree. Upon close inspection the nest was found to contain 7 fresh eggs, and was about 8 inches below the entrance-hole. It was composed of soft pieces of inner tree bark.

While I was at the nest the female bird came back and quite near to me once—within two feet of my head—and kept up her alarm note.

On the morning of April 25, I tramped to a wood lying some two miles east of the village. Here I found a male Nuthatch flitting about the tree trunks, and eventually followed him to his nest where he fed the female. This nest was built at the bottom of an 18-inch cavity with a round knot-hole for an entrance. It was situated 22 feet up in a small, bending, white oak tree that stood on a bank well strewn with white oaks. When I ascended the tree I found the nest to hold 8 well spotted eggs, which rested on an abundant lining of rabbit's fur and pieces of inner tree bark. The female was extremely anxious at my presence and lit only a foot above me while I was at the entrance of her home.

On the afternoon of May 17, I was fortunate enough to find a third nest. It was built in a large natural cavity, 7 feet up in the main trunk of a leaning apple tree that bordered on an

apple orchard, of medium size. The female bird was captured upon her nest which held 5 fresh eggs. When I returned two days later I found that a sixth egg had been added. This last egg was faintly marked, due, I believe, to the fright of the bird when she was caught upon my first visit to the nest.

This nest was a slight affair, being only a little rabbit's hair and dry grass, lying on decayed wood dust, twelve inches from the large entrance hole.

I shall add in closing that it is not an easy matter to locate the nests of these birds. On account of patience that is required to follow them to their home, for they are extremely wary and lead one a merry chase before going to the nest.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

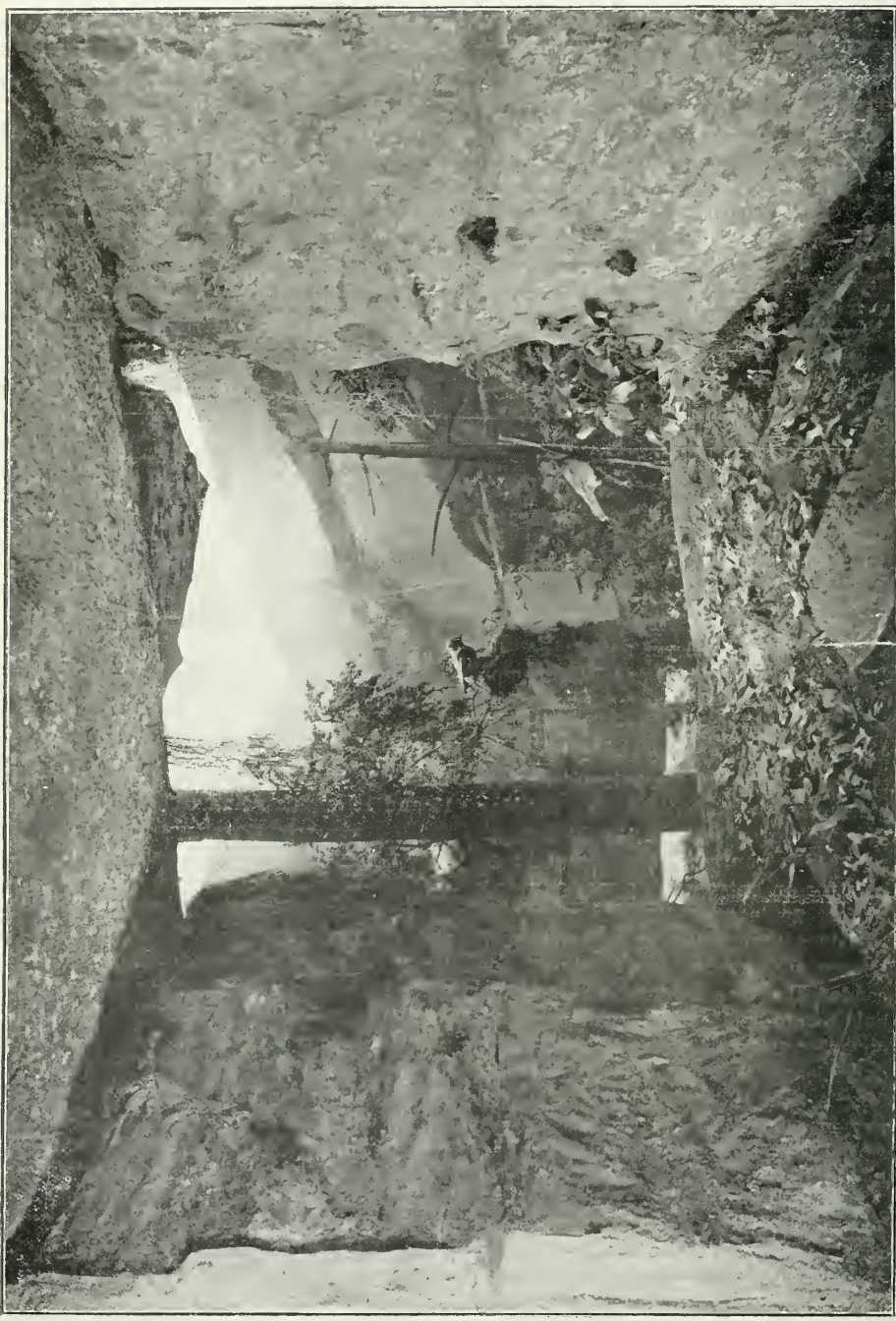
Notice.

The plate on page 43 of the March issue of THE OOLOGIST is of a Turnstone.

A description of the plate on page 67 of this issue will be found on pages 15 and 16 of this volume.

The Cowbird in Philadelphia and Vicinity.

According to Stone's "Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey" (Page 30) the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) is "a common summer resident" in the vicinity of Philadelphia, but, according to my experience as an active field ornithologist during the past seventeen years in this locality, it is rather a scarce summer resident, particularly in the northeastern part of Philadelphia County. In this region, I have found it's eggs and young only fifty-five times, or on an average of three nests a year, out of an examination of about 4800 nests of birds in which the Cowbird has been known to



Museum Group, Maplewood Museum, Mountain Bird Life Turnstone

lay its eggs. Certainly a low record in a locality where the Cowbird is supposed to be a common breeder. And during 1913 I did not see a Cowbird in the nesting season or find any of its unwelcome eggs or young in the many bird's nests I examined.

I record below the few Cowbird's eggs and young I have found in bird's nests in the vicinity of Philadelphia and shall have more to say in regard to several in another paper. It will be noticed, however, that I have never found more than one Cowbird's egg or young bird in a nest.

1. June 12, 1897; Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing one fresh egg of the owner.

2. May 19, 1898; Gloucester County, N. J.—One fresh broken egg in a Brown Thrasher's nest (Oologist, 1912, p. 261).

3. May 25, 1898, Blue Grass, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One half incubated egg in Song Sparrow's nest containing two eggs of the owner, both also half incubated.

4. June 13, 1898, Frankford, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One half incubated egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing three half incubated eggs of the owner.

5. June 1, 1899, Sandiford, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in White-eyed Vireo's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

6. June 9, 1899, Sandiford, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

7. May 26, 1900, Sandiford, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Wood Thrush's nest containing four fresh eggs of the owner.

8. June 16, 1900, Holmesburg, this county.—One one-third incubated egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing two eggs of the owner about the same in incubation.

9. June 23, 1900, Holmesburg, same county.—One fresh egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

10. June 28, 1900, Holmesburg, same county.—One fresh egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

11. May 7, 1901, Blue grass, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Phœbe's nest containing one egg of the owner, which contained a tiny puncture.

12. May 28, 1901, Valley Falls, Montgomery County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Indigo Bunting's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

13. May 31, 1901, Frankford, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh punctured egg in empty Indigo Bunting's nest (Oologist, 1912, p. 261).

14. May 31, 1901, Frankford, same county.—One fresh egg in Wood Thrush's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

15. May 31, 1901, Frankford, same county.—One fresh egg in Indigo Bunting's nest containing two fresh eggs of the owner, one with a small puncture.

16. July 11, 1901, Frankford, same county.—One fresh egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

17. July 11, 1901, Same locality as above.—One half-grown young in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing two young of the owner, one, half and the other about one-third grown and not half as big as the hoggish *Molothrus* which I removed.

18. May 12, 1902, Wissinoming, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One egg, incubation begun, in Cardinal's nest containing three eggs of the owner about the same in incubation.

19. May 20, 1902, same locality as last. —One fresh egg in an empty and deserted Yellow Warbler's nest, part-

ly covered by additional lining material.

20. June 11, 1902, Wissinoming, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One naked young in Yellow Warbler's nest containing one naked nestling of the owner and of the same age apparently.

21. May 8, 1903, Frankford, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One slightly incubated egg in a Song Sparrow's nest of three eggs of the owner and all similarly incubated.

22. May 13, 1904, Rockledge, Montgomery County, Pa.—One fresh egg in empty, deserted Song Sparrow's nest.

23. May 29, 1905, Torresdale, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing two fresh eggs of the owner.

24. May 29, 1905, same locality as above.—One freshly broken egg in Cardinal's nest containing one fresh egg of the owner.

25. April 25, 1906, Torresdale, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Cardinal's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

26. May 19, 1906, Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One slightly incubated egg in Yellow Warbler's nest containing three slightly incubated eggs of the owner.

27. May 25, 1906, same locality as last.—One egg, incubation started, in Yellow Warbler's nest containing four eggs of the owner, incubation all begun.

28. June 5, 1906, Torresdale, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One half-grown young in nest of Yellow Warbler containing three half-grown nestlings of the owner. The worthless *Molothrus* was removed.

29. June 5, same locality as preceding.—One nestling about half grown in Yellow Warbler's nest containing a rotten egg and three young of about the same age, of the owner; I removed the young parasite.

30. May 23, 1907, Rockledge, Montgomery County, Pa.—One highly incubated egg in Cardinal's nest containing three eggs of the owner with large embryos.

31. May 23, 1907, Bustleton, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in White-eyed Vireo's nest containing one fresh egg of the owner.

32. May 28, 1907, Torresdale, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Yellow Warbler's nest containing four fresh eggs of the owner.

33. May 25, 1908, Blue Grass, same county as last.—One fresh egg in an empty Field Sparrow's nest; nest evidently deserted.

34. June 1, 1908, Rockledge, Montgomery County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Song Sparrow's nest containing four fresh eggs of the owner.

35. June 10, 1908, Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One slightly incubated egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing three eggs of the owner, all also in about the same state of incubation.

36. June 13, 1908, Harpers, Montgomery County, Pa.—One slightly incubated egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing two slightly incubated eggs of the owner.

37. July 1, 1908, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Wood Thrush's nest containing two fresh eggs of the owner.

38. May 5, 1909, Frankford, this county.—One fresh egg in Song Sparrow's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

39. May 11, 1909, Andalusia, Bucks County, Pa.—One egg incubation started in Cardinal's nest containing two eggs of the owner with incubation about begun.

40. May 13, 1909, Pensauken, Camden County, N. J.—One slightly incubated egg in Song Sparrow's nest containing three eggs of the owner, in

which the incubation was but slightly advanced in all. An abnormal set.

41. May 20, 1909, same locality as preceding.—One fresh egg in Field Sparrow's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

42. May 23, 1909, Collegeville, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Yellow Warbler's nest containing three fresh eggs of the owner.

43. June 18, 1909, Andalusia, Bucks County, Pa.—One addled egg in Yellow Warbler's nest containing an infertile egg of the owner.

44. June 18, 1909, same locality as above.—One infertile egg in Yellow Warbler's nest containing two infertile eggs and two half-grown young of the owner.

45. July 8, 1909, Bustleton, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One punctured, rotten egg in empty Indigo Bunting's nest.

46. May 6, 1910, Crescentville, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One highly incubated egg in Cardinal's nest containing three eggs of the owner, and all with large embryos.

47. June 2, 1910, Fox Chase, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One punctured egg (fresh) in empty Cardinal's nest.

48. June 17, 1910, Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One egg with dead embryo one-third developed, in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing two nestlings several days old of the owner.

49. May 25, 1911, Rockledge, Montgomery County, Pa.—One egg about three days incubated in Ovenbird's nest containing four of the owner all about as far advanced in incubation.

50. May 28, 1911, Gladwyne, Montgomery County, Pa.—One egg one-third incubated in Chewink's nest containing three eggs of the owner in about the same state of incubation.

51. June 6, 1911, same locality as preceding.—One fresh egg in Indigo

Bunting's nest containing one fresh egg of the owner.

52. June 14, 1911, Bustleton, Philadelphia County, Pa.—One fresh egg in Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing two or three broken eggs (shells of the owner.)

53. May 1, 1912, same locality as preceding.—One pipped egg in Cardinal's nest containing one new born young and two pipped eggs of the owner.

54. May 5, 1912, same locality as above. One half-incubated egg in Cardinal's nest containing three eggs of the owner, in which incubation was about one-half in two and infertile in the third.

55. May 23, 1912, same locality as last.—One fresh egg in empty and deserted nest of the Yellow-breasted Chat.

Richard F. Miller.

There have been two Sunny Owls shot here (Northeastern Philadelphia) this winter. One was taken by an uncle and both specimens have been mounted.

Richard F. Miller.

Nesting Dates for Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

1. Least Bittern, June 15; 5 eggs.
2. American Bittern, May 26; 4 eggs.
3. Great Blue Heron, April 8; 6 eggs.
4. Green Heron, May 12; 4 eggs.
5. Night Heron, Apr. 9; comp'd nests.
6. Clapper Rail, July 2; 2 eggs.
7. Sora Rail, May 26; 4 eggs.
8. Virginia Rail, May 28; 6 eggs.
9. Black Rail, July 2; 8 eggs.
10. Florida Gallenule, June 15; 7 eggs.
11. Killdeer, May 6; 4 eggs.
12. Bob-white, May 28; 21 eggs.
13. Ruffed Grouse, May 9; 8 eggs.
14. Mourning Dove, May 27; 2 eggs.
15. Marsh Hawk, May 25; 5 eggs.
16. Cooper's Hawk, May 16; 4 eggs.

17. Red-tail Hawk, March 29; 3 eggs.
18. Red-should'd Hawk, Apr. 15, 3 eggs
19. Broad-winged Hawk, May 26; 2 eggs.
20. Duck Hawk, April 12; 3 eggs.
21. Sparrow Hawk, April 29; 5 eggs.
22. Barn Owl, April 7; 5 eggs.
23. Screech Owl, April 9; 3 eggs.
24. Great Horned Owl, March 27; 3 young.
25. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, August 2; 2 young.
26. Kingfisher, May 12, 7 eggs.
27. Hairy Woodpecker, May 23; 4 young.
28. N. Downy Woodpecker, May 26; 4 eggs.
29. N. Pileated Woodpecker, May 16; 4 eggs.
30. Red-headed Woodpecker, May 26; 4 eggs.
31. Northern Flicker, May 8; 7 eggs.
32. Chimney Swift, July 1; 4 young.
33. Ruby-throated Hummer, June 4; nest.
34. Kingbird, June 4; 3 eggs.
35. Crested Flycatcher, May 28; 2 eggs
36. Phoebe, May 7; 5 eggs.
37. Least Flycatcher, June 4; 3 eggs.
38. Prairie Horned Lark, March 27; 3 eggs.
39. Northern Raven, March 13; 5 eggs.
40. Crow, April 8; 5 eggs.
41. Fish Crow, May 12; 2 eggs.
42. Starling, May 12; 2 eggs.
43. Cowbird, May 27; 1 egg.
44. Red-wing Black Bird, May 26; 4 eggs.
45. Meadowlark, May 17; 5 eggs.
46. Baltimore Oriole, May 25; 5 eggs.
47. Orchard Oriole, July 3; 4 eggs.
48. Bronzed Grackle, May 1; 5 eggs.
49. Goldfinch, August 15; 4 young.
50. English Sparrow, April 28; 5 eggs.
51. Vesper Sparrow, May 18; 4 eggs.
52. Grasshopper Sparrow, July 20; 4 eggs.
53. Henslow's Sparrow, May 23; 5 eggs.
54. Sharp-tailed Sparrow, June 9; 4 eggs.
55. Seaside Sparrow, July 2; 4 eggs.
56. Chipping Sparrow, May 8; 4 eggs.
57. Field Sparrow, May 7; 4 eggs.
58. Song Sparrow, May 7; 4 eggs.
59. Swamp Sparrow, June 15; 4 eggs.
60. Towhee, June 4; 4 eggs.
61. Indigo Bird, June 7; 4 eggs.
62. Scarlet Tanager, May 24; 2 eggs.
63. Purple Martin, July 2; 4 young.
64. Cliff Sparrow, June 4; 4 eggs.
65. Barn Swallow, June 4; 5 eggs.
66. Rough Wing Swallow, May 26; 5 eggs.
67. Cedar Waxwing, June 7; completed nest.
68. Red-eyed Vireo, June 14; 3 eggs.
69. Yellow-throated Vireo, May 27; 4 eggs.
70. Solitary Vireo, May 24; 4 young.
71. Black and White Warbler, June 2; 5 young.
72. Worm-eating Warbler, May 23; 6 eggs.
73. Blue Wing Warbler, June 11; 5 eggs.
74. Golden Wing Warbler, May 23; 5 eggs.
75. Yellow Warbler, June 14; 4 young.
76. Black-throated Blue Warbler, June 2; 4 eggs.
77. Magnolia Warbler, June 2; 4 eggs.
78. Chestnut-sided Warbler, June 4; 4 eggs.
79. Blackburnian Warbler, June 4; 3 eggs.
80. Ovenbird, June 4; 5 eggs.
81. Water Thrush, May 22; 5 eggs.
82. Louisiana Water Thrush, May 24; 5 eggs.
83. Kentucky Warbler, June 11; 5 young.
84. Maryland Yellow-throat, May 26; 1 egg.
85. Yellow-breasted Chat, June 11; 3 eggs.
86. Canadian Warbler, June 1; 5 eggs.
87. Catbird, May 24; 3 eggs.

88. Brown Thrasher, June 4; 4 eggs.
 89. Carolina Wren, May 13; 2 eggs.
 90. Winter Wren, May 16; completed nest.
 91. House Wren, May 27; 7 eggs.
 92. Long-billed Marsh Wren, June 15; 5 eggs.
 93. Short-billed Marsh Wren, July 10; 5 eggs.
 94. White-breasted Nuthatch, May 7; 7 eggs.
 95. Chickadee, May 8; 7 eggs.
 96. Wood Thrush, June 4; 2 eggs.
 97. Wilson's Thrush, June 5; 4 eggs.
 98. Robin, May 6; 4 eggs.
 99. Bluebird, April 25; 4 eggs.

All these nests were actually examined during the season of 1913 and though there were many field trips necessary to approach the century mark, the writer feels a singular pride in doing so and believes that as a record of nesting species in these two states it will stand for years to come. Let us hear from some of the noted Ornithologists of Pennsylvania, such as Thomas H. Jackson, J. Parker Norris, R. P. Sharpless, E. J. Darlington, Frank L. Burns, G. B. Benners, Richard T. Miller, R. B. Simpson, Witmer Stone, Samuel S. Dickey, J. W. Jacobs and E. J. Campbell.

Richard C. Harlow.

A Young Ornithologist.

Dear Editor:

I am a twelve-year-old subscriber to THE OOLOGIST and think it a fine magazine. While strolling through the woods Sunday, the 22d of February, 1914, I was surprised to see at my feet a dead bird, with a broken leg, and the prettiest little bird I ever saw. I do not know whether it was a male or female, but I am sending you a picture of him and a complete description. It would oblige me very much if you will tell me about this bird. I drew this picture myself and it is life size.

Description: "Top-knot," brown; tail, gray, blending into black with the tips of golden yellow; wings, dove, darker at tips; back, brownish dove color; breast, lilac, underneath yellow; feet, black; bill, black; mouth, purple inside. I am enclosing envelope for reply and would like for you to return the picture.

Yours truly,

Boyd Taylor.

Editor of The Oologist.

Dear Sir: Your open letter to the readers of THE OOLOGIST "to help enforce the game laws" is a step in the right direction. With few exceptions, there is no body of men more fitted and willing to enforce these laws than the active collectors who know the conditions of game and birds in general, in their counties and surrounding territory better than the wardens themselves. It seems a pity therefore, to see such activity exhibited against collectors, especially by men who were collectors at one time themselves and who have risen to their present positions entirely through their former activity in collecting birds, mammals and eggs.

Mr. Sharpless' article on page 56, is only a mild form of complaint of what is heard from one end of the country to the other, the majority of whom, instead of stopping collecting continue to do so, and do not publish their data, thus losing to each and every state many fine records of various sorts. It has become so bad in some states that men who have contributed liberally to past literature are now not putting their names on skin labels or data blanks until same are out of the state. The time is close when the bird lovers and collectors will break away from such societies as countenance such activity against the best protectionists there are. Cannot such ener-

gy be directed against the prowling cat and the wandering dogs, which destroy more game than all the collectors put together?

H. H. Bailey.

We indorse every word of the above.
—Editor.

tire list from a to z, but fear to worry you with the old-fashioned ideas of one of the old school who pleads guilty to being the best friend birds have had—bar none.

Hastily yours,

H. T. Bailey.

R. M. Barnes,

Lacon, Ill.

Dear Sir: Looking over the March issue of your well conducted paper at my son's yesterday, carried me back to my old collecting days and you may gather a little wheat from the chaff herein.

You may remember I was a crank on nests, considering them the most distinguishing part of most sets. Rough-wing Swallows' holes were always started thus \circ while Bank Swallows were oval. The former were of much coarser straw, bulkier and never with feathers. Rough-winged eggs have a glossy Woodpecker texture shell while Banks are very brittle and delicate and if incubated at all, hard to make a nice set of.

Of course I had series of some species showing variation but would leave it to any ordinary ornithologist to be my judge as to whom was responsible for the decrease in birds instead of the Higher Authority who has one code for himself (elastic) and another for the average lover of birds (non-elastic). Whereas I could plead guilty to six sets of Lora Rails. The sportsmen will shoot twenty-eight to forty dozen birds a day and of course this has no effect on the decrease. Whereas on a trip to Florida I would take one set of Wild Turkeys eggs, the sportsmen would go off and shoot thirteen birds, bring them in spoiled as the heat was great, and throw them on the garbage pile. I have seen this with my own eyes and it is not hearsay. Thus I might go through the en-

Birds of the Future.

I have read, with interest, Mr. R. P. Sharpless' paper, entitled "Oologists of the Future," in the March number of THE OOLOGIST, but I cannot agree with his views where he goes to such extremes. His accusation against the Audubon Societies is "that they have been using every means to suppress the oologists and with such success that these devoted students of the natural sciences among the younger men are becoming rare." He further claims that "the only excuse for attack is that they destroy the birds." But is not THIS a sufficiently worthy cause for attack? Then he says that even this argument used by the Audubon Societies is now valueless, on account of the fact that "birds in many parts of the country are becoming so numerous as to be a serious nuisance and that there is now absolutely no reason why the oologist should not take what specimens he needs, if there ever was one." As example of his bird-increase claim he points to the fact that in the town of West Chester Crow Blackbirds are over-numerous and are a distinct annoyance. He further states that he has lately read in the papers that Ducks were very abundant in Oregon and that he has seen them so in several places.

But are not all these cases simply exceptions which prove the rule? Can it be that the hoards of bird-conservationists in this country are mistaken in believing that our bird life is rapidly diminishing? According to Mr. Sharpless they are, for he says "that

take the birds in general, they are nearly all of them more numerous than in years past.

I should like to suggest as instances of my argument that the avian forces of this country are rapidly approaching; not only a serious and telling reduction in their numbers, but in some cases facing a total annihilation; the cases of the Plover, Sandpipers, Herons, Quail, Grouse, the beneficial species of Hawks and Owls, Doves, Thrushes, Warblers and several other species of Passerines. While of course some of these may not be directly affected by the oologist, yet certainly many of them are; and the cases of all, I think, answer the contention that birds, in general, are increasing.

Where it is really publically beneficial, I would not ask the oologist to cease his work, but private collections in these days are of so little value that it certainly seems a pity to deprive the world of its avifauna for this cause.

John Dryden Kuser.

Bernardsville, N. J.

Private collections are the beginning of public collections. Few, very few, if any, of our present-day ornithologists of note but began by making a collection of eggs. Only a few days ago a number of datums, signed in a cramped boyish hand "Joe Grinnell" passed through our hands. This is the well known professor Joseph Grinnell of the University of California. This is only one case in point. The reputable private collectors will not be driven out by over-enthusiasts. Such do more injury than good to the cause of reasonable protection.—Editor.

Rough-winged Swallow Nests.

In answer to Mr. R. F. Miller's request, page 50, March issue of THE OOLOGIST, I offer my observations in connection with nest building of the Rough-winged and Bank Swallows. During many seasons observation of these birds, especially the Rough-winged, I have never found feathers in the nest of the Rough-winged, always some darker material like dry bits of leaves or pine needles. The nest referred to in Reed's North American Bird Eggs, page 282, is undoubtedly that of the Rough-wing, the lining being typical of that species.

My experience with the Bank Swallow has always been that generally feathers were used as a lining, but when not used, fine straws of light hue took the place of the dark lining in the Rough-winged nests.

A more detailed description of these two species will be found on pages 260-262, "Birds of Virginia." That Mr. Miller is a most careful observer is brought out by his noticing the picture referred to, and I only hope such close study won't lead him into the ranks of the hair splitters, for we need them in the ranks of the oologists.

H. H. Bailey.

Kindness.

While sitting by the window on the 20th of February I noticed a large bird fly into a White Cedar tree beside the woodshed door. For several days the heavy snow, wind, and unusually low temperature had made it very difficult for birds of any kind to procure food, and I started at once to find out what feathered stranger had been driven to my door by hunger and cold. One may easily imagine my surprise when approaching to within a few feet I saw a Mourning Dove settling down for the night. The temperature was below zero, yet knowing that any at-

tempt to catch such a timid bird might only result in driving it to a less sheltered place. I left it for the night. In the morning I found it in the wood-shed nearly frozen. Picking it up I placed it in a covered basket with some bread crumbs, fine bits of suet, and some water, and left it in the kitchen. By noon it had recovered completely and was eager to get out. That afternoon I took it into the laboratory at school and brought it before my classes in Biology. The next day was bright and a little warmer. When I opened the basket at the door my Mourning Dove took to flight, as eager to get away as it had been to come.

Horace F. Turner.

North Woodbury, Conn.

Feb'y. 20, 1914.

Gypsy Birds.

On February 26th I enjoyed the first Bohemian Waxwing vaudeville of my bird study. The entertainment came unannounced and though a quiet affair was none the less enjoyable.

Had not my two-year-old baby daughter called my attention to "pitty birdies" she was pointing to through the window I might never have seen my rare visitors.

Bohemian Waxwings are a common sight from northern Illinois to higher latitudes but I assure you the fortieth parallel which pierces central Illinois sees few flights of Bohemians. The Cedars, while very irregular, are apt to be seen any day. A young observer Noble Field of Bement, in the county just west of us, reported a flock of Cedar Waxwings the same week but I am suspicious that he also observed a flock of Bohemians.

The big blizzard occurred February 23d to 24th and no doubt the even dozen of northern beauties alighting in my maple tree were forced south because of it. They sat silently for

some time. Finally one began with his squeaking whistle and then all joined in the chorus. While intently observing them and realizing that it might prove my only experience, they arose in the air as one bird and sharply wheeling, soon disappeared in the south.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Ills.

Early Birds.

On January 30, 1914, while I was walking along the shore of the Brandywine, which is the name of a stream running through the northern part of the city, I heard the rattling charr-r-r, carr-r-r, of the Belted Kingfisher. Upon investigation, I found two Belted Kingfishers feeding and flying along the shores of the stream. The Belted Kingfisher does not usually get here until March.

E. M. Kenworthy.

Wilmington, Del.

A Runt Song Sparrow's Egg.

On May 16, 1913, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa., I found a Song Sparrow's nest upon the ground in a bunch of thick nettles by a clump of Young Willows, along a creek. It held one runt egg which I collected as I noticed that a brood of these birds had been raised in the nest by the excreta-smearred rim, and nesting scales in the bottom. The nest was typical.

The runt egg is now in my collection. It was yolk-less. It is short, or rounded oval in shape, grayish white in color, profusely streaked and spotted all over, with reddish-brown and sub-shell markings of pale lavender, thickest on the larger end. It measures only .52 x .44 inches.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

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Whole No. 322

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WITH NATURE

The cliff-top has a carpet
Of lilac, gold, and green:
The blue sky bounds the ocean,
The white clouds seud between.

A flock of gulls are wheeling
And wailing round by seat;
Above my head the heaven,
The sea beneath my feet.
—*Dr. Robert Bridges.*

CLEAN.

In the February number of THE OÖLOGIST I had an adv. for specimens of wood. I received many answers and made several exchanges and must say that I have dealt with a fine and honest set of men as can be found. So much for a clean paper and one that is growing in good work. Keep on.—*S. V. Wharran.*

COLLECTING BIRDS EGGS.

What is Needed—Preparing Specimens.

R. Magoon Barnes.

H

It is useless, even wanton, to collect eggs of our birds unless with a definite purpose. Eggs are absolutely worthless or worse unless properly collected, prepared, preserved and recorded. To do these things one must be equipped with some things, chiefest of which is a settled determination to do whatever is done well.

First of all you will want a note-book in which to record your observations. Do not rely on memory for anything, the fuller and more complete the notes the better. From two to a half dozen egg drills and a blow-pipe or two are necessary. Get the "cut the lining" kind of drills of assorted sizes. These with the blow-pipes may be had of dealers in such instruments. They should be thoroughly cleansed after each using. Some sort of a receptacle, a cigar box filled with cotton or something of the kind is necessary to carry eggs in while afield and a safe and secure one in which to keep them after coming home. A copy of the American Ornithologists List (The A. O. U. List) and either "Bailey's Birds of the Western United States," or Chapman's "Birds of Eastern North America" will be well nigh indispensable. Likewise Charles K. Reed's "North American Birds Eggs" or Oliver Davies' "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" will be found of some help.

Assuming you have some or all of the above let us start out some bright spring morning in quest of specimens. The sun is bright and warm; there is a slight balmy South wind. Spring is wearing her splendid garb of fresh, bright green and her brow is garlanded with bloom of riotous color while perfume floats in the air. With a collector's box full of cotton slung over

our shoulder and our note-book in our pocket we start out, full of anticipation and life.

We know the Woodpeckers nest in holes, and Meadowlarks on the ground while Robins in trees and Indigo Buntings in bushes. We are starting a collection and of course begin with the common varieties.

Suppose we find a Robin's nest in an Apple tree. Here is what we do or should do. First make absolutely sure it is a Robin—of course we know a Robin, but later we may find some nests where we do not know the birds. So begin right now to look and be certain of the identity of the owner of the nest. Then we climb up and peep into the nest. Only two eggs! An incomplete set so we leave them and pass on.

Next we find a Blue Bird's nest in an abandoned Woodpecker's hole in a small dead limb of an Apple tree. We are first very sure it is a Blue Bird. The identity of the bird is ALWAYS first. Then we look into the nest. Five fresh eggs! Good! Our first specimen for "our collection." How shall we get them out? Our hand is too large to get into the hole. It is not so very far to the house and we go back and borrow a saw. Slowly and very carefully we saw the small limb off below the nest and lower it to the ground, turn it slightly over and take a spoon out of our pocket and lift out the beautiful blue eggs one at a time. These we roll separately in cotton and place in our cigar box. Then we take our note-book out and sit down and enter the following:

"(1) 766a-5. Nest 7 feet up in an abandoned Woodpecker's hole in dead limb of an Apple tree in an orchard. Birds seen, eggs fresh, nest saved. Remarks. This nest was on the south side of the tree and the opening was toward the south east. The cavity

was 9 inches deep and the opening $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across. Nest typical, of fine grasses, weeds and feathers."

Then we replace the note-book in our pocket and place the figure (1) on the nest stub, stand it up against the foot of the tree where we can get it when we return home, and pass on.

Next we find a Phoebe's nest under a bridge across the road, stuck onto one of the projecting rocks of the retaining walls. The bird is gone in a flash but we know her. The nest contains six eggs, a very unusual number, but they show signs of incubation, however we decide to chance it so carefully remove the eggs and as with the Blue Bird's eggs roll each one carefully in cotton and place them in our collecting box. Then, after removing the nest and wrapping it in a newspaper cornu copia and marking it (2), we enter in our note-book:

"(2) 456a-6. Nest stuck on a projecting stone of a retaining wall of a bridge across the Lacon and Henry road 5 miles north of Lacon, 7 feet above the creek bed and 3 feet from bridge floor. Birds seen. Nest of rootlets, moss, fine grass and mud, lined with hair and feathers. Eggs, six, a very unusually large number; incubation commenced. Nest saved."

We pass on and find a Kingfisher's nest in a hole in the cut bank of this same creek. As the birds fly about we admit we are for sure stumped. We remember reading in one of Wood's books that the nest of this bird was almost untakable in its natural state and likewise have a vivid recollection of reading in THE OOLOGIST Vol. xxvi, page 92 of the tragic death of Richard Smithwick, who dug into a bank after a nest of this species and crawled into the hole he dug when the earth caved in on him and smothered him. But we must have these eggs! Are we not forming a

collection of eggs and we have no Kingfisher's eggs yet. Well we go to a nearby farm house and borrow a spade. As luck would have it the nest was not over three feet below the top so we scramble up to the nest hole and insert an arm full length without finding anything but air. Then we get a small switch and push it as far as possible with the same result. This makes fully six feet of the tunnel we have explored. Then we go up on top and dig down to the burrow. To our surprise we find it at two feet and four inches, showing it slopes upward. After cleaning away the dirt and digging almost two times as much as was really necessary in the hot sun, we get where we can see the eggs. Seven of them at the enlarged end of this nine foot tunnel, lying there on the soil with only a few straws about them. Disappointed? Yes! Where is the beautifully fashioned and delicately assembled nest of white fish bones and scales that I had been taught to expect? A Myth? Yes, and nothing more. Then the eggs were not as white as we had expected. Or are they dirty? Yes, and they, like Woodpecker's eggs, must be the most carefully cleaned both inside and out of all dirt, foreign matter and the last vestige of contents with perfectly clear water, else the taking of them is in vain. They will surely spot and blotch and ultimately become entirely ruined unless this care is used in preparing them. We pack these specimens, with more care and more cotton because they are larger and heavier. Then we carefully collect the few straws composing the nest, place them in some more newspaper marked (3) and in our pocket. Then we enter in our note-book:

"(3) 390a-7. Nest in a burrow 9 feet deep in the side of a creek bank 7 feet above the creek and 3 feet

down from the surface in sandy soil, composed of a few straws at the enlarged end, and sloping upward. Opening 4 x 3 inches. Birds seen; eggs dirty but fresh."

Then we start home. Across the fields we travel when suddenly from under foot flutters a mass of feathers. Finally it rises awing and floats away. A Meadow Lark! Looking down we see a tuft of grass with a small opening in the side. Peering in, five fresh eggs are disclosed and transferred, cotton-wrapped, to our collecting box. Then we sit down beside the nest and enter in our note-book:

"501a-5. Nest on the ground in a pasture, partially sunk into the ground, in the middle of a tuft of last year's grass arched over and lined with finer grasses. Eggs fresh. Female flushed from nest. Nest saved."

Nest saved! Yes. But how? As we are not far from our own home we go there, get another spade and a small box 8 x 10 inches and three inches deep. We carefully cut the sod around the nest and under it to the same size and depth as the box, being careful at all times not to in the least disturb the nest or grasses about it, and slip the spade under it, setting the sod with the nest into the box. All the time we are handling the whole affair most delicately, else we ruin it. And if properly and carefully done, we have preserved one of the very hardest kind of specimens,—a ground sunken nest amid vegetation.

We then go home for the day with four nests and four sets of eggs.

Cardinal at Warren, Penna.

The Cardinal Grosbeak as a rule only occurs here at intervals as a straggler. While common enough in the southern part of this state it is only at long intervals that one is seen here.

This winter a pair have been living about town. They have been here all winter and are still with us. It has been a severe winter too, with heavy snows and many zero mornings; one morning 24 degrees below. A few days ago the female flew against an office window and was killed but the male is still here.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Penna.

Large Sets.

I find that on the 9th day of April, 1911, my brother and I collected a set of Crow eggs numbering nine. We had never heard of a set of more than six being collected before.

We have in our collection three sets of three Mourning Dove. We once found a set of four, but they just hatched, so we haven't the eggs to show for that.

A set of five Yellow-billed Cuckoo has a permanent place in our collection, collected on the 10th day of July, 1911, about two weeks before we found the four Dove eggs and in the same nest.

Also we have a set of five Blue Grosbeak collected the sixth of June, 1911. Is fives of Blue Grosbeak very unusual?

L. B. and Logan I. Evans.

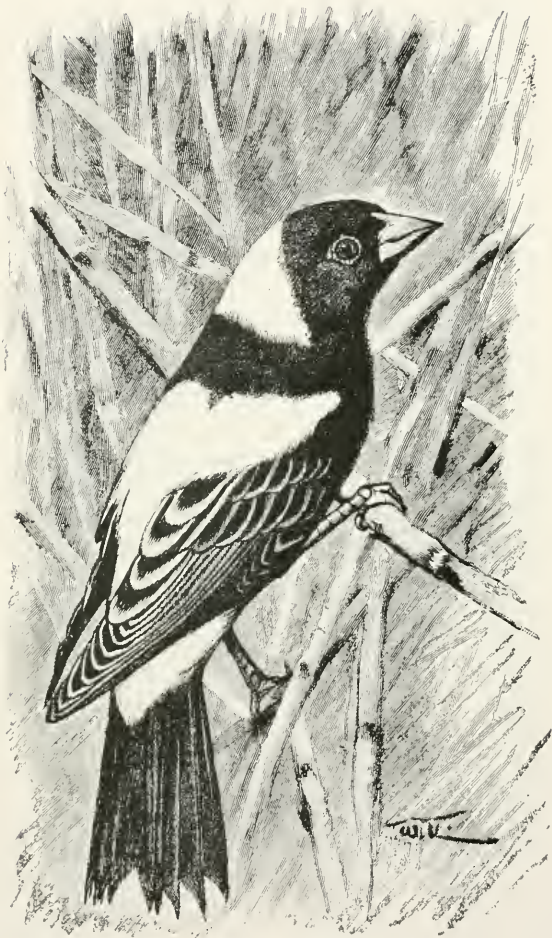
Wilsey, Kan.

In our collection is a set of nine eggs of the common Crow, which were collected twenty miles southwest of Lacon and sold to Harry R. Taylor of Nidologist fame. When he broke up his collection we purchased the set and they now rest in our cabinet within twenty miles of where they were laid.

Sets of five Yellow-billed Cuckoo are not very unusual.—Editor.

Large Set Bewick's Wren.

Riley Halleman reports a set of 11 Bewick's Wren eggs taken at San



Male Bobolink

Antonio, Texas, this spring. This is the largest set of which we have any knowledge.

Bobolink.

Dolychonyx Oryzivorus, also called in the Southern States, Reed- or Rice-bird.

Of all our natural songsters the Bobolink is the most noted and popular. Descriptions of his songs so frequently appear in literature, that even those who have not heard it, must form a good idea of its enchanting music.

"That rollicking jubilant whistle,

That rolls like a brooklet along—
That sweet flageolet of the meadows,
The hubbling Bobolink song."

The Bobolink is too well known to need description.—They enter the Southern States the last of March or the first of April and by the middle of May have reached their summer homes in our immediate vicinity.

When the Bobolink comes to us in May he is wearing his bridal dress of black and buff, and very attractive it is. His mate or wife is quite differently attired in a streaked sparrow like costume. After family cares are over, in common with all birds, both Bobolink and his wife, shed their now worn plumage and an entire new one is grown, and the male looks very much like the female. The bright colors have disappeared.

The nest of the Bobolink is exceedingly difficult to find. It is built in a natural cavity of the ground, among the tall grasses of a meadow. We had seen several male Bobolinks on this side of Stony Point, on the then called Tift farm. Being provided with a long rope of 60 feet or more, we tied the ends to the lower part of our leg and trailed, keeping a sharp lookout along the rope. Within twenty minutes we had found two nests.

Several years later, near the Tonawanda Swamp, about fifty miles north-east of Buffalo, N. Y., a friend of ours, went a little ways from the farm-house early in the morning, climbed on the roof of a schoolhouse, and silently watched when the male Bobolink flew to the nest, we supposed to bring food to his mate. He located the place and found easily from four to six nests.

They lay from five to seven eggs, and queer to say, each set is differently colored and marked, no two sets alike.

After raising their brood they gather in flocks and return to the Southern States and are found in immense numbers in the rice-fields and marshes, and are trapped and caught in large quantities, to be sent to the Hotels in Washington, where they are served as Rice- or Reed-Birds. If the Bobolink would not be well protected in our Northern States, they would have been exterminated long ago. To my knowledge they have increased in this locality.

From the rice-fields they migrate to South America and have been observed south of the Amazon River where they again drape themselves in bridal-dress for their return to the United States where the

Bobolink has come, and like the soul of a sweet season, vocal in a bird, gurgles in ecstasy we know not what. Save June! Dear June! Now God be praised for June.

Ottomar Reinecke.

**Nesting of the Northern Pileated
Woodpecker.**

Of the various birds found in the Pennsylvania forests, none possesses the attraction for me that the Pileated Woodpecker does. He is at once so reserved, so lordly that his very presence lends an air of nobility to his surroundings.



"Arroyo Largo," Typical Isle of Pines Stream

—Photo by A. C. Read.

When I arrived at State College, some six years since, I soon discovered that the surrounding mountain side held many good things but their distance from College and the character of the country made short trips almost an impossibility. The Woodpeckers seemed limited to the big slashings of the mountain country and the timbered swamps. Frequently I saw the birds but the great distance which they travel made it exceedingly difficult to trace them to their homes. At last in the spring of 1912, I located a pair in March that were drilling a hole in a big, dead sugar maple in a dense wooded swamp some four miles from the College. All during March and April the female bird could be found working at the hole, while the male kept guard near by and warned her with his flicker-like calls.

About April 20, the female appeared to be sitting but I gave her ten days more and when I climbed the tree on April 30, the action of the female made me almost sure that there were eggs. However I wanted to be sure and as the location of the nest prohibited the use of a mirror or the cutting out of a small piece of wood, I still left the nest. On May 2d, I returned and flushed the female from the hole. On climbing up the dangerous, dead stub and cutting out the hole, my chagrin may well be imagined when I found but two pearly white fresh eggs. The hole was of course ruined and the birds left though they were very fearless about the nest. The hole was two feet deep and went straight in for six inches before it turned down into the heart of the tree. The distance to the ground was forty feet. In 1913 this swamp was all cut out and no trace of the woodpeckers could be found.

In 1912 I also located a pair in a dense slashing in Huntington County

some fourteen miles from College, but was unable to find the nest. Early in 1913 I located this pair again and found them working on a tree near the edge of a swamp. On May 7th, Mr. Samuel Dickey and myself went to this swamp and Mr. Dickey found the nest, with four fresh eggs, recorded in a recent number of THE OOLOGIST. Several other pairs were located but no further nests were found at this time.

I had about given up hopes for any further success with the Pileated Woodpecker during this year when I took a trip to La Anna, Pike County, on May 16. Here in the Pocono Mountains I knew the birds nested but they were extremely wary and rare and the large wooded areas amply concealed the few nesting pairs.

On the morning of May 18, after attending Sunday School, I walked up a little path through a small section of primeval Hemlock and hardwoods to visit a couple of nests I had found previously. First I stopped at a Winter Wren's nest under the roots of an upturned Hemlock but it was empty and the lining was partly torn out. A little farther on I stopped to inspect a beautiful nest of the Northern Water Thrush holding three eggs. As I neared the upper end of the woods I was surprised to hear the ringing call of the Pileated Woodpecker. I started looking about and in a few moments saw a large hole seventy feet up in a partly dead top of a Sugar Maple. In response to a hurried thump on the tree a scarlet crested head appeared at the hole. After dinner I changed my clothes and procuring a large leather strap, returned to the tree with my fiance. It was fifty feet to the first limb and I could not reach half way around the trunk but I wanted that nest. Now it is quite a job to take two hundred and twenty

pounds, fifty feet up in a tree so I fastened myself on with a strap and started the ascent. About thirty feet up a White-breasted Nuthatch flew out of a knot-hole into my face and looking in I saw seven pretty eggs, but as they appeared very glossy and incubated I did not disturb them. The Woodpeckers hole faced southeast and was bored straight in for four inches and then down twenty-two inches where it enlarged into a pear-shaped cavity. Here lay the four eggs. They would probably have hatched in three more days but by great care and the use of caustic potash, they were saved as perfect specimens.

Richard C. Harlow.

Tufted Titmouse Notes.

The Tufted Titmouse (*Bacolophus bicolor*) is an abundant resident in the woodlands of Harris County, Texas, and a trip cannot be made in such woodlands without seeing large numbers of these birds in company with Plumbeous Chickadees, as they search through the tree-tops and among the branches of the moss-covered deciduous saplings on the edges of woods.

As common as the Titmouse is during the breeding season I had never found a nest with a set of eggs.

Indeed, in May, 1911, I had located a nest of this bird high up in a dead and swaying pine stump thirty feet from the ground. But the trunk was a good three feet in diameter and offered very little hold. I buckled on my climbers, but it was no use for each time I socked my climbers in as deep as I could I simply gouged out large hunks of the rotten wood. The birds evidently had young as I saw them carry what appeared to be small insects into the cavity.

But on March 23, 1913, while out for a day with the birds in company

with Mr. C. L. Brock of Houston, we happened to pass an old oak stump some twenty feet high and one foot in diameter, which was about a hundred feet or so from the edge of a strip of timber west of Houston. No birds were in sight, so it was with little hope that I climbed up and searched each broken branch. The tree was swaying with my weight and I was preparing to climb down when I heard a rustling in a stub of a five inch limb. Pulling the bark away I found a Titmouse setting in a small natural cavity between the bark and the solid wood of the limb.

No manner of pounding would make the bird leave the nest, so as a last resort I stuck in two fingers and grasped her by the tail feathers and yanked her forth. Before I could secure a good hold on her she slipped from my fingers.

She lit on a pine branch about six feet off and began a loud scolding and calling and was soon joined by the male. To make identification of the set of eggs certain I called to Mr. Brock and he secured the female with a well directed load of mustard-seed from my .22. Later examination showed that she was a typical easterner and not one of the many intermediate so often run into in this county.

Turning my attention to the nest, I found that it was placed in said natural cavity about eleven inches from the entrance; the branch was about six inches long and the nest was thusly seen to be about five inches into the trunk of the tree, the wood of which was very rotten. The nest was a mass of various kinds of rubbish; pieces of dead elm leaves, horse hair, cast off snake skin, little chips of the oak bark, pieces of dead grass, cow hair, small green lichens, weeds, and fine plant fibres were all thrown together with no sign of lining. The

eggs were five in number, nearly fresh, and very well-marked specimens, although the markings were somewhat fainter than is usual with the species.

I could not see for the world how the bird managed to get out of the cavity. It seemed easy enough for her to get in, by going head first, but there was not room enough for her to turn around and she would have been compelled to back out; there was barely enough room in the back part of the cavity for her to squeeze in over the eggs.

These five eggs measure: .72 x .56, .72 x .55, .73 x .56, .70 x .56 and .71 x .56 inches.

One intermediate between the eastern form and the Sennett's Titmouse, collected about four and a half miles west of Houston, contained a small tape worm or hook worm of some sort in between the intestines, and it is a wonder to me that the bird was as healthy and fat as it seemed to be. The tiny parasite immediately died on being brought into the cold winter air, the bird having been skinned afield.

Finlay Simmons.

Houston, Texas.

Elevated Nests of the Towhee.

On June 26, 1910, I found a nest of the Towhee in some scrubby growth near Oil City, Pa. The nest was typical in every way but was placed four feet up in some beech sprouts, much after the fashion of the nests of the Cardinal. At that time the female was sitting on two eggs.

Again on August 7, 1912, I found a Chewink's nest near Edge Hill, Montgomery County, Penna., with the female sitting on the half incubated eggs. The nest was up probably three feet in the forks of some young White Oak sprouts along the road and again resembled greatly the situation chosen by the Cardinal.

The writer desires to add these two instances to the several published records of this trait of some Chewinks. The fact remains however, that the Chewink is preeminently a ground nesting occasionally in such species as the Brown Thrasher and Dove.

Richard C. Harlow.

Henry W. Beers.

We regret to chronicle the death of Henry W. Beers of Bridgeport, Connecticut, for many years a subscriber to THE OOLOGIST, and a member of the leading circle of collectors of birds, skins, nests and eggs. His death was caused by pneumonia after a two months' illness and he leaves a wife and six months old boy, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

It was a regret at the time that we did not meet Mr. Beers when at Bridgeport last summer. His collection is full of rare specimens and choice material.

What Are They?

I have 1-5 marked Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher that came from the collection of the late Wm. B. Crispin. The eggs are very pale cream color, glossy. One egg is marked all over with small reddish and lavender dots. One is similar to the first only the dots are more indistinct. The others are almost plain but show a similarity. The sizes of the five eggs are 1.00 x .68, 1.00 x .67, 1.00 x .68, .92 x .65, .87 x .64. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher eggs look like Crested Flycatchers while these are more like Martins. The data reads as follows:

No. 451 Name, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. Collected by F. B. Armstrong. Locality, Tampica, Mexico. Date, May 17, 1904. Set mark, 18-5. Incubation

fresh. Eggs in set, five. Identity, no question. Nest, Feathers, wood and so forth in deserted cavity of Golden-fronted Woodpecker.

I have looked through Reed's book several times to see if I could place this set and failed completely. The Sulphur bellied Flycatcher lays five eggs and they nest in a deserted cavity and it is apparent the set is some kind of a Flycatcher. Can anyone suggest a name for them? Who is the man that traded them to Crispin? If he reads this please write and state where and how he got them.

E. J. Darlington.

Wilmington, Del.

Plumbeous Chickadee.

In Harris County, Texas, the Plumbeous Chickadee is a common resident, and breeds sparingly. In winter they are common in all woodlands in company with Titmice and Kinglets and roam through the tree tops in small droves, searching in the bark of the trees for insects and insect eggs, upon which they feed most commonly.

The majority of cavities are excavated by the birds themselves, and only on one or two occasions have I found a nest in a natural cavity or a cavity dug by woodpeckers.

March 28, 1911, I discovered a cavity with entrance in the top of the china-berry stump which the birds had selected. Green branches grew all around the jagged break and completely hid the entrance, which was seven feet from the ground. The cavity was seven inches deep and three eggs were resting on a scanty lining. I watched this nest for some time but no more eggs were laid.

More nests were found until April 15th of that year; on that day I found a nest in a fence post along an old country road running west of Houston.

The parent bird was on the nest so I tried to scare her off; that wouldn't work so I took a small twig and tried to lift her off. It had no effect whatever, except to make her stick closer to the nest. After a great deal of trouble I managed to flush her and found that the nest contained two eggs, one of normal size and the other a tiny runt.

June 1, 1910, I had the luck to find a Chickadee nest containing three half-grown young, which shows to what a late date they will nest.

The Chickadees are very antagonistic, and in early March, 1912, I observed a pair drive a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches from a newly finished cavity and take possession.

March 30, 1912, I found a nest in a dead pine stump in a large clearing in the pine woods west of Houston. The nest was in a natural cavity in the side of the stump four and a half feet from the ground, probably caused by a pithy chunk of the wood falling out. The cavity was 3½ inches deep and 2 inches wide and contained a mass of fine green moss and lichens, cedar bark and a few feathers. It contained four eggs, somewhat incubated.

April 20, 1912, I examined a Chickadee's nest in a post in the center of a plowed field about a hundred yards from a strip of timber. The year previous a Red-headed Woodpecker had excavated his domicile and reared a fine brood of young. The Chickadees had slightly deepened the cavity, making it 12 inches in depth, and packed the bottom with a mass of lichens and tiny buds of the elm tree. It contained five piped eggs.

May 12, 1912, I found a nest of five fully fledged young in a dead pine stump in a clearing south of Houston. This cavity was nine feet up, the highest I have ever found one of these nests.

March 22, 1913, I stopped to look at a last year's Brown-headed Nuthatch cavity which I had had the misfortune to cause the birds to desert on March 9th of the previous year, and which on April 13th had contained five Bluebird eggs. I found a Chickadee had taken possession and deepened the cavity. Tearing off the side of the cavity I counted seven well-marked eggs. The nesting material was composed principally of cow and horse hair, and contained downy hen feathers, pieces of leaves, plant fibre, fine grasses, cedar bark, tiny chips from the work of the Chickadees, small pieces of cotton and a few tiny green lichens.

Nearly every one of the Chickadee nests are found in fence posts along the edges of country roads skirting timber, and not far from farm houses.

Both parents appear to set on the eggs, which usually hatch in eleven or twelve days. The young stay in the nest about two weeks, always hungry and keep the parents hopping to secure food for them.

Three appears to be as common a number of eggs in a set as any; the set of seven mentioned above is the largest set I have ever found. The set of four eggs collected March 30, 1912, measures: .59 x .45, .59 x .46, .59 x .46, and .59 x .45 inches. The set collected March 22, 1912, was fresh and measures .55 x .46, .57 x .45, .59 x .45, .59 x .44, .57 x .46, .59 x .45, and .57 x .46 inches. The runt egg mentioned above as collected on April 15, 1911, is of normal shape, had perfect markings and looked like a miniature of the average Chickadee egg, for in size it measured .30 x .26 inches, by far the smallest egg of any kind that I have ever seen.

Finlay Simmons.

Houston, Texas.

The Gold Finch.

On July 24, 1913, I found the nest of a Gold Finch, containing five eggs and one Cowbird's egg. Was somewhat surprised on noticing the Cowbird's egg. Thinking this rather uncommon, I took the eggs, and nest because it is the first time, that I ever saw this species containing the egg of the Cowbird. The set was fresh, and easy to blow.

On July 13, 1913, I took nest and eggs—a set of four—with one Cowbird's egg.

Red Backed Sandpiper Eggs.

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Attention "Ye Editor."

Mr. Reinecke of Buffalo, New York, recites his interesting record as to the occurrence in his community of the Red-backed Sandpiper. Mr. Reinecke even goes so far as to conclude his remarks by stating eggs of this bird are, to the best of his knowledge, unknown in collections. This might be an appropriate time for me to refer to my series of Shore Birds' eggs and supply a little data as to the breeding of the American Dunlin.

Probably the most interesting of my four sets of Red-backed Sandpiper, is a set of three taken, together with the parent, at Green Bay, Wisconsin. This capture was made by Mr. A. J. Schonnebeck, one of the pioneer Ornithologists of Wisconsin, and an Honorary member of the Milwaukee Academy of Sciences.

I know of no other record for the United States. Another clutch is the take of Mr. Wm. E. Snyder of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, who was with the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences' expedition collecting at Point Barrow, Alaska, in 1898. The other two sets are from Franklin Bay and identified as well founded in every instance.

I might add that Mr. Joseph Grin-

nell, who collected the eggs of the Hudsonian Curlew, which are in my collection, has also procured the eggs of the American Dunlin in the vicinity of Kowak Delta, Alaska.

Sincerely,
Gerald Alan Abbott.

Subscribers.

We are getting short of "copy." Get busy. Copy without photos is wanted, as well as that accompanied by photos relating to rare birds. Help us in keeping up THE OOLOGIST.—Editor.

Peculiar Nesting of the Scarlet Tanager.

In spite of the fact that the Tanager is a common breeding bird over the larger part of the state of Pennsylvania lying within the Alleghanian and Canadian life zones, I have never found but very few of their nests. The clear, cheerful song of the male is frequently heard but to the author at least the nesting secrets have always been an enigma.

It was with pleasure then that on July 10th, 1909, I heard the harsh "chip-churr" of the female which usually means that a nest is close by. A short search revealed it, placed in the fork of a horizontal yellow birch about eighteen feet above the water of one of those trout streams for which the Pocono Mountains are justly famous. The set of four almost fresh eggs were typical in all particulars but were unfortunately broken before blowing.

I often passed over a bridge near this point and heard both Tanagers. Owing to the lateness of the season, I supposed that no second attempt at nesting would be made. Imagine, therefore, when on the morning of July 21st the female was observed starting a nest on a horizontal limb of a yellow birch directly over the

road. The nest was completed on July 27th and on the 29th held one egg, readily discernible from the road. On August 4th the nest was collected and was found to contain a handsome set of five eggs.

Owing to my small experience with the Tanager I can not speak with authority concerning the size of their sets but I was under the impression that complete sets almost invariably consisted of three or four eggs and had never heard of a set of five. At all events, a second setting of five at a date so late in August and from a pair which had previously laid but four eggs is worthy of notice.

Richard C. Harlow.

Scarlet Tanager.

Anyone who has seen the male Scarlet Tanager in his natural Habitat, with his body of iridescent red, blended with his wings and tail of lustrous black, could not fail to appreciate the unexcelled beauty of this bird. In looking for the nest the collector is assisted by hearing the call note of jep-there, jep-there, jep-there. The nest is pretty sure to be some where in the vicinity. They generally place the nest near the end of a horizontal limb from 15 to 30 feet from the ground, on the edge of a woods, over a road or near a path.

I found a nest May 27th, 1906 with four eggs and one Cowbird at Pocopson, Pa., in Black Oak 21 feet from the ground and 18 feet out. The nest was over a public road and the only way to get the eggs was to stand a ladder on end, brace it with ropes one way while my brother held it from going side-ways. I secured the nest and eggs.

On June 19, 1909, I found a nest near Wilmington, Del., with three eggs, incubation commenced, near the end of a limb about 15 feet high in an Oak

tree on the edge of woods. I got a friend to collect this set as I was too heavy to go out on the limb. As he went out the limb bent down with his weight until he was nearly upright—heels first. It was amusing to see him back up the limb with the nest in one hand giving vent to his feelings with numerous grunts until he had them safe.

E. J. Darlington.

Wilmington, Del.

900 Kinds of Birds in the Canal Zone.

On one little island in Gatun lake, formerly known as Lion hill, before the impounded waters of the Chagras river isolated it from the rest of the canal zone, are more species of birds than in any one locality in the western hemisphere. E. A. Goldman of the biological survey, department of agriculture, in two short collecting trips to Panama, has procured about 300 different species of birds and it is estimated that a larger variety is to be found within the limits of the canal zone than in any one state in the United States—about 900. In the neighborhood of Gatun at the Atlantic entrance of the canal alone no less than 250 species have been found.

After Great Blue Herons With Will Crispin.

Of a number of field trips taken during 1913, the recollection of none is so sacred in my mind as is the one to the Great Blue Herony near Salem, New Jersey. True, no rare specimens were found but it marked the last outing which I took with my friend, Will Crispin, ere he fell in pursuit of the Peregrine's nest at Nockamixon. Will had invited me down some time before and as I was near Philadelphia at that time in search of Long Eared Owls and Duck Hawks I decided to take a chance on the earliness of the season and run down on April 8th.

I reached Woodstown, New Jersey, at about 6 p. m., where Will met me in his car and we started for the woods about four miles outside of Woodstown. Along the road a number of interesting birds were observed, among them being a pair of imported Hungarian Pheasants. We left the car along the road near the big woods and started through the heavy timber, startling several flocks of Turkey Buzzards from the leafless trees on the way. As we reached the outskirts of the Herony, the great birds stood up on their nests and then sailed over us in the dusk uttering their harsh cries. Probably sixteen pairs of birds were breeding in this place, the nests being placed well up in the tops of the tall, straight chestnuts from sixty-five to eighty-five feet above the ground in a high, dry section of the woods.

The first nest I inspected was sixty-eight feet up in a triple crotch of a Chestnut, being a very large structure of sticks and twigs, slightly cupped and somewhat lined with cat-briar. It held but two eggs and as a nest in a nearby tree which Will ascended at the same time likewise held but two our hopes fell.

However, after a seventy-four foot climb I reached the next nest, built in the same manner in a double crotch and found a fine set of five eggs which to Will's astonishment proved a week incubated when they were blown. All the trees and nests were somewhat spattered with the chalky excrements of the birds.

The next nest I reached was seventy-five feet up in a double fork and also held five eggs.

Nearby I hurriedly ascended to a very large nest about eighty feet up and found another set of five eggs, incubated several days. It was now nearly dark but I made one more climb to a nest seventy-two feet up in the

double forks of a large Chestnut and was rewarded by a set of six eggs, incubated about four days.

There were a number of other nests at this place but I was well content and we hurried back to the machine through the deepening shadows, congratulating ourselves that the Herons had been so early. The evening was spent blowing the eggs and looking over Will's magnificent collection of personally taken sets. Little did I think as we planned together that the Peregrines which interested Will so greatly would be the cause of Oology losing one of its best caste while the world would mourn one of the finest men she ever produced. And my eyes fill up yet as I recall his cheery "Good luck, Richard" with which he bade me his last earthly farewell.

Richard C. Harlow.

A Day of Records.

June 6, 1912, was cloudy with occasional showers, and as it had rained and stormed the night before the day was cool and just right for a ramble so I concluded to put in the day down the river at my old stamping grounds. After an hour's walk I turned off and worked along the side of a mountain. This mountain is very steep and rises straight from the river's edge. It is covered with a thick forest of mostly hemlock and in summer is the home of some of the rarer breeders. Although Blackburnian, Black-throated Blues and Greens, Canadians and Hooded Warblers, as well as Juncos, Winter Wrens and Solitary Vireos were singing about I saw no nests of interest and finally came to the top of one of the numerous cliffs or slides.

As I stepped out on the rocks on top of this cliff, there not thirty feet below me sat an adult Bald Eagle on a fallen hemlock. We saw each other at the same time and the old fellow

exceeded the speed limit getting away from that vicinity. Eagles are sometimes seen here along the river but are usually in the gray plumage. Adults are seldom seen so here was something worth recording for a starter.

About the bars and islands at my favorite ducking grounds I found plenty of Spotted Sandpipers and flushed a female off her four eggs on a little grassy spot on the gravel bars. There were several Killdeer and green Herons about, also one Great blue, a few Crows and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks.

On the first flat amid the tangle and rank growth the Mourning Warblers were singing everywhere. Taking a stick I hunted about carefully and in a short time I found a nest containing two eggs. The mosquitoes were such a pest though that I soon had to quit and go back on the second flat in the heavier timber. Here I found several nests of the Magnolia Warbler and out on the limb of a hemlock I found a Blackburnian's nest containing one egg. On visiting this nest a few days later I found it had been robbed by a squirrel or Jay.

In a lot of low brush I saw a beautiful nest of the Hooded Warbler containing four eggs.

Along a little stream where the timber was open and all hardwood, I was watching a Redstart working on a nearly finished nest when I heard a strange note. It seemed familiar and I quickly remembered it from my West Virginia experiences. I soon found the author and sure enough it was an Acadian Flycatcher. While watching it I saw it was building a nest. Visiting the place later on I found the female sitting on three eggs. This record alone was well worth the trip to me, for although a common enough bird far south of us, this is

the only time I ever saw the bird here. So it not only added a new one to my county list but added a new one to my list of breeding birds.

As it had rained at intervals and the brush was very wet, I was pretty well soaked so headed back to the river, coming out at a little field. I had just about reached the bank of the river when I saw a Hawk flying down over the middle of the stream. A flock of swallows were in hot pursuit. When nearly opposite me a couple of Crows flying over, turned and started in pursuit. The Hawk then turned and came in right past me. As it neared me it uttered a peculiar note. A sort of rapidly repeated "kak, kak, kak," quite different from any hawk note with which I was familiar. As it passed me very close and low down I saw it had a Swallow in its talons. I could also see its markings very plainly and had no trouble recognizing an adult Duck Hawk. If I had only had my old "Parker" along I would have secured a fine specimen and something new. This is the only Duck Hawk I ever saw to recognize, although I have often wondered why I never met it during migrations.

I saw nothing more unusual on my way home but was very much pleased with the result of this trip for even if I didn't add anything to my collection, I added two new birds to my County list, also a new breeder besides having spent a very interesting day.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Penna.

A Peculiar Nest of the Clapper Rail.

Along the whole New Jersey sea coast the Clapper Rail is everywhere an abundant bird. Time was, when the natives sallied forth with basket and collected their eggs as a delicacy for the table but stringent laws have since put an end to this practice. As

a rule the birds are limited to the salt meadows, skilking in the long marsh grass and along the edges of the streams which penetrate the marshes in all directions.

It was late in May, the 22d, to be exact, of the year that I was exploring a tract of country near Cape May, New Jersey. The object of my search was the Henslow's Sparrow and with this bird in mind I had turned back from the salt marshes to the drier fields covered with a growth of last year's dead grass. The presence of a singing male in a small field promised a possible reward and I started on a systematic search, beating the clumps of dead grass with a switch, when suddenly a large brown bird jumped clumsily up in front of me. Glancing down I saw the nest, hidden under a large tuft of dead grass, rather scantily built and containing ten eggs of the Clapper Rail. Meanwhile the bird from a distance of about sixty yards kept up a noisy clatter.

Now the peculiar feature of this nest was the fact that it was placed in a high, dry field, covered with dead grass, surrounded on all sides by woods and fully half a mile from the salt meadows. Why the bird came to leave her accustomed haunts I am at a loss to know. The constant persecution by the Field Crows on the salt meadows does much to decrease the number of eggs hatched but I am loath to credit the Rail with an amount of intelligence that would direct it to the safety of the locality where it was found.

Richard C. Harlow.

I think THE OOLOGIST is getting better with every issue.

Richard F. Miller.

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JUNE

The Warbler Month.

We are giving you this month an OÖLOGIST almost exclusively dedicated to the Warbler family. These tiny bits of bird life are among the most remarkable of our birds. Interesting at all times to all bird students, attractive at all times to everybody, because of their manifold activities, beautiful plumage and wonderful range of habits and habitat. Covering the continent as they do from the southernmost part of Florida to the northernmost lands of Alaska, their mission seems to be to pass through the more temperate zone just at the time the forests are budding into bloom and breaking into foliage; they search the innermost recesses of the new growth for the minute insect life which would be destructive beyond measure.

We hope the present issue of THE OÖLOGIST will be satisfactory to our readers, even though a few of the illustrations you will find therein have been published before.—The Editor.

The Black and White Warbler.

(*Mniotilta varia*.)

Throughout the northern counties of New Jersey, especially in Passaic, Bergen, Sussex and Warren Counties, this striped black and white Warbler is a common summer resident. They arrive in this section from April 25th to May 4th and remain, in more or less abundance, according to the years in which the observations are made, until October 1st to 10th.

One very unusual feature of this species is the fact that during some years they are very common throughout their period of residence in certain localities, whereas during others they are entirely wanting. As a further explanation of this feature, my field notes for the past eleven years have indicated numerous examples of this fact. During the years 1902, 1905, 1906, and 1909, this species was very common in northern Passaic County in the vicinity of Greenwood Lake. Again this present year they are rather abundant. During 1903 and 1904 they were entirely wanting and not a single specimen was encountered, either during the migrations or during the summer. In 1907, 1908, 1910, 1911 and 1912 they were rather common but not near as abundant as during the years 1902, 1905, 1906, and 1909. In Sussex and Bergen Counties during the years 1903, 1904, 1910 and 1911 they were abundant at points within fifteen or twenty miles of Greenwood Lake. I have attempted to learn the reason for this varied distribution from year to year, but have arrived at nothing as a uniform abundance of food has apparently been present and there has been practically little difference in the weather conditions.

Up to the present season, however, there has been no nests of this species located and although I have investi-

gated nearly all the available sites where they might nest, nothing has ever presented itself. In 1907 and 1910 the young birds of this species were seen near Ringwood, Passaic County.

This season was more prolific and two nests were located on May 15th, within fifty feet of one another on the easterly slope of the Bearfort Mountains, about five miles south of the southern extremity of Greenwood Lake. Both of these were located directly on the ground among the loose stones near the base of two shagbark hickories in a rather damp and weedy ravine about half way up the side of the hills. The nests were similar in appearance and were composed of strips of bark, plant fibers, grasses and decayed leaves and were lined with fine grasses. On May 24th these nests were again visited and found to contain four and five eggs, respectively. These eggs were white, spotted and wreathed with numerous spots of reddish brown and lavender, and measured .65x.49; .64x.49; .65x.53 and .63x.50 and .66x.50; .65x.50; .67x.49; .64x.49 and .65x.48. On May 27th the nests were again visited and, in both cases, the males were found on the nest.

On June 5th the nests both contained young about two days old. All the adults, both male and females, were bringing food to the young at frequent intervals. This food consisted wholly of small insects, scale and larvae, which they gathered from the adjacent trees. During all of the times when in the vicinity there was one or the other of the adults at the nest continually, never leaving the young unguarded. On the morning of the 8th, the brood of four proved a tempting morsel for a Black Snake (*Coluber constrictor*) and he quickly devoured them. The other brood grew very

rapidly under the efficient care of the adults, and on June 20th were seen in the vicinity still in the care of the adults, who were still providing assiduously for them as during the early stages of their homelife. On this latter date another brood of three with parents were located at New foundland in a copse of white birches about three weeks old.

Louis S. Kohler.

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Nesting of the Black and White Warbler.

Throughout a large section of Pennsylvania lying within the Alleghanian and Canadian life zones the Black and White Warbler is a common nesting bird. A few nests have been found in the southern counties but the birds are far more common in the central and northern counties of the state, though in the true primeval northern forests they are very scarce.

A number of times I have found nests of this strikingly marked little bird but invariably they were found to contain young. At that time the parents obvious anxiety readily points out the locality of the nest and a careful search usually discloses it at the base of a stump or under a fallen branch or log. In the Pocono Mountains I have found two nests during June, 1906, and to my surprise, both were placed fully two feet above the ground in cavities in old rotten stumps and both held five young.

On the morning of May 7th, 1910, I was exploring the bottomlands of an almost impenetrable swamp in Stone Valley, Huntington County, Pa., and about fourteen miles from State College. While working my way along the banks of the little pools in search of Louisiana Water Thrush nests I suddenly came upon a small Warbler's nest, placed half way up in a bank along a pool and a little back from

the main creek. At that date it was almost completed, but I readily identified it as the nest of the Black and White Warbler tho no birds were seen. On May 18th I returned and flushed the female from a beautiful set of five almost fresh eggs. She flew off chirping in the dense tangle of Rhododendrons, but seemed apparently very little concerned. The eggs are rather thickly and evenly spotted with fine flecks and dots of reddish brown and lilac. Later, my friend, Samuel Dickey, took a set in the same locality.

On June 2nd, 1913, I found a nest near La Anna, Pike County, Pa., with four full fledged young. The set in this instance must have been completed by May 12, and as several other nests found about June 6th have held young, it can be seen that the Black and White is an early nester, usually having complete sets by May 20th.

Richard C. Harlow.

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My Start.

Each year about the first of April, or before, we feel restless. It is the call of the woods and streams.

About the first of April, 1912, I began to catch the fever. At that time I did not know as much about birds' nesting as the ordinary cat, so I decided to get acquainted with Mr. E. J. Darlington in some way or other and as he only lived about five houses from me that was not hard.

When I first started I had only the barn yard duck eggs and these with a hole in each end big enough to crawl through. I got acquainted with Mr. Darlington about April 20, 1912; he invited me up but we were going away for the summer on June 10, and you know "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," so I waited. When I came back from my vacation, I decided to go up and see him as soon as I could, so, on Sept. 30, 1912, I

went to see for the first time a real collection of birds' eggs and a real Oologist.

When I went to the door the first thing he did was to take me up and show me his eggs, and I think I almost pestered him to death with the question "Wasat." When I left he gave me 1-5 crow and 1-4 English Sparrow eggs and told me to come up again, which I did.

Wilmington, Del. E. M. Kenworthy.

Albino Blackbird.

On the tenth day of September, 1913, I had brought to me a very oddly marked specimen of the bronzed Grackle (l. q. *Aneus*). I had heard of this bird several times during the late summer, it having been noticed with a small flock of the Grackles feeding on the different lawns of the city and was finally taken by a local sportsman and brought in to me to be mounted. It was of normal size and proved to be a young male. Its color was light greyish white, tail almost pure white with just a tinge of the gray, just enough so that the plumage was not in any part a good clean white color. The breast had a few very dark brown feathers in a patch as did also the tops of the wings at the base and these extended across the back between the wings. Eyes were very light brown, beak light drab, legs and feet black. Outside of its plumage this specimen was no different in size and shape than any of the Bronzed Grackles. It was taken while in the company of a small flock of the blackbirds and was still alive when I received it as only a wing was broken by a 22-calibre rifle ball. I disliked very much to kill it, but finally decided it would be next to impossible to keep it alive, so it is now mounted and in the home of the sportsman who took it. I should have

liked very much to have seen this specimen after it had moulted, thinking that perhaps its new plumage might have been perfectly white.

O. M. Greenwood.

Notice.

The series of articles now running in THE OOLOGIST by the editor relating to collecting and preserving the nests and eggs will continue to appear at intervals of two months, until the entire subject has been covered.

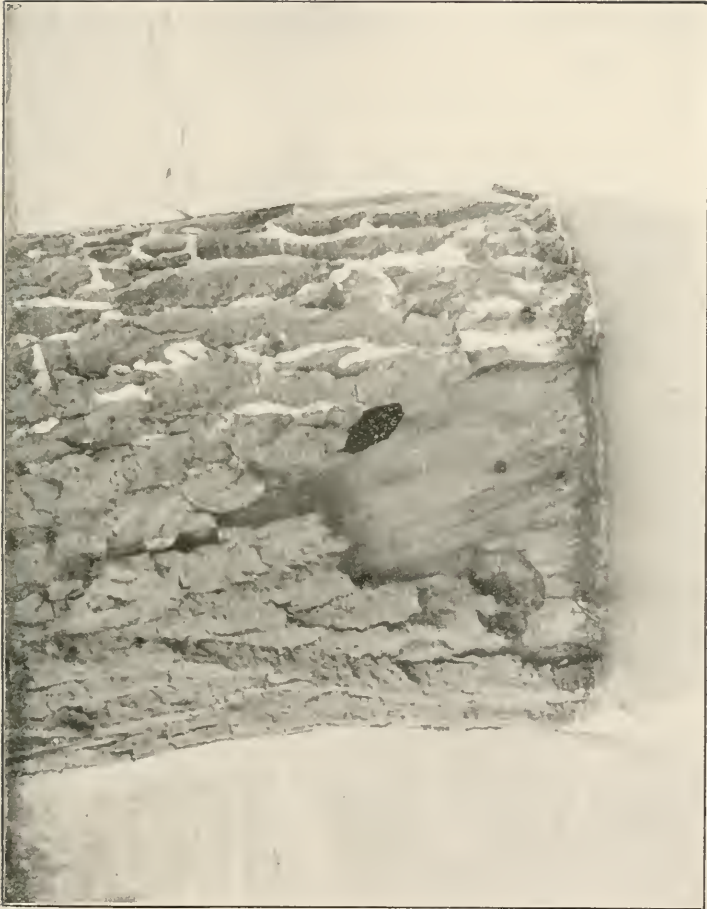
The Worm-Eating Warbler.

(*Helmitheros virniworus*)

In parts of South-western Penna, the Worm-eating Warbler is a tolerably common summer resident. Arriving late in April or early in May, we find them flitting about the lower undergrowth of wooded ravines or steep hillside woods. Here they glean many harmful insects from the vegetation. From time to time they sing their dainty song which so resembles that of the Chipping Sparrow.

In Greene County, nesting time extends from May 14 to June 5. For nesting purposes small ravines, well strewn with fallen leaves, and containing a splashing brook at their bottoms, seem to be favorite places. Some birds select steep wooded hillsides for their homes. The sight chosen is ordinarily a depression at the base of some small sapling. At times a clump of woodland weeds will serve the purpose of a nesting place.

In a large wooded ravine some two miles from my home I found the Worm-eating Warblers nesting each year. Once they built at the base of a dogwood sprout. Here the female Warbler deposited but two eggs, for a luberly Cowbird added two of hers. During another season the Warbler placed their nest beside a fallen dead limb; and chance favored them this



Prothonotary Warblers nest in overflowed river bottom the day before it was flooded.
—Photo by W. E. Loucks

time, for the Cowbird kept away; so the Warbler deposited six white eggs which were well sprinkled with dots of reddish-brown.

Quite a number of nests are deserted each year on account of the Cowbirds which lay their eggs in them. And it is not uncommon for the female Warbler to suppress the laying of a full set after the Cowbird has visited her home.

After examining some thirty nests of this Warbler I find five eggs to be the usual number to a clutch, although three and four are common sets when the Cowbird has deposited one or more of her eggs.

Most of the nests examined by myself were composed of dry Oak and Maple leaves, and were lined with flower stalks of the hair moss, (*polytrichium commune*). A few nests lacked this lining of the flower stalks and were warmly lined with black horse hairs. Once the birds are located, it is no great task to discover the location of the nest. Thorough searching over the banks of the small wooded ravines is sure to bring good results.

Waynesburg, Pa. S. S. Dickey.

Nesting of the Worm-eating Warbler in Huntington County, Pa.

During the spring of 1913, my friend, Mr. S. S. Dickey, and myself did a great deal of field work in a mountainous section of Huntington County, lying about fourteen miles southwest of State College. It is a beautiful stretch of country, full of unsuspected realities and unrealized expectancies and affording a striking example of how the Carolinian life zone is pushing up on a region once Alleghanian and even Canadian in character. Many birds that are absent at State College breed here, among the rarer species being the Woodcock,

Wild Turkey, Northern Pileated Woodpecker, Raven, Broad Winged Hawk, Canadian, Hooded, Golden-winged and Blackburnian Warblers, while some low boggy fields furnish probably the only colony of Henslow's Sparrow nesting in the state.

I had previously noted the occurrence of the Worm-eating Warbler here in the summer, but had never for a moment expected to find them regularly in the northern ravines which sheltered such species as the Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Canadian Warblers and Solitary Vireos. On May 8, while Mr. Dickey and I were working up through an almost impenetrable *Rhododendron* swamp in search of a Pileated Woodpecker's nest, I saw a Worm-eating Warbler with a muddy leaf in its bill fly past me. I was unable to make much progress thru the thick growth, but took the same general direction that the bird had taken toward the high bank that bordered the swamp. Here I soon saw both birds again and found the female busily engaged in making her nest part way up the steep bank at the foot of a sprout.

On May 23, we were again in the vicinity and thru the driving rain we started out to work another bank where I had previously located another pair of birds. Beating up and down the hillside, a small bird suddenly darted out from under Sam's foot and stooping over he saw the beautiful nest and the unusually large set of six eggs which it held. The nest was placed at the foot of a small clump of Laurel, half way up the slope and composed of leaves and weed stalks, being lined with tendrils and the red hair moss.

We then went up the bank where I had seen the pair building earlier in May. Due to the change in growth I had some little trouble in locating

the nest and nearly trod on it. The female never flushed off and chipped in true warbler fashion, soon attracting a Black and White, two Louisiana Water Thrushes and a Canadian. The nest was about thirty feet from the bottom of a very steep hillside and at the base of a small mountain maple sapling. It was built of leaves, tendrils and weed stalks and lined as usual with the Red Hair Moss. The set consisted of the most beautiful eggs I ever saw, but were unfortunately lost along with some other rarities on the return trip.

On May 24, we went down the creek and worked the steep hillside and ravines in that locality. Several more Worm-eaters were heard but due to the great amount of hillside to be covered we found only one more nest. It was cunningly concealed at the base of a small sapling on a hillside and held three very small eggs. The next day the female was sitting on a set of four, when the nest was taken.

Mr. Dickey has had a wide experience with this species in Greene Co., but to me it was a pleasant introduction to a bird that I had met but once before thru the kindness of Mr. Frank L. Burns at Berwyn. Taken all in all I would class the Worm-eating Warblers as a regular, tho scarce breeding bird in Huntington County, and trust to continue the acquaintance begun under such charming circumstances, during the coming year.

Richard C. Harlow.

Nesting of the Florida Gallinule in Harris County, Texas.

Both the Florida and the Purple Gallinule are rare summer residents in Harris County, Texas, seen in the marshes and prairie swamps where the tule grass grows high and the reeds and grasses almost hide the

water. Although the Purple Gallinule is more common of the two, I have never found its nest, and the following notes are written from the only nests of the other bird I have ever found:

On May 28, 1910, I found several nests of the Florida Gallinule in some marshes in the San Jacinto River bottoms adjacent to Galveston Bay. In the edge of one of the lagoons or swampy lakes, where the water was nearly a foot in depth and the grasses and reeds grew nearly as high as one's head, I was looking at a number of Red-winged Blackbird nests when I saw an empty platform of reeds matted together and about six inches in height. This set me to searching and I soon found several more, all empty. I thought my search was to be for nought, when I happened to flush a bird from a clump of tall grasses; I saw at once it was a Florida Gallinule, and turned my attention to the nest and found six soiled buff-brown eggs, sparingly spotted over the entire surface with small specks and spots of various shades of brown. The nest was cunningly concealed over three inches of water and built up ten inches of reeds, Johnsons grass and saw grass, entirely surrounded by tall reeds with only a single path leading away from the nest.

I have never taken the time to return to that locality, and hence have found no other nests.

The six eggs in the set mentioned above measure: 1.77x1.27, 1.76x1.26, 1.75x1.25, 1.73x1.26, 1.72x1.27, and 1.67x1.23 in.

Houston, Texas. Finlay Simons.

The Golden-Winged Warbler.

Early in May, 1913, while I was searching for nests of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker in a mountain valley in the Northern border of Hun-

tingdon County, Pennsylvania. I chanced to hear several Golden-winged Warblers as they sang from the tops of small trees bordering on open briery spaces of ground, at the base of a mountain ridge. As later May approached I decided to investigate these places in hope of discovering a nest that I might photograph.

On May 24th, I decided to search over the space of ground, about an acre in extent, at which I had heard the first Golden-winged Warbler singing. The day was warm and fair, and as I approached the place I hoped to hear the Male Golden-wing singing, but he was not to be heard on this day.

I began at the top of this space of ground and searched carefully all the clumps of briers, weeds and grasses. I had gone over the whole space pretty carefully when I finally reached a low, damp patch of grass and briers. There nestled in a clump of green wiry grass lay the nest. It was made of dry Oak leaves, well lined with fine strips of bark. Several blackberry brier stalks supported it. At this time it held three fresh eggs. I at once left the vicinity and returned three days later when I flushed the female from the five fresh eggs and secured an excellent photograph of the nest and eggs in situation.

After finding the first nest I searched over a space of ground about one-half mile away and located a second nest which held two fresh eggs. This nest was built in a short clump of weeds by a bunch of blackberry briers and was about ten feet from the mountain road. The finding of the preceding nests acted as a stimulus for further searching, so walked to an extensive space two miles distant and part way up a gently sloping mountain side. Here I could hear a Golden-wing singing from the top of

a small tree that stood at the roadside. There were a great many weedy patches growing from damp, springy places and among these I searched for some time. Finally I located a nest in a clump of tall weeds in a wet place, by the border of the woods. The female was sitting and flushed upon my coming near, revealing five well marked eggs all fresh. She was anxious at my presence and kept up a continual chipping.

Several days later a friend and I returned to this place and discovered two more nests. The first, which my friend found, was located in a bunch of grass by a clump of alder bushes; it held five young birds. This was the 30th day of May and a time to expect young birds. I found a nest built in a clump of ironweeds at the woodside. The female flitted from five heavily spotted eggs as I approached.

Farther down the valley I found another nest built six inches above the ground in a clump of raspberry briers that grew in a slight open space near the border of the woods. The female bird did not sit so closely here but left while I was some distance away. This nest held five well spotted eggs, which were slightly incubated.

At several other suitable open spaces at the base of the mountains I heard Golden-wings singing. However, these places were so extensive that a thorough search would require a great deal of time.

While the female Warblers are incubating the males spend a great deal of their time fitting about the tops of small trees uttering their faint dreamy songs. However, they seldom sing on dark, cloudy days but seem to prefer the sunshine for their music.
Waynesburg, Pa. S. S. Dickey.



Nest and Eggs of Swainson's Warbler in Palmetto Palms
—Photo by Troup D. Perry



Nest and Eggs of Swainson's Warbler in Canes
—Photo by Troup D. Perry

Nesting of the Prairie Warbler.

There is a pleasure resort called Great Falls, which is situated in Virginia, fourteen miles North of Washington, D. C. During the latter part of May, of a few years ago, I made several trips to this place in search of birds' nests. Upon a hill lying a short distance back of the Potomac River, I found a thicket of briars and low Oak saplings that bordered on a wood of considerable extent. Upon my first trip to this place, about May 20th, I discovered the partly built nest of some Warbler. May 24th I returned to the place again, and found the nest to hold three small eggs. I waited some time for the bird to come to the nest but she did not return. Several days later I came again to the nest. The day was rainy so I expected to find the bird at home. In this, however, I was disappointed. The nest now held four beautiful pale greenish-white eggs speckled in wreaths of dark brown. I went away from the nest and returned in an hour. This time two Warblers kept up sharp chipping notes from the low undergrowth. Soon I saw one bird go to the bush which held the nest, and I soon recognized it as the Prairie Warbler. The nest was built in a triple crotch, four feet up in a low white Oak Sapling. It was made of strips of weeds and vegetable down. Waynesburg, Pa.

S S. Dickey.

A Find.

On May 17th, while out collecting with Mr. Darlington, I was walking through a field, when I stopped, and looked around. All of a sudden a meadow lark flushed with a loud whirr of wings from a nest containing six of the prettiest meadow-lark eggs I ever saw. Incubation was begun. Wilmington, Del. E. M. Kenworthy.

One of these birds nested in the front yard of my home place this season and laid seven eggs—hatched every one of them on May 18th, and at the time of writing this, June 1st, 1914, the little fellows are following the parents about the place begging for food.

Henry W. Beers.

Henry W. Beers, who died at his home at Bridgeport, Connecticut, April 4, 1914, and of whose death we noticed in the May issue, we wish to say that thereby The Oologist lost a true and old friend, and the bird fraternity one of its leading lights. He was long recognized as an authority on the birds in his neighborhood and had a wide knowledge of the birds of the country. Many of his notes and observations on birds are fully quoted by the late publication issued by his native state, "THE BIRDS OF CONNECTICUT."

During his long years of life he held a rank and position in his own home for strict business integrity, good habits, and general all around citizenship excelled by none. His love for and knowledge of the birds was a predominating characteristic of his life, and a tender chord is touched in the following from the pen of his bereaved wife:

"When Mr. Beers was sick, when he was too weak to want anything else, even for me to play softly on the piano to help quiet him, he would ask me to read a little from THE OOLOGIST. I told my mother it seemed sometimes as he would almost pass away with one of these papers in his hands, as there was a short time he tried to read himself. The Sunday Mr. Beers was taken sick, he read a sketch in The Oologist about the death of a friend in New Hampshire



Nest and Eggs of Chestnut-sided Warbler

—Photo by J. D. Stierle

(Fred B. Spaulding) one of his bird friends."

It is a pleasure to us to know that even in a slight measure the efforts of *The Oologist* may have in some degree eased the declining hours of this real, true man. Mr. Beers leaves a monumental collection of specimens as a reminder of his untiring interest and industry in his chosen study.

A recent raise in the river here at Lacon, disclosed many King Rails in nests, that had been built at a lower stage of water, and many eggs were floated away and destroyed.

Chestnut-sided Warbler.

"Data of Nest."

June 22d, nest completed and ready for eggs.

June 30th, second visit to nest and it contained three partly incubated eggs.

July 6th, third visit to nest, contained two young (new hatched) and one egg. The photo here was taken on the above date, of parent bird on the nest.

July 13th, went to the nest again, prepared to get some pictures of the birds, but the nest was hobbled—being empty, and nothing could be seen of our birds.

The nest was composed of grasses, in outer edge of Red Raspberry bushes two feet from ground, very much concealed.

Marshfield, Wis. J. F. Stierle.

Some Notes on MacGillivray's Warbler.

Macgillivray's Warbler is the most abundant of any of our Warblers in this locality. It is among the latest of any of our summer residents to return to us in the spring. During my five years migrations observations

in this locality, the earliest date of their arrival was April 28, 1908, and the latest date May 10, 1912. In average seasons they arrive the 1st to the 3rd of May, and by the 20th of September the last ones are all gone for their winter homes.

It is not a bird of the real thick, and tall timber sections. Its habitat is dry hillsides, slashed over lands, bushy pastures, in fact any real bushy, brambly wildwood, with delightful, luxuriant growth of young fir, hazels, dogwood, snowberry, arrowhead, and especially sallalberry bush, the whole overgrown and twined with myriads of runners of the briar, making the whole scene a most impenetrable jungle.

In these surroundings we find our sombre little friend is at home, leading a quiet secluded life keeping mostly close to the ground where he gleams his subsistence among low bushes and from the ground.

They are not near as active or nervously disposed as most of our warblers are; the males can frequently be seen sitting on a low dead limb, almost motionless, uttering their song, running somewhat like this: "Visht-visht-visht-vit-view." The closest I can compare it with, is the Junco's song, but it does not sound near as sweet or musical as the latter. The females keep more closely in seclusion, treading their way close to the ground in the dense underbrush, very seldom showing above the brush, consequently they are hard to observe.

To my knowledge the birds are mated when they arrive from their winter's sojourn and will at once choose the place where they decide to make their summer home. They, however, will not start housekeeping immediately, but seem to prefer a week or two in real happy carefree life before taking the tedious task



Nest and Eggs of Yellow Warbler

—Photo by P. G. Howes

they have to perform. The pairs are quite a distance away from the other of their specie, as a close neighbor will cause an everlasting lot of trouble and fight.

Nest building begins the last week in May, and up to the 20th of June nests containing fresh eggs may be found, but the largest per cent build about the 25th of May. The nests are always very carefully hidden in a thick clump of bushes or weeds and the fast growing fern is calculated to complete the work of screening it. It is built quite loosely and bulky; dry twigs, grasses, weedstems, vines, bark strips and sometimes moss, enter into the outer composition, while the lining consists of fine weed rootlets, round grass stems or hair, occasionally a few feathers and some cocoon silk is also used. The elevation is from slightly above the ground till to six feet up. Those of the maximum elevation are built in the tops of close little fir trees or cedar trees.

The number of eggs in a full complement, ranges from three to six, that is the largest I have ever seen, although I have been told by quite a reliable observer that he has seen a set of seven eggs. By far the most clutches consist of four eggs.

During nest construction and laying the birds are quiet and shy and it takes considerable time and patience to identify the nest of the birds; even during the first ten days of incubation it is exceedingly difficult to catch the bird at home. As soon as the nest is approached and no matter how cautious that is undertaken the female seems ever alert, and will slip off from the nest, opposite from the direction where the intruder comes and all by what its movements can be traced is the light trembling of the weeds and ferns as she hops in a large circle around the

nest. When incubation advances and after the young fill the nest the parents are not near as cautious as in the first stage but will greet the intruder with vehement chipping. The male is the boldest, but the female shows plainly and joins her mate in the scolding chorus. In two instances the birds were bold enough to fly up against my face in their attempt to draw my attention away from their nest and half-grown brood. The young remain in the nest for 18 days; and after leaving the nest they cling to some bush and are continually calling for food, both parents are kept busy in supplying nourishment for the ever open mouths. Old and young remain in the vicinity of the nesting place until they congregate for migration.

I will close by giving the reader some notes and data from my field book, regarding the nesting of *Oporornis Tolmier*, Tolmie Warbler, as

No. 1, Date, May 30, 1908; In a patch of slashed over land; with heavy sallal growth; built beside a log in sallal bushes, 16 inches above the ground, well concealed by growth of ferns. It was composed of long weed stems, several dry sallal leaves, shreds of fern, lined with fine grass, rootlets and a few horse hairs. The nest contained four eggs apparently far incubated. However, when examined June 10, the eggs were not yet hatched; June 16, four young occupied the nest.

No. 2, Date, June 9, 1908; On a steep, brushy hillside, in ranky growth of ferns, sallals and hazel brush; built in a clump of hazel, 19-inch elevation. It was saddled on a number of small twigs, composed of weedstems, much dry fern leaves and strips of fern bark, lined entirely with black rootlets. It was very frail and loosely put together; contained



Nest and Eggs of McGillivray's Warbler

—Photo by Alex Walker

four very uniformly marked eggs, incubated about one week.

No. 3, Date, June 2, 1909; At the edge of a woods, in dense fern and briars; at the north slope of a little knoll caused by a windfall. The nest was placed at the foot of a tiny fir, directly on the ground. It was composed of dry leaves, bindweed stems, shreds of bark and grass, lined with white, dry grass blades, a very typical nest of this specie, except that it was on the ground. It contained five partly incubated eggs, June 13th the young hatched and June 28th the young accompanied the parents in the brush close to the nest.

No. 4, Date, June 5, 1909; In brushy land with thinly scattered large fir trees; built in the dense top of a scrubby little fir five feet above the ground, saddled on and twined among the numerous small twigs of the fir; composed of bark strips, weedstems and grasses, lined with fine black rootlets and a few feathers. It contained four slightly incubated eggs.

No. 5, Date, May 29, 1910; In a brushy pasture with scattered patches of brush, among the cleared fields; located in a little scrub oak, forty-two inches above the ground, saddled in three horizontal twigs against the trunk; composed of dry weedstems, oak leaves, twigs and some caterpillar's silk, lined with rootlets and some hair. It contained five small nestlings, the place was visited again on June 12, when approached the young flew out of the nest and hung on to the bushes and limbs nearby. This is the earliest nesting record I have.

No. 6, Date, June 11, 1911; Along a hillside thickly overgrown with hazel, poison oak and small firs; built fourteen inches above the ground in the branches of a buckbrush tangle, it was partly saddled, partly suspended among the branches, composed of

grasses, barkstrips and various weed stalks, lined with a number of smaller feathers, some hair, but chiefly round white grasses. It contained six very finely marked eggs which were apparently far incubated. June 21, this was occupied by five young and one infertile egg.

No. 7, Date, June 14, 1911; Aspen woods with dense sallal growth; nest built in sallal bushes at 9 inches elevation, very frail, loose nest; entirely composed of bindweed vines lined with softer vines and leaflets of same weed. Its outer form was very elongated, some branches measuring over one foot long while the widest dimension was five inches outside. This nest contained four eggs, incubation slightly begun; two of the eggs were very clearly marked, fine specimens, the third was considerable lighter and the fourth was almost unmarked.

No. 8, Date, June 7, 1912; In tract of scattering timber built in a clump of snowberry bushes; situated 20 inches above the ground on and between small twigs. A neat, compact nest composed of weedstems, grasses and hairs sparsingly lined with black horse hairs and one feather of a Sooty Grouse. It contained four eggs which were incubated about a week.

No. 9, Date, June 9, 1912; At the edge of a clearing in a partly swamp-land hillside built in the horizontal fork of a hazel bush, 28 inches above the ground; very well concealed in the dense growth of bindweed and rank ferns. This nest is a marvel of compactness and size for this Warbler; the walls are compact $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick; it is neatly and deeply cupped. The cavity measures two inches in diameter and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. Into its composition have entered, bindweed stems, several thistle stems, ferns and grasses, lined with



Nest and Eggs of McGillivray's Warbler
—Photo by Alex Walker

soft grasses and some horsehair. It contained four very finely marked eggs which were about half incubated.

No. 10, Date, May 19, 1912; While myself and Mr. Alex Walker were strolling through a large tract of brushy pasture land, trying to see all we could on the line of bird-life, I struck with my light cane into a clump of bushes saying, "This would be a typical place for a Macgillivray's Warbler's nest," and Mr. Walker, who was new to our western field, took a better look into the bushes, and immediately called, "there is a nest started here." I took a look at it and could see the crude outline of a nest, which I at once identified as a Macgillivray's nest. May 22, I went to see it and found it completed: May 23, it contained one egg; May 26, it held four eggs; May 27 the female sat, when I approached, but when I came within two rods of the nest she disappeared, and on looking into the nest, beheld five eggs of uniform size. The female had laid an egg every day.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Walker I am able to enclose a photo taken from a close range. It was built in the forks of a hazel bush 18 inches above the ground, well hidden in the rank fern and weeds. It was composed of weedstems, grasses, some dry fern leaves and barkshreds, lined with fine dry grass and some horse hair. On one side the material extends out to a point of three to four inches from the nest. It was rather loosely put together, however, well cupped; cavity dimensions $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, depth, two inches. During the photographing process neither of the parents made their appearance nor any protest.

E. J. Dietrich.

Oregon.

Please!

Send us a lot of short interesting notes, fresh from the field. Those that will occupy from one to ten lines. Every one of you have something of that sort that the rest of us ought to read.

The Maryland Yellowthroat.

At Bloomfield, New Jersey and in the nearby towns, this species of Warblers are without doubt the commonest of the Mniotiltidae which annually visit us and remain here during the summer months with the possible exceptions of the Yellow Warbler and Redstart.

No marsh or brookside, however small, in this section can be considered complete without at least one pair of these active and beautiful sylvan masqueraders of the brook-sides and lowlands, and usually as you approach a patch of swampy woodlands, especially where the skunks cabbage and catbriers abound, the first outburst of avian melody which will greet you is the "Witchery, witchery, witchery" of the Yellowthroat.

These birds arrive in the vicinity about May 7th, and in most cases they become a common summer resident, nesting and rearing their families with us each year and remaining after their household duties have been performed until the last of September. The 10th of October usually finds them well on their way south and what few that remain after this date are mere stragglers and of rare occurrence.

Of the numerous nests of this species of Wood Warblers, which I have found from year to year in this territory, the homelife of one family of the Spring of 1910 held forth several things of unusual interest and below I have outlined a few of the incidents and happenings.

On the tenth of May, while tramp-



Nest and Eggs of Kentucky Warbler

—Photo by T. H. Jackson



Nest and Eggs of Kentucky Warbler

—Photo by T. H. Jackson

ing through a small swamp on the banks of a small winding stream where the skunk's cabbage, wild heliobore and catbriers grew most luxuriantly. I came upon a pair of these birds quietly stealing about among the low vegetation. Owing to their restlessness and anxiety, I became convinced within a few moments that they were attempting to conceal their little home from my notice. I searched very industriously for a long time in the neighborhood but could not find any trace of their domicile. On the eleventh and twelfth I again visited the swamp in hopes that I might find the nest, but on these days my searchings were as on the first day, quite in vain. On the morning of the thirteenth as I noiselessly approached the spot, I passed a clump of catbriers about ten feet from the brook and close by my feet a flash of dingy yellow fluttered by and on looking down beheld the long sought for nest in this clump about four inches from the ground. It was rather a bulky mass of plant fibers, grasses and weeds, deeply cupped and lined with fine grasses and a few horsehairs and contained two white eggs with reddish-brown and gray especially at the larger ends. The set when completed on the 16th contained four eggs quite uniform in appearance.

During the period of incubation the female very jealously guarded her treasures and would allow me to approach within four feet of her before she would leave the nest and on coming closer would slide off and remain in the close vicinity uttering an alarm note similar to that of the Yellow Warbler. The male very rarely came near the nest until the eggs hatched on the 29th and then for the first four days very attentively assisted the female in caring for the youngsters. On the fifth day he dis-

appeared and was not again seen in the neighborhood of the nest.

The mother bird very successfully reared her brood until the tenth day. At this time on visiting the nest found that one of the youngsters had been killed by some animal, apparently, as all that remained of its little body was the feet and head and a few bloodstains about the nest. The other three had not been molested and on the 15th of June they left the nest and for a week after were seen daily under the guidance of the patient little mother among the vegetation bordering on the brook. At the age of 25 days one of the youngsters caught its bill in a crack in a hickory log and in his struggles to release himself broke the upper mandible of his beak close off at the nostrils. For three days after the accident he was about but in a weak and emaciated condition and then disappeared. The other two however, grew daily and were about the swamp for a month and a half with the mother bird.

The adult birds continued to sing until the moulting season and then became quite silent and as the summer declined into autumn were occasionally seen in the vicinity of the nest and at other times quietly stealing about in the undergrowths.

On the 29th of September they went south and during this spring returned to the same neighborhood and at the present time are caring for a family of five about a week old. I say the same pair because of certain marks of distinction which both of the birds have. These are, in the male, the loss of the middle toe nail on the left foot, and in the female a frizzled appearance of the feathers which is quite different from the usual plumage of these birds.

Louis S. Kohler.

Cats.

Do not overlook the fact that at this season of the year cats destroy a very large proportion of the young birds that are hatched within the towns of the country. Every dead cat is a good cat. None others are. If you love the birds shoot the cats.

The Yellow-breasted Chat.

(Icteria virens)

In northern New Jersey wherever the wayside and bypaths are bordered with low thickets and where this bird is sure of escaping detection, this chatterbox of the warbler family is sure to be heard in outbursts of varied musical strains and guttural notes such as would do justice to any of the Mimidae, the true mockers.

This strange but handsome bird, in

addition to its sedentary vocabulary, has a very ludicrous flight song which in this locality he very seldom utters and one must visit and be his companion many times before they will detect him in the act of performing it.

However, upon their arrival with us, which takes place between May 10th and 15th, this bird becomes a regular and common inhabitant of its chosen habitats throughout this section throughout the summer until September 20th at which time they depart for the South without ceremony or ado.

Towards the end of May the observer may find their nests in various locations always at low elevations and never very far from a ready supply



Cerulean Warbler's Nest Fifty feet up, May 31, 1903

of water in which they may be able to enjoy frequent immersions and baths. One pair of the polyglots whose nest was located in a low thicket of alders and catbriers at Haskell, N. J., on May 28th, 1904, owing to its proximity to my residence, afforded an excellent opportunity to study their homelife. This pair completed their home, which was composed of grass, strips of bark and leaves and was lined with fine grass, just prior to my discovery of it. On June 3d the set was completed and consisted of four white, distinctly marked with numerous shades of brown, grey and faint traces of lavender. During the period of incubation, which occupied fifteen days, the male was never seen near the nest but could be heard in the near vicinity performing continually from early sunrise to sunset, its multinoted songs and calls and protesting very vigorously my intrusions. On the morning of the 19th the eggs hatched and then he became a very industrious and lovable father, providing both the young and the mother bird with an abundance of food, mostly insectivorous. This disposition of his part was but short lived as after the fifth day his assiduity abated and until the young left the nest usually remained in the vicinity quietly applauding in low notes the efforts of the female in her search for subsistence to satisfy the hungry throats of her offspring.

Just prior to the leaving of the nest a great calamity occurred and two of the youngsters formed a delightful meal for a house cat. The other two, however, grew to a healthy adult stage and remained with the parents until the time came for them to depart for their winter home in the South. In addition to this brood, four others were reared successfully, so far as I know, in the vicinity that year.

Louis S. Kohler.

A List of the Warblers of Doddridge County, W. Va.

As the Warblers are one of the most interesting families of birds to the ornithologist and as it is seldom I notice any articles on bird life in West Virginia, the following list may be of interest.

This is a list of Warblers noted during a several years' residence in a rough, mountainous, poorly watered and strictly hardwood region in Doddridge Co. The ground covered was of limited area, but as my work kept me right out among the birds in all kinds of weather the chance to observe was of the best.

The country was very mountainous. No water except small streams that dried up each summer. No swamps or marshes. The timber was entirely hardwood so that the warblers found there would be those inhabiting or migrating through a hardwood, mountainous region away from water or large valleys.

1. Black and White Warbler—Arrives about the middle of April with the first of the warblers. Common migrant. Quite common as a breeder. Nests easy to find by watching the birds, but female hard to flush as she sits close.

2. Worm-eating Warbler—Arrives late in April and is quite common as a migrant. During the summer quite a few remain to breed. Rather shy and secretive. Found it difficult to flush the old bird from the nest but not hard to find by watching the birds while building.

3. Blue-winged Warbler—Expected to find this warbler in summer but during my entire stay I only saw one. That one I secured early in the season (April 21st) from a small mixed flock of warblers.

4. Golden-winged Warbler—Arrives about April 20th. Not very common



Louisiana Water Thrush Nest, Two Water Thrush, Four Cowbirds Eggs
—Photo by T. H. Jackson

but during summer is scattered about in suitable locations. Nests were rather hard to find here as the birds ranged about considerable in bushy and grassy places.

5. Nashville Warbler—Rather rare spring migrant. Did not see it in the fall.

6. Parula Warbler—Arrives quite early (April 12-21). Common migrant and quite common breeder. Found number of nests from 8 to 60 feet from the ground.

7. Yellow Warbler. Arrived April 17th to May 1st. Rather scarce. A pair was found now and then about thickets along the streams near fields and farms. Not a common breeder, as the country was hardly suited to them.

8. Black-throated Blue Warbler—Arrived late in April and not noted later than May 20th. Not very common.

9. Myrtle Warbler—This warbler usually one of the commonest migrants, was seldom noted here. Think they must follow the larger valleys mostly during migrations. At my home here in Warren they are abundant in spring along the river valley but are rarely seen on the mountains.

10. Magnolia Warbler—Arrives about 1st of May. Not common as a migrant and not noted later than May 20th.

11. Cerulean Warbler—Arrives April 20th to May 1st. Common almost from the day of their arrival. One of the most common of the breeding warblers. Can be heard singing anywhere in woodland. Nests high and hard to find except by watching the female during nest building time.

12. Chestnut-sided Warbler — Arrives about May 1st and not noted later than May 20th. Not at all common and only a few seen each season.

13. Bay-breasted Warbler—Early in May each season a few pass. Occasionally a small flight.

14. Blackburnian Warbler—Not common but a few were seen each season during the early part of May.

15. Black-throated Green Warbler—Arrives from April 11th to 24th. Quite a common migrant.

16. Oven-bird—Arrives April 21st to May 1st. Not common as a migrant and only a few pairs were found as breeders.

17. Water-thrush — Arrives early. One season March 27th. Not very common but a few pairs stayed through summer and nested along the streams in wooded hollows.

18. Kentucky Warbler—Arrives last week of April and is quite common throughout summer. Found quite a few nests but was never able to detect the old bird in the act of nest-building.

19. Mourning Warbler—Rare migrant only noted a few times in early May.

20. Maryland Yellow-throat — Arrives late in April and is quite a common summer resident.

21. Chat—Arrives late in April. One of the common birds in summer.

22. Hooded Warbler—Arrives last week in April. Quite common in summer and quite common breeder in all suitable woodland.

23. Wilson's Warbler—Rare migrant only noted a few times in early May.

24. Canadian Warbler—Regular but not common migrant in early May.

25. Am. Redstart — Arrives April 20th to 24th. Quite common and quite a few pairs remain to breed.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

An Unmarked Set of Kentucky Warbler's Eggs.

During the spring of 1906, I located a number of nests of the Kentucky Warbler, in Green County, Pennsylvania. Among them, on May 26, was

a nest containing four practically unmarked eggs.

The nest was composed of dry Oak leaves and was well lined with black rootlets. It was situated in a clump of young elder shoots; and was beside a small growth of elders standing on a sandy flat, close to a run of clear water, deep down in a wooded ravine.

The four eggs which this nest held are of the usual size, but they are perfectly white with the exception of a few pinpoint dots of yellowish-brown that are scarcely discernable.

Although I have examined some forty nests of *Oporonis formosus*, this was the only nest containing unmarked eggs.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

Edward R. Ford of Chicago, reports the following unusual sets: Field Sparrow, two eggs, and five Cowbirds in the same nest, all being incubated by the diminutive *Spizella*.

A Meadowlark nest containing four eggs of the Meadowlark, one Cowbird and one Bobolink.

Winifred W. Lyon reports four Sandhill Cranes in the Calumet River region near Chicago, May 2d. These birds are getting scarce.

He also reports Bufflehead and Ruddy Ducks staying in the Jackson Park Lagoon at Chicago. This shows the disposition of these birds to seek the protection of humanity when it is accorded them.

Walter A. Goelitz of Revina, Ill., reports the unusual find of a Towhee's nest with one egg of the owner and eight of the *Pavacite* Cowbird.

The Warblers of Warren Co., Penna.

Warren Co., Pa., is rough and mountainous.

Warren on the Allegheny River, is 1200 ft. above sea level and some of the highest ridges are close to 2200. A great part of the county is wild land. As much of this wild land is covered with a hemlock growth and the conditions are very much Canadian, a number of birds including some of the warblers that usually breed farther north are well represented here in summer.

For this same reason there are several of the warblers that are found in this state farther south of us that I have only seen on several occasions or not at all.

In early May when the warbler flight is on in full swing the trees and shrubbery is beginning to leaf out along the river valley but back on the hills has hardly started. This causes the earlier part of the migration to follow the valley and after rains or storms are sometimes very abundant in favorable places along the river. More species of the warbler family are found in this county than of any other family of birds.

In Pennsylvania about 40 species of warblers are known to occur or have occurred and of these I have noted 30 species in Warren County. Of these I have found 16 species breeding, having personally taken eggs within a few miles of Warren.

The following is a brief list but may be of interest to some of Pennsylvania readers of THE OOLOGIST who live where the conditions are different:

1. Black and White Warbler—Rather scarce as a summer resident but common as a migrant spring and fall. A few pairs are scattered about during the breeding season.

2. Golden-winged Warbler—Rare. Took an adult pair in July, 1905, and saw an adult May 28th, 1911 and one May 23d, 1913.



Nest and Eggs of Ovenbird
—Photo by T. H. Jackson

3. Nashville Warbler — Irregular spring and fall migrant. Occasionally met with singly or in pairs during a flight. The only flock I ever met with was in early May, 1901, when I saw fully a dozen in some large thorn bushes. This warbler has been found breeding in the mountains in this state but I have never met with it here in summer.

4. Orange-crowned Warbler — According to all accounts this warbler is rare anywhere in Pennsylvania. Have a pair of adults in my collection that I took here.

5. Tennessee Warbler—Regular but rather rare spring migrant. Rare in fall.

6. Parula Warbler—Regular summer resident. Common migrant. At times abundant. Usually nest high here and hard to find. Have found nests in hemlocks as well as hardwoods.

7. Cape May Warbler—Rare spring migrant. Seldom see over two or three during a season and some seasons not any. Have no fall record.

8. Yellow Warbler. Common summer resident.

9. Black-throated Blue Warbler—Summer resident throughout this vicinity in all suitable situations. Some of the most beautiful warblers nests I have ever found were nests of the Black-throated Blue.

10. Myrtle Warbler—Common and at times abundant migrant spring and fall. The great bulk of the warbler flights here is composed of Myrtles.

11. Magnolia Warbler—Summer resident and common migrant. Far the most common of the northern breeders found here.

12. Cerulean Warbler — Straggler. Have two records, one taken in May, 1890, and the other May, 1891.

13. Chestnut-sided Warbler—Regular summer resident in slashings, barrens and brushy areas generally.

14. Bay-breasted Warbler—One of the later migrants to appear. Some seasons rather scarce but usually about the middle of May there is quite a flight when for a few days they are quite common.

15. Black-poll Warbler—Last of the warblers to arrive. Some late seasons not reaching us until May 20th, and always staying later than any of the others that all pass on north. Have seen it as late as June 12th. Abundant in the fall, arriving as early as August 18th (1894) and have seen it as late as October 12th (1902).

16. Blackburnian Warbler—Summer resident. One of the rarer of the warblers that remain to breed. Nests in hemlocks out on a horizontal limb and must as a rule nest quite high as they are hard to find although the birds themselves can be heard singing usually well up among the branches.

17. Black-throated Green Warbler—Summer resident. Arrives early, usually with the very first of the Myrtles and is a common migrant. During the summer they can be heard singing but keep up so well they are seldom seen. Nests high in hemlock and birch. By watching the old birds I have found nests over 60 feet from the ground. Have found one though as low as 10 feet up.

18. Pine Warbler — Rare summer resident and irregular migrant. Only know of two places here where this warbler breeds. There are two little pine groves nearby each of which is annually the home of a pair of these warblers. These two pairs arrive the last week in April, some seasons as early as the 23d. Usually the very first warbler I see or hear each spring is one of these two pairs of Pines. Nest high. One set that I took was 70 feet up.

19. Palm Warbler—Irregular and

rather rare. Spring and fall migrant. Occasionally noted early in May and again late in September.

20. Oven-bird — Common summer resident anywhere in woodland.

21. Water-thrush—Summer resident but not common. More common as a migrant. An occasional pair can be met with in the mountains in summer along the larger streams.

22. Louisiana Water-thrush — Took one here August 24th, 1894. The only one I have ever seen to recognize.

23. Connecticut Warbler—Straggler. Have often looked for this warbler but never saw but one. That one I took September 21, 1902.

24. Mourning Warbler—Summer resident. Not at all uncommon as a breeder and found in very much the same situations as the Yellowthroat. The female is shy and secretive and the nests difficult to locate.

25. Maryland Yellow-throat — Summer resident. Rather common anywhere about brush, briars and weeds.

26. Chat—Never met the Chat here but once as already recorded in THE OOLOGIST. First heard and located the male on May 28, 1911, and latter found there was a pair. June 8th I found their nest and eggs.

27. Hooded Warbler—Summer resident. Not common but found in suitable brushy ridges in hardwood timber.

28. Wilson's Warbler—Rather rare spring and fall migrant late in May and again in September.

29. Canadian Warbler—Summer resident, in suitable situations along mountain streams and fern covered ledges of rocks. Nests under banks, under the roots of upturned trees and amongst the ferns and moss on the sides of large rocks and ledges. A close sitter and hard to flush.

30. American Redstart—Rather common summer resident. Found any-

where where there are trees.

Of the 16 species found breeding here I have only found five (Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-throat, Hooded and Redstart) to be victims of the Cowbird. As the most of the warblers found here nest back in the wooded regions and the Cowbird is more an inhabitant of cleared districts, most of the warblers here escape the task of raising Cowbirds.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Penna.

Nesting of the Wood Thrush in Texas.

In THE OOLOGIST for June, 1913, I read, with much interest, an article on the Wood Thrush nesting in Mississippi; however, the name of the writer is not given. He proceeds to state that in going over one of his bird books, he saw where the Wood Thrush was confined to the Eastern and Northeastern States. I had observed that myself in nearly every one of the books except in Prof. Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," where the bird is said to breed west to Texas, and probably to Harris County, with a query after the latter.

I do not know where Prof. Ridgway gets his data in reference to the Wood Thrush in summer in Harris county, for Dr. Nehrling gave the bird as a winter resident in his list of 1882, and later Houston ornithologists have not, to the best of my knowledge, published any notes on the species; hence I am writing these few notes on a nest I found near Houston, several years ago.

On April 29, 1911, while wandering through a patch of open deciduous woods on Buffalo Bayou about six miles west of Houston, I spied a nest in plain sight on a bare limb about twelve feet up in a small oak sapling. The nest was set firmly on a horizon-

tal fork about three feet from the trunk, and was unlike any nest which had ever come under my observation. I was up to it in a hurry and on looking in found the nest to contain one blue egg and one egg of the Dwarf Cowbird. The nest was composed of grasses, weed stems, inner fibre of Spanish moss, and fine rootlets, and shaped into a very neat bowl, molded thickly with mud. No mud showed outside, but inside was as smooth as a piece of pottery, as if it had been rounded by hand. Into this had been placed a lining of fine rootlets and grass stems. The sides of the nest were almost perpendicular to the bottom, and exactly like nests of the Boat-tailed Grackle which have come under my observation. It was $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in depth externally, 2 inches in depth inside, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter externally and measured $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the opening.

On May 6, when I again visited the locality, I found both eggs thrown out on the ground beneath the nest and broken.

On the first day the birds did not appear until I was leaving, but on the second day's visit they were silently watching from a neighboring tree, uttering no sound. The nest was visited several times more but no eggs had been laid so the nest itself was collected.

Finlay Simmons.

Houston, Texas.

Summer Residents of the Pensauken Creek, New Jersey.

By Richard F. Miller.

The Pensauken Creek is a two-branched tide-water tributary of the Delaware River in the southwestern part of New Jersey, and forms the boundary line between Camden and Burlington Counties; both branches rise near the little hamlet of Eves-

boro, in Burlington County, and sluggishly wend their tortuous way northerly for some eight or nine miles, uniting at Fork's Landing, where the main creek flow its serpentine course of about five miles in a westerly direction and empties into the river just below Palmyra, about six miles above Camden City.

It is navigable for seven or eight miles by small boats, but is slowly becoming shallower, especially the upper branches, where the streams are almost choked in places by rank growths of adequate vegetation which render navigation impossible except by canoes and similar crafts.

There are no extensive patches of woodland along the creek, but belts of trees occur irregularly on the banks and consists mostly of oaks of several varieties, the scarlet and chestnut oaks being the commonest kinds, ash, beech, chestnut, black gum, hackberry, buttonwood, Jersey pine, red apple, etc.; thickets of alder, buttonbush, sweet pepperbush, willow and arrow-wood abound in places and dense tangles of wild grape vines, greenbrier, poison ivy and creeper vines run riot everywhere. Directly back from the streams and extending in many places clear down to the water edge, are cultivated fields and orchards of apple and pear. On these farms are many groves and woodlots, and in one of these woods not far from the creek there is a crow roost which is used annually by thousands of crows, and another grove harbors a small heronry of the Black-crowned Night Heron, or Squawk, as it is locally called.

The upper branches are the wildest and less frequented and marshes occur abundantly along the creek and consist of patches and contiguous growths of wild rice (locally called Reed), calamus and cat-tails and other

reeds, everywhere interspersed with *Peltandria*, *Spatterdock*, *Sagattaria*, *Pontederia*, and other waterplants; sedges of various kinds abound, forming in places, large swamps of tussocks in which the Swamp Sparrow finds a congenial home.

On the Camden County side of the creek are several large sand banks in which breeds multitudes of Bank Swallows, a few Rough-winged Swallows and several pairs of Belted Kingfishers; the Bank Swallows are evidently decreasing.

My ornithological researches on the Pensauken Creek extends over seventeen years, made chiefly during the breeding season, as the stream is easily accessible from Philadelphia by boat, train and trolley, and although incomplete aside from their scientific value, they are written so as to attract others to this neglected ornithological paradise.

Species listed without any annotations are of doubtful occurrence, but are nevertheless included, for, until the region is thoroughly worked, nobody can tell whether they occur or not. Such species, however, are very few in number.

1. *Podilymbus podiceps*. Pied-billed Grebe.

2. *Hydrochelidon surinamensis nigra*. Black Fern—An adult was seen on July 9, 1913, on the North Branch, which, according to a reliable farmer, had been about for two weeks, together with another, which, however, we did not observe. This species is of extremely rare occurrence in New Jersey in summer and I was, naturally, surprised to see it "at home" on the creek.

3. *Anas rubripes*. Black Duck—Rare breeder on the upper branches. Mr. C. J. Hunt and the writer has frequently seen it and farmers and fishermen report it of annual occurrence.

4. *Anas platyrhynchos*. Mallard.

5. *Nettion carolinensis*. Green-winged Teal—A bunch of five were seen on July 8, 1913, on the North Branch and constituted my only summer record and I was as astonished to see other species not supposed to occur in South Jersey in summer.

6. *Aix sponsa*. Wood Duck—Rare breeder. A pair was reported to have bred near Parry, Burlington County, on the North Branch, in a woods, in the Spring of 1897. The nest was in an old partially-torn out Flicker's hole about thirty feet up in a dead tree and the young were eight or nine in number. I have rarely seen the bird on the creek in summer.

7. *Botanus lentiginous*. Bittern—Probably not a rare breeder. Mr. C. J. Hunt saw one on May 30, 1907, and I have seen it twice in summer, August 1, 1912, and July 7, 1913. I also observed one as early as March 30, 1902, near the mouth of the creek, which was an unusually early migrant.

8. *Ixobrychus exilis*. Least Bittern—Common. I have a set of five eggs in my collection which I collected on June 8, 1902, at West Palmyra.

9. *Ardea herodias*. Great Blue Heron—Occurs all summer, but does not breed, these birds being feeding individuals from heronries over thirty miles away.

10. *Herodias egretta*. Egret — A not rare southern wanderer, occurring frequently in July and August, and becoming less common annually. I saw one August 11, 1913, near the mouth of the creek and my brother George observed one as late as September 1, 1912, on the North Branch.

11. *Egretta candissima*. Snowy Egret—Formerly a common wanderer from the South in July and August, but does not occur any more. I saw one near the mouth of the creek on the river flats on July 16, 1904, an adult male with recurved plumes (c-f Auk, 1907, p. 436).

12. *Florida carulea*. Little Blue Heron—Not a rare southern wanderer in July and August, and remaining until September 1, which is my latest record. Reported plentiful during the flights of "white herons" in 1900 and 1902, and all birds seen were in the immature white plumage.

13. *Butorides virescens*. Green Heron—Common summer resident.

14. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. Black-crowned Night Heron—Common, but most of these birds are feeding and roosting individuals from nearby heronries. There is, however, a small herony in a woods close to the creek.

15. *Rallus elegans*. King Rail—There are no records of this species but it probably occurs as a rare breeder.

16. *Rallus virginianus*. Virginia Rail—Common summer resident.

17. *Porzana carolina* Sora.

18. *Creciscus jamaicensis*. Black Rail.

19. *Gallinula galeata*. Florida Gallinule.

20. *Fulica americana*. Coot—Rare summer resident. My father saw one or two birds in late July, 1912, and I observed one on July 8, 1913. Several years ago a farmer found a nest containing a dozen eggs which he tried to hatch under a hen.

21. *Philohela minor*. Woodcock—Rare summer resident.

22. *Pesolia minutilla*. Least Sandpiper—I saw two or four birds on July 8, 1913, on the North Branch, probably unusually early transient.

23. *Bartramis longicando*. Upland Plover.

24. *Actitis macularia*. Spotted Sandpiper—An abundant breeder.

25. *Oxyechus vociferus*. Killdeer—Not a rare summer resident.

26. *Colinus virginianus*. Bobwhite—Rare and decreasing.

27. *Bonasa umbellus*. Ruffed Grouse

—Formerly on the extreme upper branches, according to the accounts of old residents.

28. *Phasianus torquatus*. Ring-necked Pheasant—Now a resident as it has recently been liberated in the vicinity. Several pairs breed near the creek during the summer of 1913.

29. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. Mourning Dove—Common summer resident. I have eggs from this creek which I took from Rolin, Purple Grackle and Brown Thrasher's nests, and have found incubated eggs as early as April 13.

30. *Cathartes aura spetentrionalis*. Turkey Vulture—Stragglers are daily seen. Undoubtedly breeds on the extreme upper branches.

31. *Circus hudsonius*. Marsh Hawk—Occasionally seen and must breed. I saw one on August 1, 1912, an adult female, on the North Branch.

32. *Accipiter velox*. Sharp shinned Hawk—Rare breeder.

33. *Accipiter cooperi*. Cooper's Hawk—Scarce breeder.

34. *Buteo borealis*. Red-tailed Hawk—Decidedly rare.

35. *Buteo lineatus*. Red-shouldered Hawk—Rare.

36. *Buteo platypterus*. Broad-winged Hawk—Scarce and probably increasing.

37. *Haliaetus leucocephalus*. Bald Eagle.

38. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. Osprey—The Fish Hawk is occasionally seen but probably does not now breed although it formerly nested.

39. *Falco sparverius*. Sparrow Hawk—An uncommon breeder.

40. *Aluco practicola*. Barn Owl—Rare breeder.

41. *Asio wilsonianus*. Long-eared Owl—Not a rare resident.

42. *Asio accipitrinus*. Short-eared Owl.

43. *Strix varia*. Barred Owl—Exceedingly rare breeder.

44. *Otus asio*. Screech Owl—Common resident.

45. *Bubo virginianus*. Great Horned Owl.

46. *Coccyzus americanus*. Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Common summer resident.

47. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Black-billed Cuckoo—Rare and decreasing.

48. *Ceryle alcyon*. Belted Kingfisher—Common breeder in the sand banks.

49. *Dryobates villosus*. Hairy Woodpecker—Rather rare.

50. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*.—Downy Woodpecker. Common resident.

51. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Red-headed Woodpecker. Exceedingly rare. A pair bred for many years in a big dead buttonwood on the upper North Branch.

52. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. Northern Flicker—Common summer resident. It occasionally nests in old piles in the creek.

53. *Anrostomus vociferus*. Whip-poor-will—Very rare and confined to the extreme upper branches.

54. *Chordeiles virginianus*.—Night-hawk—Not a common breeder.

55. *Chaetura pelagica*. Chimney Swift—Common summer resident.

56. *Archilochus colubris*. Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Rather uncommon.

57. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Kingbird—Common, usually nesting in the buttonwoods on the banks of the creek.

58. *Myiarchus crinitus*. Crested Flycatcher—A pair has nested for many years under an open-fronted wharf.

60. *Myiochanes virens*. Wood Pewee—Common, nesting in the woods and orchards, and occasionally over the creek.

61. *Empidonax virescens*. Green-crested Flycatcher.

62. *Cyanocitta cristata*. Blue Jay—Common resident.

64. *Corvus ossifragus*. Fish Crow—Rather rare. I collected a set of four incubated eggs on May 19, 1912, from a large nest high up in the top of a big scarlet oak in a swampy woods near the mouth of the creek.

65. *Sturnus vulgaris*. Starling—This newcomer is just now a rare breeder but promises to become common as it is increasing fast in numbers everywhere about Camden and Philadelphia.

66. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Bobolink—I observed two birds on July 8, 1913, which constitute my only summer record.

67. *Molothrus ater*. Cowbird—This pest does not appear to be very common as I have found but few of its eggs and never observed many of the birds.

68. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Red-winged Blackbird—An abundant breeder.

69. *Sturnella magna*. Meadow Lark—Not a very common resident.

70. *Icterus spurius*. Orchard Oriole—rather uncommon.

71. *Icterus gallula*. Baltimore Oriole—Not very common.

72. *Quiscalus quiscula*. Purple Grackle—Common summer resident.

73. *Passer domesticus*. House Sparrow—A common pest.

74. *Astragalinus tristis*. Gold finch—Fairly common resident.

75. *Ammodromus savannarum australis*. Grasshopper Sparrow—Rare.

76. *Passerherbulus henslowi*. Henslow's Sparrow.

77. *Pœetes gramineus*. Vesper Sparrow—Common breeder.

78. *Spizella passerina*. Chipping Sparrow—Common Breeder.

79. *Spizella pusilla*. Field Sparrow—Abundant summer resident.

80. *Helospiza melodia*. Song Sparrow—An abundant resident.

81. *Melospiza georgiana*. Swamp Sparrow—A common breeder.
82. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Chennink—Common summer resident.
83. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Cardinal—Common resident. Nests from April to August.
84. *Zamelodia ludocisciana*. Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Rare breeder. I found a nest on the North Branch on July 7, 1913 in which young were reared.
85. *Passerina cyanea*. Indigo Bunting—Rather scarce breeder, but increasing.
86. *Piranga erythromelos*. Scarlet Tanager—Quite rare.
87. *Piranga rubra*. Summer Tanager.
88. *Progne subis*. Purple Martin—Scarce breeder.
89. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. Cliff Swallow.
90. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. Barn Swallow—Common summer resident. Nests under the road bridges and open-fronted wharfs as well as in barns.
91. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. Tree Swallow.
92. *Riparia riparia*. Bank Swallow—Abundant and decreasing.
93. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Rough-winged Swallow—Not a rare breeder, more common some years than others.
94. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing—Not a common breeder.
95. *Vireosylva olivacea*. Red-eyed Vireo—Common summer resident.
96. *Vireosylva gilva*. Warbling Vireo—Quite rare.
97. *Lanivireo flarifrons*. Yellow-throated Vireo—Very rare.
98. *Vireo griseus*. White-eyed Vireo—Common summer resident.
99. *Mniotilta varia*. Black and White Warbler—Rather uncommon breeder.
100. *Vermivora pinus*. Blue-winged Warbler—Rare breeder. On July 7 and 8, 1913, on the North Branch, I saw a pair and then two or three fledglings.
101. *Compsothlypis americana* usæ. Parula Warbler.
102. *Dendroica æstiva*. Yellow Warbler—Very common summer resident.
103. *Dendroica vigorsii*. Pine Warbler—Rare breeder on extreme upper branches.
104. *Dendroica discolor*. Prairie Warbler—Very rare breeder.
105. *Sevirus aurocapillus*. Ovenbird—Rather uncommon breeder.
106. *Oporornis formosa*. Kentucky Warbler—A doubtful breeder. The record in Stone's "Birds of New Jersey," of this species breeding on the Pensauken Creek is erroneous as Mr. C. J. Hunt has never found its nest there.
107. *Geothlypistrichas*. Maryland Yellow-throat—Common breeder.
108. *Icteria virens*. Yellow-breasted Chat—Rare breeder, but increasing.
109. *Setophaga ruticilla*. Redstart—Rare summer resident (cf Auk, 1910, p. 343).
110. *Mimus polyglottus*. Mockingbird.
111. *Dumetella carolinensis*. Catbird—Abundant summer resident.
112. *Toxostoma rufum*. Brown Thrasher—An abundant breeder.
113. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Carolina Wren—Rather an uncommon resident.
114. *Troglodytes ædon*. House Wren—Common breeder.
115. *Cistothorus stellaris*. Short-billed Marsh Wren.
116. *Telmatodytes palustris*. Long-billed Marsh Wren—Common summer resident.
117. *Sitta carolinensis*. White-breasted Nuthatch—Rare breeder.

118. *Saolophus bicolor*. Crested Titmouse—Not a rare resident.

119. *Penthetes carolinensis*. Carolina Chickadee—Common resident.

120. *Poliophtila carulea*. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

121. *Hylocichla mustelina*. Wood Thrush—Common summer resident.

122. *Planesticus migratorius*. Robin—An abundant breeder.

123. *Sialia sialis*. Bluebird—Common breeder.

Cowbird's Eggs.

I read with great interest Mr. Miller's article on Cowbird's Eggs in the April "Oologist." I am sorry that during the years I lived in the country, in Middlesex County, near London, Ontario, that I did not keep a census of the Cowbird's Eggs, and the nests in which I found them. I found them very plentiful in that district, and have no hesitation in saying that I found on an average at least ten eggs per season for ten seasons, and needless to say none of those I found ever hatched. I was never fortunate enough to find a nest containing a young cowbird though.

Although, as I have stated, I kept no accurate record, I can remember having found them in the following bird's nests: Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Wilson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

On looking over my data and notes in connection with my collection of bird's eggs, I find some items which may be of interest to "Oologist" readers, and which I herewith submit.

During the month of June 1894, I found five nests of the Indigo Bunting in a five-acre patch of wild raspberry bushes, four of which contain-

ed one egg each of the Cowbird, and four eggs each of the Oriole. The other nest had five Buntings' eggs, one of which was a runt, no larger than a goldfinch's.

June 5th, 1902, found a Scarlet Tanager's nest on the horizontal limb of a maple near the edge of the wood. I had three eggs of the Oriole and two cowbird's eggs. The latter I destroyed.

These are the only two cases in my experience where more than one Cowbird's egg was found in a nest at the same time. The only set of Chestnut-sided Warbler's I ever collected, resulted in three Cowbirds being "nipped in the bud." My notes read as follows:

May 14th, 1896.—Nest discovered empty.

May 16th—Nest contained one egg of Oriole, and one Cowbird's egg which I removed.

May 18th—Nest contained two eggs of the Oriole, and another Cowbird's egg which I removed.

May 22nd—Nest contained four Warbler's eggs and another Cowbird's egg. On this day I collected the set, and still have the three Cowbird's eggs in my cabinet.

Have any of our readers had a similar experience? It would be interesting to know whether the same *Molothrus* laid all three eggs. Here is a large field open for some enthusiastic Oologist. Had I the opportunity again, I should certainly devote more time to the study of this miserable and destructive, but at the same time very interesting parasite.

Toronto, Ont. J. R. McLeod.

May 9th, 1914.

The spring here at Lacon has been unusually hot and dry, with the result that many of the birds are nesting earlier than common.

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CONGRATULATIONS

In this issue of THE OÖLOGIST, we present to the bird loving fraternity, the first record of the nesting of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow (*Passerherbulus nigrescens*) as the result of the labor and kindness of Oscar E. Baynard of Florida. Baynard is to be congratulated upon being the first to discover and record the nidification of this rare bird. THE OÖLOGIST is to be congratulated upon being the medium through which this very interesting scientific information is first communicated to the world, and the readers of THE OÖLOGIST are to be congratulated on being the first to receive this information. We are all under more obligations to Baynard not only in this instance, but for many other things than we realize.—Editor.

The Dusky Seaside Sparrow.

Passerherbulus Nigrescens.

For the past three years every time I have taken up the Chapman's Hand Book it has invariably opened to page 394 and the first thing that my eye always saw after the description of 551 Dusky Sparrow were the words, "Nest and Eggs Unknown," this happened so often that it became monotonous and I decided that I would try and change this. A bird whose range covered only a few square miles, and one that had been known to science for forty-one years, and whose nest had never been found, was a "slam" on the ability of us true Oologists. That its nest had been hunted for diligently by several well known Oologists I knew, so I knew that when I finally decided to make a search for it that my work was cut out, but the opportunity presenting itself and feeling "lucky" I decided to make a strenuous effort to locate a nest. From a trip I had once made on the East Coast of Florida later in the summer I knew that the natural obstacles of a trip of this kind at this season of the year would be great, especially in view of the fact that I was in poor health generally and under the doctor's care. Hearing that my old "side kick" and collecting partner of several years in Micanopy, Henry Simpson was on a vacation and not knowing what to do to kill time I invited him to meet me at a small village on the Indian River and help me on the trip as I was afraid to venture alone on the trip feeling weak as I did. He gladly consented to accompany me and then I knew for a certainty that if the Dusky Seaside Sparrow laid eggs we would capture a few.

Starting on May 17th I met him as per schedule and as there was a gale blowing on the Indian River and no boats of any kind or size was venturing out, I chartered a good large yacht

and outfitted it for a ten day cruise as I figured that that would be long enough for the trip. Being held up by the weather I decided to visit Salt Lake near Titusville, where Mr. Chapman had found a few birds, we repaired there on the train and hiring a buggy we drove out there and put in a day in hunting the marshes of this Lake. We saw no birds of the species we were looking for here. On our return to our boat and the weather being some better the next day we started out on the River and for a week we cruised the entire length of Merritts Island, visiting every place where there had ever been any records of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow, but finding none at any of them. We run into a little creek on the morning of May 21st and run the boat aground and taking the small skiff rowed up the creek in the shallow water and about 100 yards up I saw a Black Sparrow that I felt at once was the one we were looking for, hastily rowing in closer I killed the bird and upon dissecting same found it to be a male evidently in full breeding. This sure made us feel good so we plunged into the marsh which stretched for miles and miles away to the highlands of the Island. When in a few yards, the Dusky Sparrows began to get up all about and I guess we saw at least 20 birds at one time setting about in a dense growth of Glasswort (*Salicornia macrota*) which carpeted the Island as far as the eye could see. We lost four hours in searching for nests in the higher bunches of this vegetation and had about given up hopes of finding a nest. As we ate dinner we discussed the subject very thoroughly and Simpson had about made up his mind that this species was "oviviparous" and did not lay eggs at all but had young like an animal, it did not seem possible that with the vigorous

search we had made that we could have passed over the nests, we would mark the exact spot from which we saw a bird appear and hunt for a space of twenty feet in each direction, getting down on our knees and go over every spot. I then suggested that we take a long rope that I had brought along for the purpose and "drag" the Glasswort and see what results we would have. This we did and it was not long before we flushed a bird that appeared to have been startled from its nest, dropping our rope we walked into the middle of the rope and began hunting and about fifty feet ahead of the rope we found it on the ground nicely concealed from sight above and it contained three heavily incubated eggs, the nest was composed of grass and was about an inch above the ground. To say that we were elated is expressing it mildly and we did a regular Indian Tango or some other kind of dance. The eggs were a pale greenish white heavily speckled and sprinkled with brownish and measured as follows: .80x.56; .83x.56; .79x.57.

After finding this set we kept on and flushed many birds but the most minute searching failed to disclose another nest. Returning to our boat near dusk we laid our plans for the next day and vowed we would find more nests or never leave the spot. The next day we tried another beat up the Island and it was not long until we found a trio of young birds just beginning to fly, I captured one after a long chase, he would run on the ground just like a rat and in chasing him I saw several adult birds likewise and immediately came to the conclusion that that was one reason we had not been more fortunate in finding the nests. There was no cattle grazing here so that the birds at the very first noise hopped from the nests and ran along on the ground for a long way

and then came into view and were probably fifty feet from their nests when they first appeared. After getting wise to their tactics we changed ours and began working to the windward all the time so as to get nearer to them before they heard us, this proved the right thing and it was not long before we came upon a nest of three young birds that left the nest on our getting within a few feet of them, this nest was made exactly like the first one in every way and in the four days we found two more nests of young and two more sets of eggs, the second set of eggs contained five and were heavily incubated marked very similar to the first set and measured as follows: .83x.58; .82x.57; .79x.56; .82x.59; .83x.59. The third set contained three eggs which measured .83x.59; .82x.58; .82x.59 and were heavily incubated, in fact one of them was pipped when we got back to the boat and I was unable to save but one egg of this set. This last nest was the only one that was not within an inch of the ground, it was up in a bunch of dried Glasswort about ten inches from the ground and we surprised the female on the nest; she was evidently asleep and coming up to her to windward in a hard wind she did not hear us.

I have hunted eggs over this state in all kinds of places, and many of them hard places, but this trip taken as a whole was about the toughest proposition I ever tackled. The mosquitoes were about in hordes day and night and the heat was terrific notwithstanding the stiff wind that blew most of the time. Then the marsh was very dry and abounded in rabbits, this no doubt was what attracted the snakes to it, because we were all the time dodging Moccasins and Rattle snakes, one could not see where he was walking in the Glasswort as it



O. E. Baynard pointing to the nest of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow, May 22, 1914
—Photo by O. E. Baynard's Assistant



Nest and eggs of Dusky Seaside Sparrow
—Photo by O. E. Baynard

was about knee deep at the shortest and up to ones waist in some places and tangled up so that one had to lift each foot high up to get over it and could not see where he put it down, three occasions I was near enough to a rattle snake to have been struck before he gave his warning and after one of them rattles within three feet of a fellow in such a place it takes the keen edge of nest hunting off for a while. Moccasins, while as deadly as the Rattler, are more sluggish and unless one actually steps on him he is not likely to bite, however hunting under such circumstances keeps ones nerves wrought up to the highest pitch all the time.

The Sparrows were in full song, such as it was, not being familiar with the song of the Seaside Sparrow I am unable to say if it is anything like the Dusky or not. This song was similar in many ways to the song of the Grasshopper Sparrow and the insect like part of the song is more prolonged and somewhat louder than in the Grasshopper Sparrow. The song of the Dusky cannot be called sweet in any particular but its harshness matches well with its surroundings. All of the six nests that we found were open at the top and none of them were arched over.

The photographs secured on the trip were not much good as conditions were not favorable for this kind of work and when one is hunting nests there is little time to be lugging a camera around and taking pictures, however, the ones shown will give an idea of the nesting site of this bird, etc.

The first two sets mentioned above with nests and skins of the parent birds are in the Museum of J. E. Thayer of Lancaster, Mass.

Oscar E. Baynard.
Clearwater, Florida.

Collecting Birds Eggs.

The Preparation of Specimens.

(By R. Magoon Barnes.)

III.

Having arrived home with a set of 5 Bluebirds, a set of 6 Phoebe, a set of 7 Kingfisher and a set of 5 Meadowlark, the next thing is to prepare these specimens in such a way that they will last and make a desirable appearance when placed in the cabinet.

The first thing to do is to lay aside each set of eggs separately on a cloth or layer of cotton batting, something that will prevent them from rolling; then procure a basin of water, a tumbler filled with water and the blow pipes and drills we have before mentioned; sit down at a low table or on a door step or some similar place, so as to bring the basin above the object you sit upon.

We will commence now with the preparation of the set of Blue Bird's eggs. Picking up one of the specimens, look it over carefully to see if there are any stains or any foreign matter on it which cannot be removed, and if there is, that is the side we will blow it on. First pierce the shell with a fine pointed pin or needle, then select the smallest of the blow pipes, which should be No. 0, carefully insert the point of the drill in the hole left by the needle, and holding the egg between the thumb and finger of the left hand, with the larger end away from you, and the second finger under the smaller end of the egg slowly twirl the drill back and forth with the thumb and finger of the right hand, gradually enlarging the orifice until you have drilled clear into the egg. If you have the right kind of a drill the rear end of the burr part of the drill will cut the lining as it enters the egg. If it does not do this, it will be necessary to draw the drill back until the rear of the burr comes in con-

tact with the inner surface of the shell at the hole made by the drill. A few more twirls will then cut the lining. Then withdraw the drill, turn the egg over, still holding it between the thumb and finger of the left hand, take a small blow pipe and hold the point of the same near the orifice of the egg, turning the egg upside down over the basin of water. Then blow through the blow pipe and the air will gradually enter the egg and force the contents out of the same hole.

After the entire contents of the egg has been blown out in this way, then take some water in the mouth from the tumbler of water standing nearby and blow the water through the blow pipe into the egg. Do this with some force, but not enough to destroy the egg shell. After the egg has been blown full of water, then blow the water out of the egg. Repeat this two or three times until the contents of the egg is thoroughly cleansed out, for any foreign matter of any kind or any of the contents of the egg that may be left in will surely stain the shell and ultimately destroy the specimen.

After this has been done and you are sure that the contents of the egg is entirely out and the inner surface of the shell thoroughly cleansed, then lay the egg upside down with the hole resting on a small piece of blotting paper. This should be clean and not ink stained.

Continue the same process with each one of the eggs in this set, laying them side by side on the blotter when the blowing is completed. They should be left in this position until they are thoroughly dry, and all the other eggs taken should be drilled in exactly the same manner, using care to see to it that the sets do not become mixed, and that each different set is kept separately until marked.

If the eggs are not thoroughly cleansed, their taking and preparation will be all to no purpose, for they will finally become spotted and ultimately disintegrate. It is always important to use the smallest drill possible on each egg.

The above is the proceeding for blowing all eggs which are fresh. Makes no difference whether they are the size of a goose egg or the size of a Hummingbird's egg. The same proceeding is followed from beginning to end.

Assuming now that all of the eggs we took on the day before above mentioned have been blown and arranged on the blotter as directed, and have been left there long enough to become thoroughly dry, the next thing is to mark them. The marking of specimens is one of the very important steps in their preparation. Care should be taken to mark each set neatly, legibly and according to the system used by Oologists. They should be marked with a soft, pointed lead pencil unless you are a high class expert with India ink like E. J. Court at Washington and a few others of his kind, who are very rare indeed; but if you are then you may assay the use of India ink.

The set of Bluebird's eggs should be marked as follows: Above the blow hole on the larger end of the egg and near the blow hole should be placed neatly the figures 776, which is the number of the Bluebird in the American Ornithologist's Union ("A. O.U.") Check List of North American birds. To the right of the blow hole should be placed a short straight line as near as may be opposite the center of the blow hole. Above this line should be placed the letter "a" and beneath the line the figure "5." The letter "a" indicates the fact that this was the first set of Bluebirds

taken this year. Any subsequent sets should be indicated by the letters b, c, d, etc. The figure 5 beneath this line will indicate the number of eggs in the set. If the set had been 4, 6 or 7 the numbers 4, 6 or 7, according to the number of eggs in the set would be placed beneath this line. And beneath the blow hole should be placed numbers designating the year in which the set was taken, as 1910, 1911, or 1912, or whatever the year might be. Each egg in the set should be marked in exactly the same way.

In this way it is easy to keep track of the specimens. The A.O.U. number will at once identify the specimen, the set number "a-5" will show that it is the first set taken and that there were five eggs in it. The year number beneath the blow hole will show the year in which it was taken, and reference to the data or the original note book would disclose these same figures.

Having marked all of the eggs taken according to the above method, the next important thing is to place them in a dark cabinet of some kind with closely fitting drawers that will exclude both the dust and light. The light will cause many specimens to fade; in fact, nearly all. Dust if it settles upon the egg and the atmosphere then gets damp, will set up a peculiar character of fungus growth on the shell that will ultimately disfigure the eggs for all time; particularly those having solid color, like the Bluebird, Catbird, Wood Thrush and the like.

Of course it follows that the larger the egg the easier it is to blow. Likewise the larger the egg, the same rules apply to prepare it with as small a drill hole as possible.

Many times it will be found that the specimens taken are more or less incubated, though it is a bad practice to take incubated eggs unless they

are specimens of unusual varieties. In that case of course the taking is entirely justified. The blowing of a badly incubated specimen is a matter of tedious, hard work. Frequently you will have to use an embryo hook as well as a pair of very fine, sharp pointed embryo scissors and cut the embryo within the egg through the orifice made by the drill with the scissors and drag it out, piece at a time with the embryo hook, or force small pieces of it out by inserting the point of the blow pipe entirely within the shell of the egg. To do this neatly and softly will require a larger hole in the shell and much patience and care.

It is never very satisfying to attempt to use caustic potash or any similar substance for the dissolving of the contents of an incubated specimen, as is sometimes recommended, for the reason that ultimately the shell of the egg so treated will disintegrate entirely and the strong alkaline action will injure the tint and colors on the shell.

After a little practice it is not hard to become proficient in the preparation of specimens of this kind, and you will discover that your standing and rank as an oologist will depend very largely upon the character of your work in preparing your specimens. Accuracy, neatness and cleanliness above all things should be your motto.

From Georgia.

As I have noticed THE OOLOGIST never has, since I have been a subscriber, contained any notes from Georgia, I have decided to try to write a little about the birds which I have identified here near my home, commencing under date of April 10, 1914 and up to date of May 9, 1914.

1. Broad winged Hawk. 3.
2. Common Crows. 50.

3. Sharp shinned Hawk, 2.
4. Cooper's Hawk, 4.
5. Red-tailed Hawk, 2.
6. Turkey Vultures, many.
7. Screech Owl, 1.
8. Mourning Doves, hundreds.
9. Bob Whites, 20.
10. One Rail but not sure of the species it is but think it No. 2110.
11. Robins, hundreds.
12. Sparrow Hawk, 2.
13. Pigeon Hawk, 1.
14. Southern Flickers, 25.
15. Pileated Woodpeckers, 2.
16. Hairy Woodpecker, 5.
17. Southern Downy Woodpecker, 6.
18. Red cockaded Woodpecker, 1 male.
19. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 12.
20. Red-headed Woodpeckers, 4 male.
21. Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2.
22. Chuck Will's Widow, 1.
23. Whip-poor-will, 1.
24. Night Hawks, 2.
25. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 10.
26. Scarlet Tanagers, 10.
27. Summer Tanagers, 50.
28. Hepatic Tanagers, 1 male.
29. Cardinals, 25.
30. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 5.
31. Purple Finches, 6.
32. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2.
33. Black-throated Blue Warblers, 1.
34. Indigo Buntings, 3.
35. Bluebirds, 5.
36. Blue Jays, 25.
37. Blackburnian Warbler, 6.
38. Redstarts, 5.
39. Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2.
40. Black-throated Green Warblers, 8.
41. Hooded Warblers, 10.
42. Yellow-throated Warblers, 6.
43. Pine Warblers, 25.
44. American Goldfinches, 20.
45. Parula Warblers, 4.
46. Cape May Warblers, 15.
47. Palm Warblers, 2.
48. Prairie Warblers, 6.
49. Myrtle Warblers, 100.
50. Chestnut-sided Warblers, 4.
51. Cedar Waxwings, 12.
52. Yellow-breasted chats, 12.
53. Crested Flycatchers, 4.
54. Towhees, 20.
55. Orchard Orioles, 1 male.
56. Green-crested Flycatchers, 10.
57. Bank Swallows, 25.
58. Red-eyed Vireos, 20.
59. White-eyed Vireos, 2.
60. Blue-headed Vireos, 2.
61. Worm-eating Warblers, 1.
62. Piney Woods Sparrow, 1.
63. Chipping Sparrows, 100.
64. Field Sparrows, 50.
65. White-throated Sparrows, 50.
66. Oven Birds, 5.
67. Louisiana Water Thrushes, 4.
68. Wood Thrushes, 100.
69. Carolina Wrens, 8.
70. Bewick Wrens, 2.
71. Hermit Thrush, 1.
72. Slate-colored Junco, 25.
73. Carolina Juncos, 4.
74. Tufted Titmouse, 4.
75. Blue Gray Gnatcatchers, 14.
76. Carolina Chickadees, 8.
77. Brown-headed Nuthatches, 2.
78. King Birds, 10.
79. Catbirds, 3.
80. Loggerhead Shrikes, 2.
81. Black and White Warblers, 20.
82. Black Pole Warblers, 6.
83. Purple Martins, 10.
84. Barn Swallows, 25.
85. Bobolinks, 25.
86. Brown Thrashers, 50.
87. Chimney Swifts, 25.
88. Spotted Sandpiper, 2.
89. Maryland Yellow-throat, 4.

I will also make note of the nest of birds of the different species. I have located nests of this spring beginning at April 1, 1914, two nests of Pine Warblers, one of Bluebird, four of Carolina Wren, two of Carolina Chickadee, one of Louisiana Water Thrush,

two of Hooded Warbler, two of Yellow Throated Vireo, two of Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, two of Field Sparrow, four of Chipping Sparrow, four of Brown Thrasher, one of Red-eyed Vireo, one of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, one Dove, four of Wood Thrush.

I will also make note of the species that are rapidly growing to be scarce here which was awtul plentiful here 15 years back: White-breasted Nuthatch, very scarce now; Brown-headed Nuthatch, Kingbird, Sparrow Hawk, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, Cedar Bird, Bewick Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, very scarce; Pine Woods Sparrow; most all other species are holding their own very well.

Well, Mr. Barnes, as this is my first letter of this nature I have ever written, please excuse mistakes and if you think this letter worth publishing in THE OOLOGIST, you may publish same. Probably some of the readers of THE OOLOGIST would like to know a little about the birds that are found in Milton County, Georgia.

D. V. Hembree.

Roswell, Ga.

First Sets Taken This Season, 1914.

This month of April being the beginning of the egg season, Mr. Trice and I started on a walk, west of here to explore a creek that run into the Trinity River called Howard's Branch. We first passed through the Forest Park two miles west, which has a large collection of birds and animals, after studying the birds, we went on west to the Howard's Branch. We found three hawks' nests but had no luck. Also several nests of young crows and eggs. As we do not collect them, we passed them by. On up the branch was a large thicket. Finding a hawk's nest half built I told Trice to hide and find out what kind of a hawk was building it, and

I went on hunting in the thicket, which is about one-half mile straight through. While I was crawling along, looking in every place a vulture could lay, I was disturbed by a Turkey Vulture flopping through the brush. Going to where she flew out, I found a set of eggs in under a large fallen tree. Then I went back to see Trice. He found it to be a Red-tailed Hawk working on the nest, so we left this tree going on up the creek. Coming to a large tree, I spied a snug little hollow that had owl feathers hanging to the sides, so up I go and before I got half way up the tree a Texas Screech Owl flew out. Then I was encouraged. There I collected a set of four fresh Screech Owl's. We found no more that day and learned that the Vultures, Hawks and Owls were not laying in full blast in that neck of the woods. Arriving home we decided to get in our E. M. F. 30 and hit it for a Vulture ground, 25 miles northwest of Ft. Worth. We arrived and made camp, set out hooks on the river and took a little walk up a creek to Owl Springs. We found a set of five Barn Owls in a large hole near the spring. Then going up on the hill from the spring we found three Kreider's Hawks in a tree on the hill side. Going back to camp, we had a nice fish on the lines. Retiring for the night in our "Dog Tent," we were amused by the Whip-poor-wills, Barred and Screech Owls and the howling of the Coyotes. We left camp next morning finding plenty of vulture grounds but no eggs. While coming down a hill we flushed a little bird which appeared to be brown. We found four white eggs about the size of a Cat Bird's and looked for the bird but could not find her, so we took the eggs anyhow. The nest was built on the ground out of grass and lined with horsehair. The bird was fast in

flight and hard to tell what kind it was. While looking in under rocks at the top of a large hill I stepped on a large rattlesnake and tumbled backward down the hill but I had one friend and it was a tree which caught me before I came to the thirty foot bank, so I was safe, and grabbing a dead limb and some rocks, I succeeded in killing my enemy which was five feet long and had four young rabbits in him. That evening we collected a set of four cardinal and on April 12th we found 2 sets of Turkey Vulture, one set of Black Vulture, Field Sparrow 1-5, Field Sparrow 2-4, Field Sparrow 3-5 and Field Sparrow 4-4. We caught two nice cat fish and killed what rabbits we needed to eat.

April 13th we found Cardinal 2-4, Field Sparrow 5-5, killed a pair of Barn Owls and one Texas Barred Owl.

April 14th, we went back to the Fort finding 3-4 Cardinal, 6-4 Field Sparrow and 1-4 Texas Bewicks Wren and a fresh nest of Red-eyed Vireo. Also shot a poor-will, which are rare around here. We arrived home all O. K. and we expect to go again soon, but I guess I will go by myself as Mr. Trice is patrolling the border with the National Guards.

Hope all collectors good luck this season.

R. Graham.

Fort Worth, Tex.

Nesting of the Bartramian Sandpiper At New Market, Va.

This spring while on a hike with the corps of cadets of the Virginia Military Institute, I had the pleasure of observing the breeding of this rapidly decreasing bird, the Bartramian Sandpiper or Upland Plover.

In the early morning of May 14th, while walking through a large meadow bordering the Shenandoah River, I heard the musical note of this bird.

After looking around I discovered the bird flying low over the field. This suggested to me that there was a possibility of a nest somewhere in the field.

I searched up and down the meadow for a long time without success and was about to give up when a Bartram flew up about 20 feet in front of me. This encouraged me to look longer and I soon made out the four eggs neatly lying in a slight hollow in the bare ground, with a few pieces of dead grass under them. They sure were a sight for bad eyes. After carefully locating the nest I withdrew and watched for the female to return.

I had a long wait, but finally she flew into the field. She could not see me as I was behind a pile of fence-rails. She flew in wide circles over the field, but each one was a bit closer to the nest. Till finally she lit near it. I waited till she had plenty of chance to settle, then walked carefully up towards the nest and was almost within two feet of it before she left, fluttering off somewhat in the manner of a meadow-lark. As she fluttered she gave vent to plaintive cries of distress. The male did not appear. I packed the eggs carefully and was continuing my way out of the field when much to my surprise a second Bartram flew up and fluttered through the grass at my feet. I soon discovered the second nest containing four pipped eggs. The female flew around me scolding in her musical cry. As the eggs were too far incubated to preserve, I did not disturb them. And after watching the actions of the female for a while I left the field.

I have always imagined from articles read concerning the nesting habits of this bird, that their nest was most difficult to locate. I had to hunt fairly hard for the first but did not have so much trouble to locate it

as the female always staid close by. Is this not rather unusual?

The eggs proved very heavily incubated. This fact I suppose is responsible for the females staying close to the nests. The second nest was within fifty feet of the first. Is this not rather unusual also?

I was very glad of a chance to observe the nesting habits of this bird as they are rapidly becoming scarcer each year.

Later on I had a conversation with the farmer who owned the field in which the nests were found. I asked him if he had noticed any birds nesting in his field. He said, "Oh yes, there's a new bird around there. I know them very well, they are 'Night-ingales.'" I tried to tell him the truth but nothing could convince him that he was wrong so as "ignorance is bliss" and I had a good set of eggs, I let the argument drop

A. Benners, V. M. I.

Lexington, Va.

A Brown Thrasher's Nest.

On May 20 of this year I found a Brown Thrasher's nest with two eggs.

One of the eggs was barely visible. It formed a part of the bottom of the nest and probably was laid before the nest was completed so when the bird finished it, the egg was a part of it, being almost buried in the lining. This nest was deserted June 2.

I have found many nests of the Brown Thrasher but this is the first that I found to be constructed in such a manner.

George E. Koehler.

Bridgeport, Conn.

Notes From the Vicinity of Johnsburg, Missouri.

1914—January

3. One Turkey Buzzard seen in morning. Also one of Cooper's Hawk,

13. A small flock of Chickadees were seen in evening.

19. One Mockingbird.

21. A great many Tree Sparrows. Temperature was 20 degrees above zero. Also a Flicker.

February:

3. One pair of Robins; the sun was shining; temperature 32 degrees above zero.

21. One Red-headed Woodpecker.

25. One Canadian Warbler. Snow on ground.

28. About 15 Bluebirds.

March:

4. One Meadow Lark in evening

5. One Robin.

8. Seven Meadow Larks.

10. About 75 Bronzed Grackles during drizzling rain.

15. One House Wren.

16-27. During this time Robins and Bronzed Grackles became very common.

28. One Red-winged Blackbird. One Cooper's Hawk, and a pair of Towhees.

29-31. A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Thousand of Bronzed Grackles and hundred of Robins.

April:

3. One pair of Hermit Thrushes.

6. One Chimney Swift.

7. One Sandhill Crane.

8. One Great Northern Shrike.

12. Several Wilson Snipes. Found Crow's nest in crab apple 11 feet from ground, contained four eggs, three similar, fourth greatly elongated with black all over large end, elsewhere sparsely specked. Found one Red-bellied Woodpecker's nest in dead elm 12 feet from ground. One Blue Jay's nest in cedar tree, twenty feet from ground.

13. Found another crow's nest 60 feet up in oak,

14. One yellow-headed Blackbird (Rare here); one pair Brown Thrashers and Cowbirds.
15. Crow's nest containing five eggs advanced in incubation. One Bluebird's nest in fence post held four eggs.
17. Wren's nest containing three eggs.
18. One Mourning Dove. One Robin nest.
20. A large flock of Gold finches. Two Tree Swallows, one Least Bittern, and one Mockingbird. Brown Thrasher's nest in bush 2½ feet from ground, with four eggs.
24. Another Robin nest, one Flicker nest, three feet from ground. A large number of doves.
25. One Baltimore Oriole.
26. One Kingbird. Two Jay nests, first twenty feet up in small oak, second three feet up in hedge-thorn. One Crow's nest containing four eggs. One Phoebe's nest five eggs, one young.
27. One Catbird. One Chickadee's nest in fence post, five eggs. One Brown Thrasher's nest just completed.
28. One Red-winged Blackbird's nest.
29. One Red-winged Blackbird's nest. One Chickadee's nest, one egg. One Crow's nest in oak thirty feet high, crow stayed on nest while I walked underneath, hitherto unknown act.
30. A great number of Blackbird nests today. One crow's nest containing four fresh eggs. One Redbird's nest containing two eggs. One pair Baltimore Orioles.

May:

1. One Redbird's nest overhanging water, placed on several blackberry vines, water six inches below bottom of nest. Nest contained three eggs.

Ralph R. Wilson,

Jonesburg, Mo.

The July issue of the Guide to Nature re-publishes the half-tone "The Habitat Group of the Maplewood Museum, Stanford, Connecticut," that first appeared in THE OOLOGIST, showing bird life of the Canadian Zone. The more our exchanges borrow from THE OOLOGIST the better they will be.

The Interesting Road-Runner.

To me, Roadrunners are the most interesting and fascinating birds which have come under my observation. In the vicinity of my home they would hardly be called rare, yet I would hesitate in calling them common. During 1913, three nests were found, while this year I have found four; one of which has proven a great source of pleasure to me.

The first nest, found on April 13, was situated in a tangle of stretchberries and bushes, in the main fork of a stunted oak. It contained ten eggs, whose history was decidedly varied. Four of these eggs were hatched the next day, three more two days later, two were very fresh, and one proved infertile. This would certify the statement made by "Bird Lore," some time ago, concerning the occupation of one roadrunner nest, by several birds.

Nest No. 2 was 3 feet 4 inches from the ground in a bush at the summit of a steep descent. The nest was very rudely constructed, and contained three fresh but soiled eggs on April 25.

The third nest was in a small valley, built on top of a mockingbird nest, about seven feet from the ground. Water often surrounded the tree, and the nest was composed largely of debris found on the roots and branches of the tree. On April 28 this nest contained three young and one egg.

As these nests were some distance from my home they were not visited regularly, but one nest about ½ mile

from our place was placed so advantageously for observation, that it was under my notice for several days. On April 29 this nest contained six rather well developed young, and two infertile eggs. The nest was fully one foot deep and a foot and a half in diameter. It was placed 8 feet up, in a grape vine tangle. Unlike the youngsters in nest No. 1 these birds were sullen and resented being touched. The others were very amiable creatures and seemed to enjoy the sensation of being petted. The birds in Nest No. 4 were sleek and well fed while those in Nest No. 1, were absolutely unable to be satisfied. However, the birds in the last nest attracted me most, and I took two of them home with me, much to their displeasure.

Adult road runners are curious enough but the young ones are more so. Their mouths were blood red, while their eyes were surrounded by pale blue, naked, skin. Their black skinned bodies were covered scantily with pin feathers,—some bursted,—and long, coarse white hairs. The feathers grew very rapidly and the hairs dropped off as the birds developed. The longer I kept them the more their sullenness seemed to leave them and they pleased me greatly by clapping their mandibles together. As the birds grew to know me, they became fearless and hungry. They would rush savagely at me, wings extended, and flapping mouths open, and demand food without delay. From the very first, the size of the mouthful did not concern them nearly so much as how quickly they could get it disposed of. It was some weeks before they could really run, and I was quite often impatient to test their speed. From the first they enjoyed a very varied diet,—horned frogs, sparrows, snakes, lizards, meat and even beetles. Until

May 16 or 17, they did not pick up anything for themselves, but after that, they picked up almost everything, which they found loose. A little later I took them walking with me. In a road, near our house, we would walk up and down together, the birds always being glad to rest every time I would stop. The boys who knew us, frequently went walking too, and a very interesting observation was made. A friend of mine and I lay down upon the road, and the birds promptly seated themselves on me. My companion then happened to put his head on his hand, when immediately the birds went to him. I then sat up,—they came to my shoulders, and when he stood up they went to him. This shows the birds' love for a high place. They would scan the skies and follow constantly with their eyes, a turkey vulture or hawk which was flying past. As yet they have never captured a lizard, or snake for themselves, but tiny tree-toads, beetles, caterpillars, moths and frogs are all subject to their fatal attacks.

George Miksch Sutton.

Books Received.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING SPECIMENS of MAMMALS, BIRDS, FISH AND REPTILES, by Stanley C. Jewett

Published by Oregon Fish & Game Commission.

This is a splendid little 20 page resume of the subject treated, accompanied by illuminative illustrations and coming from a man with such extended field experience, is an addition to the literature on this subject, and of convenient size and shape to be carried into the field.

THE EMU, Vol. XIII, Part II, October 1, 1913.

This issue of *The Emu* gives a description of a "Commonwealth Collec-

tion" being a description of a collection of eggs gathered together by H. L. White, a resident of Australia, accompanied by three colored plates illustrative of 35 varieties of eggs. This collection exceeds 800 Australian species, each with data, accompanied by over one thousand bird skins, and shows the life work of a real scientist.

In examining it one is struck with the evident difference in coloration of the eggs of the birds of Australia as compared with those of North America, being as a rule more highly colored and much more given to irregular lines and streaks.

The Dovekie on the New England Coast.

The morning of January 5, 1914, after a severe storm, about ten Dovekies—Alle alle—were noticed strewn along the ocean beach near Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Two showed signs of life and were taken to a house and cared for. They seemed to appreciate the warmth and the rescue from the storm, but they refused food and both died before night. The people were sorely disappointed as they liked the appearance of the plump, downy-feeling "Little Auks," as the English call them, and they hoped to keep them for awhile, at least, for pets. This, of course, would have been exceedingly difficult, on account of the pelagic habits of the species.

This is a swift bird awing but it does not, as a rule, make extended flights. The small wings and the comparatively heavy body militates against this. As a result, after being buffeted about by a heavy, prolonged storm the Dovekie is very liable to succumb and be driven ashore.

The two birds especially mentioned were sent me as was one from Chathamport, Mass., December 13, 1913, and all are now in my collection.

I understand that the species was more plentiful than usual along the New England coast during the winter of 1913-14.

Charles L. Phillips.
Taunton, Mass.

A Well Occupied Tree.

On April 23 while walking through a field I saw a Flicker fly from a hole about three feet from the top of an old pine stub twenty feet tall. On climbing up I found that the Flicker nest was new but contained no eggs, but in a hole in the top of the tree I found a Screech Owl setting on two incubated eggs. On examining the tree two weeks later I found a set of seven Flicker eggs in the Flicker hole.

Nine days later I collected another set of Screech Owl eggs out of the Flicker hole. And on the other side of the tree a set of four Red-headed Woodpecker.

D. Loach Martin.

Mr. Martin also reports a set of eight Great Crested Flycatchers eggs taken May 27.

Cowbird's Eggs.

June 23, 1913, I found a Brewer's Blackbird's nest in a wild rose thicket two and a half feet from the ground containing three eggs of the owner and four of the Cowbird.

I have also found Cowbird's eggs in the following nests that I am certain of but have not dates: Yellow Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow and Bobolink in Minnesota; also Yellow Warbler, Western Yellow-throat, Lazuli Bunting, and Western Meadowlark in Montana.

Bernard Bailey.
Elk River, Minnesota.

Nesting of Yellow Palm Warbler.

While crossing a somewhat bushy pasture on May 8th, I saw a Yellow

Palm Warbler with some dead grass in her beak and in a short time she carried it to a mossy knoll out in the pasture about 50 feet from edge of woods. In about 10 days time I went again; there was two Warbler eggs and a Cowbird egg. I removed the Cowbird egg and in four days more went again and found three Warbler eggs with the female setting. She did not leave the nest until my hand was within a foot of her when she fluttered along on the grass to the edge of the woods and while she kept near enough to be seen readily did not seem to care much what happened. The nest was sunken into the moss and well under a leaning apple bush and partly hidden by dead grass. It was well made for a ground builder, of dead grass finer inside and lined with quite a number of small feathers. This bird nests in Northern Maine in fair numbers every year but starts in so much earlier than the other Warblers that one usually finds young instead of sets. Nests are usually under boughs of some coniferous bush and all I have seen have had quite a number of small feathers for lining. The eggs are somewhat like some sets of Magnolia Warblers I have taken, having a somewhat clouded effect in the markings, but are quite good size, as large as those of the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

W. J. Clayton.

I found a Cowbird egg in a Hermit Thrush's nest the same day I found the egg in the Warbler's nest. He is a family of three now and all are doing well, all about same size and color.

W. J. C.

One On Us.

In the June issue, we published (Page 113) a half tone of a Mourning Dove's nest with a young bird and egg. This was labeled "Nest and Eggs

of Kentucky Warbler" and credited to our friend T. H. Jackson.

Curiously enough this very mistake occurred once before, (See Vol. XXVII pg. 63). The cut we intended to reprint last month will be found in Vol. XXVII at page 113.

We have been expecting that Jackson would kill us, and don't know as we would blame him very much, but as we have not heard from him, suppose he prefers to suffer in silence. Maybe he regards us as past redemption. Possibly he may be right, for surely there is no excuse for such a blunder either the first or the second time.

Prairie Homed Lark.

While walking in the country on April 12th, I found my first homed lark's nest. The bird sat very close, and flushed from a nest that was lined with nothing but fine grasses, which is unlike the description given by other Oologists, most of them stating that the nest is usually lined with feathers. It contained four very slightly incubated eggs. I am certain that it was a homed lark, but am not positive of the exact species. Is it not rather late for the nesting of a homed lark in this part of the state? I will be very thankful to anyone giving the desired information.

Owen J. Gromme.

Fon Du Lac, Wis.

No, it is not unusually late.—Editor.

We have recently added to our collection a perfect set of four eggs of the extremely rare Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa*) taken in Alaska very near the Arctic Circle. Really authentic sets of eggs of this bird are exceedingly rare in collections, and of course we prize the addition very much.

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Gulls of the Great Salt Lake

Glimpses of Bird Life in Utah.

By Mrs. Antwonet Treganza

Wonderful are the hosts of feathered creatures that live everywhere about us, a few miles from our very door. If Utah had a sea coast, she could boast of more birds than any other state in the Union; but, even without a coast, she lays claim to some two hundred and ten species that have actually been found breeding here. There are many others; for the varying topography attracts widely different species. The great long valleys that lie between the mountain ranges, the rising foothills, the coniferous forests of the slopes, and even the crowning summits are tenanted with bird life. Countless thousands are to be found in the rookeries on the Islands of the Great Salten Sea, and on that eternity of marsh and slough formed by the Bear River overflows; over the great waste of alkali flats, the seemingly barren stretches of desert, every canyon, every green field—in fact, there is hardly an acre that does not provide a home for some bird. Besides the birds that are resident from year to year, others from the Rockies and the Sierras and from Canada and the South have often been found breeding here, far out of their prescribed range. Then, too, what a blessing are the hosts of migratory birds that pass northward in the spring, southward in the fall, devouring the eggs and larvae of insect—enemies of the horticulturist.

On a bright, clear day in early March we are tramping up City Creek Canyon. A few miles onward are some precipitous cliffs, and with rope ladder we have gained access to a sheltered crevice where a sober, big-eyed Western Horned Owl sits erect beside his crouching mate, who is perhaps brooding over a clutch of three white eggs. Above us are several pairs

of Prairie Falcon; from the scrub oak come the discordant notes of the Woodhouse Jay and Magpie. For a moment all is still, when a flood of music bursts into the air—a rippling, joyous melody from the throat of a tiny, Dotted Canyon Wren. We visit the nest of a Water Ouzel fastened to the side of a rock, but the little fellow is not at home. Along the way are cheery groups of Mountain Chickadee and Mountain Bluebird. The year is yet too young for these birds to be a nesting, but they are all here waiting for the balmier days.

On a cold, bleak day in late March, we are ninety miles from Salt Lake, 9000 feet on the side of a mountain, making our way over the crusted snow to the home of the Clark's Crow or Camp Robber; and justly is he named, for time without number, has he not invaded your mountain camp and robbed you of your piece of soap or your tooth brush hanging on the side of a pine tree? During the breeding season this bird is silent, and so shy and wary, that to gain any knowledge of its home life is almost impossible unless one lives in the high mountains the year around. Here where pine nuts are plentiful we find the Pinon Jay, the Mountain Chickadee, and the Lead-colored Bush-Tit.

The spring rains have come, but the first week in April is clear, so we take the train to Brigham City, and from there go out to the sloughs. It is late when we make our camp, but we are astir with the first rays of the morning's sun. The air is filled with a medley of honks and squawks and the dull whirr of wings as the birds are preparing for their flight inland to breakfast in the neighboring fields and sloughs. There are hundreds and thousands of birds. As we sit about our camp fire at breakfast, we watch them pass by—single birds, pair after



Young Cormorants
Salt Lake, Utah

pair, small flocks, and long lines, and wedges. There is the Canada Goose, the Great Blue Heron, the Black-Crowned Night Heron, the Mallard, the Pintail and the Canvasback, the Shoveller, the Baldpate, the Green-wing Teal, and the Cinnamon Teal.

The humid mist of the early morning is rising, so we take a duck boat and course along the runways, winding in and out of the tules, gliding so silently that we take a setting Canada Goose unawares; and surprise a colony of Black-crowned Night Heron. For a moment or two the sun is darkened by several large flocks of White-faced Glossy Ibis passing overhead, coming in from the open lake; a frantic duck dashes madly through the air closely pursued by a hungry Duck Hawk; the air is filled with the warning cries from a colony of Avocets, as they circle closely above our heads; and as we land upon a mud

flat, the little Black-necked Stilts rise from their nests, making their way to the water's edge, where they flap their wings, and scold and feign lameness, for where the marsh grass fringes out onto the mud flat, is a slight depression scratched in the ground, containing four greenish-buff eggs boldly marked with brownish black.

This paradise of the water bird affords also a refuge for the beautiful Snowy Heron and Egret, which the ruthless plume hunter has so wantonly slaughtered. During the last few years they have increased in numbers, doubtless because Utah offers them the protection that until recently they could not find elsewhere. The Long-billed Curlew is another of the rare shore birds that is bordering upon extinction, owing to the rapid advance of civilization. Looking through our field glasses we see an occasional lone sentinel on duty, guarding his home



Nest of Great Blue Heron (above), nest of Double Crested Cormorant (below). On an Island in Great Salt Lake, Utah.

where his mate crouches flat with head and bill prone to the ground, and whose protective coloration is so perfect, that except for the alert, beady eyes, she appears but as the dry, sprangling marsh grass. It is dusk as we are making our way back through the fields, and we stop for a moment to watch the wonderful song-flight of the Wilson Snipe, and listen to the clear whistle of the Long-billed Curlew.

This lovely May day we are on our way to Saltair, where the *Amorita* is tugging at her anchor. We put off, and a brisk breeze soon takes us to Antelope Island. Herethe bird life varies little from the adjacent mainland, so we sail around the northwest end where White Rock rises precipitously out of the water. Here is the first evidence of the home of the California Gull and the Great Blue Heron, whose nests are built everywhere in the crevices of the boulders. A run of about four miles brings us to Egg Island. Well is it named, for here the rookeries are teeming with thousands of birds, and our intrusion brings forth a screaming, squawking remonstrance. On the rocks and boulders are the nests of the Great Blue Heron and a colony of Double-crested Cormorant; on the beaches the California Gull lays its eggs. So numerous are they that one can scarcely walk without stepping upon them. Who does not love the quiet, peaceful Gull that is held so sacred by the inhabitants of Utah? for only the aid of the gulls enabled the people to withstand that terrible visitation of crickets that came upon the early pioneers in 1848.

On Fremont Island we find only the American Raven, induced there by the sheep. On Hat Island are the rookeries of two colonies of American White Pelican and thousands of Gulls. How awkward is the Pelican on land, but

launched in the air he has a wonderfully firm, steady flight. Stretching from Hat Island towards Carrington is a long sandbar, on which the graceful Caspian Tern raises her brood. Gunnison is the most densely populated island. The immense accumulations of guano give evidence of the ages during which these same birds have been its only residents, and here is the home of all the sea birds mentioned, except the Caspian Tern. A night spent on these islands of congested bird life is surely a revelation; for with the first grey streaks of dawn the heavens above the islands are filled with a circling, whirling, screaming, squawking bevy of winged life as the birds are preparing for their flight inland for food, some fifty or sixty miles.

It is still the month of May, and we are over a hundred miles from Salt Lake. All is desolation and solitude as we stand looking over the great reaches of desert, mountain and sky, watching the train disappear in the distance like a tiny black reptile, creeping over the sand. We have come to study the American Raven, and are soon reminded of his presence when we hear his free, wild call. Farther on, several pairs are feasting on a breakfast of carrion. Working our way up the cliffs to their home on the bare ledge, we arouse the scream of the Red-tail Hawk and the shrill notes of the Prairie Falcon. We stop to watch the wonderful flight of a Golden Eagle as he floats upon the air, noting his direction as a possible clue to his eyrie. It is seven miles back to the train, and as we walk briskly along, we are cheered by the happy songs of the Desert Horned Lark, the Sage Thrasher, and the little Brewer Sparrow.

It is five in the morning on the 6th of June. If you will take the rear seat

of the motor-cycle we will run down to Big Cottonwood. In thirty minutes we leave the beaten path and enter the heart of the woods. It is like entering a Cathedral where sublime voices are pouring out their praises to God on High. Have you ever heard that ethereal, spiritual song of the Audubon Hermit Thrush at dawn? It is glorious. The Mountain Song Sparrow, the Willow Thrush, the American Redstart, the Yellow Warbler, the Black-throated Gray Warbler—these, too, are greeting the morning in song.

We linger for a time to gather scientific data and make observations, proceeding up the canyon on foot that we may study the birds along the way. Here we find the same species and many additional ones, until we reach the Alpine Lakes and coniferous forests of the higher altitudes where there is so much interesting bird life crowded into one short season. Along the rushing torrents, where the spray splashes upon them, are the homes of the Willow, and Audubon Hermit Thrush; in the dense willows beside the streams, the Robin, Mountain Song Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting build their nests. We hear the warning cluck of a Gray-headed Junco, and look under a boulder or fallen tree for his setting mate; under the shelter of an Indian poke weed we often take a Lincoln or White-crowned Sparrow unawares. In the tall pine trees the Audubon Warbler, the Pine Siskin, the Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak, the Calliope and Broad-tailed Hummers, and both the Ruby and Western Golden-crowned Kinglets bring forth their tiny fledglings. The sombre little Western Wood Pewee, clothed in gray, builds a gray nest on an old, dead, gray branch of a huge aspen; and so on we might continue, for there are so many more interesting bird homes we could visit. These few

glimpses are but a meagre panorama of a short season afield.—From Utah Educational Review.

Nesting of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

On the 12th of June of this year while walking through a bit of woodland looking for Scarlet Tanager's nest where I had often heard one singing on previous occasions, I chanced by under some oak trees, I heard a humming sound above me and on looking up, saw a female hummingbird light on a limb, in her beak she held some material for her nest but on seeing me she dropped this and began preening her feathers. I kept perfectly still, watching her for a short time, when off she flew so quickly (that she reminded me of a huge June bug rather than a bird) only to alight on a dead limb a little farther away, back she came but would not disclose her cosy little home. After a little while she flew away in her bullet-like flight which gave me a good opportunity to move farther away and conceal myself before she returned. This time I was more fortunate as she soon returned and flew to the end of an oak limb and then away. I hurried to the spot and looking up could just make out the nest which closely resembled a small knot. Two days later I visited the nest and she was sitting but did not disturb her, later on the 17th I again returned as I wished to examine the nest and eggs. She quickly flew off the nest and hovered in the air above my head making a humming sound with her wings. The nest was placed on the dead outer limb of an oak about one foot from the end of the branches which held two white eggs the size of small beans, it being composed of plant down, covered on the outside with lichens at a height of twelve feet from the ground on the

edge of a clearing in a thicket. On all my visits not once did I see the male although I suppose he was not far distant.

Observations were made in Muskoka, Ontario.

George E. Gerald.

Nesting of the Whip-poor-Will.

While gathering Pink Lady Slippers on the 3rd of June, 1912, that grew plentiful in the sphagnum moss on the edge of a rocky piece of woods, I was passing near a small hemlock when up flew a brown bird on silent wings which alighted on a log a few yards away. A second glance at the bird I identified her being a whip-poor-will and that she appeared anxious about something as she hissed at me with her feathers ruffled up. I examined the ground very carefully and was about to leave. I caught sight of the two eggs lying on last year's leaves under the lower branches of the hemlock tree. They were creamy white with faint marking of brown and lavender. The country about was mostly covered with pine, hemlock and cedar with a number of maple and birch trees interspersed here and there.

Observations were made in Muskoka, Ontario.

George E. Gerald.

Hérons.

In the town of Webb, Herkimer Co., N. Y., I have discovered a healthy colony of Great Blue Herons. I located the colony last fall (1913) while deer hunting and on April 25 this spring again visited it. We then counted 20 nests that had been repaired, all in the tops of beeches fifty to sixty-five feet up, and over forty birds. Colony on top of small hill in dense Adirondack woods two miles from nearest water.

R. T. Fuller.

Pulaski, N. Y.

Observations of Bird Life in Los Angeles County, District A.

By Alfred Cookman, Deputy Fish and Game Warden for Los Angeles Co., Southern California.

I was thinking that possibly a few notes of our observations of bird life in Los Angeles County, District A, might interest the readers of THE OOLOGIST, I write this:

Last week, Prof. L. W. Welch and the writer spent two days making observations of the bird life in the Sunset Beach, Bosca Chico and Lomita Gun Club Reservations along the coast in the south, southeast sections of Los Angeles County in Southern California. We spent our nights on the cold sand by the "Sad sea waves" and during the day went hunting in the gun reservations and securing notes on the nesting habits of the marsh birds. We watched the homeward flight of the sea birds at evening tide and again, their feeding in the neighboring sloughs very early in the morning.

The writer is preparing a treatise on the nesting habits of the birds of Los Angeles County. Special attention is given to the nest building, manner of general house-keeping and the economic relations of the many kinds of birds in this territory. The writer has been working in the San Pedro Harbor territory for nearly two years. This territory covers about thirty-three miles. During the nesting of 1913, we record sixty-three species and over eight thousand individual birds observed in nine districts in this region. Fifteen miles east from Point Fermin to Naples via Seal Beach to Sunset Beach and sloughs north and northeast was carefully surveyed during the months of May, June, July and December. During the latter part of July to the 15th of August, the writer covered over twenty-five miles of

the territory from San Pedro proper, west along the coast from Point Fermín to Point Vincentee and seaward ten miles. From March 10th to May 15th, we journeyed inland visiting "Nigger Sloughs", thence east to the "Dominguez Rancho" via the "Dominguez Water-way" to the "Dominguez Sloughs", southeast of the rancho. The Rancho lies about ten miles northeast of San Pedro and "Nigger Sloughs" is four miles north of Wilmington. Wilmington is two miles east of San Pedro. Throughout the entire year, the bird life in the "Signal Hill" district, two miles northeast of Long Beach, Long Beach is seven miles east of San Pedro, has received careful attention and a complete systematic survey has been made of this district in view of the fact that Professor Welch and the writer are residents of the city of Long Beach.

During the nesting season of 1914, we returned to the same field to study the nesting habits of the birds. Our observations during the nesting season of the year 1913 was largely from an economic standpoint and to make a census of the bird life in this territory. More complete and systematic notes are being taken throughout this year and thus far, we have secured some very interesting notes from our field observations. The results of our work we are not prepared to publish as yet, but expect to have them ready sometime in the near future.

We were royally entertained at the various gun clubs and in fact, wherever we have been carrying on our ornithological survey, the public have treated us with the kindest respect.

Throughout the year, the writer has lectured before clubs and schools in various counties in Southern California on the Nesting Habits of the Birds. The object of my lecturing was to

awaken in the minds of the people to whom I was privileged to address, a deeper interest in the study of the feathered songsters and to plea for those creatures who can not plea for themselves. Last month, the writer was privileged to address the Parent-Teachers Association of Whittier. The lecture was given out of doors in the Central Park. It was a pleasing sight to witness 1,500 school children standing erect with their right hand raised and in one accord exclaim, "We will promise so to do." At the close of my lecture, I had them pledge allegiance to the birds, to do all in their power to attract them to their city and to protect them from harm and from untimely death.

Most of our observations were made on foot, although automobiles often conveyed us to the desired locality. Our observation of the bird life at sea and along the coast was accomplished by the use of several steam launches from San Pedro. There is one little boat, the "Anton Dorhn", a thirty-five foot launch, the property of the Venice Marine Biological Station of the University of Southern California, which we were privileged to use on several occasions.

We have almost finished our survey of the San Pedro Harbor territory and next year, we expect to devote a large part of our time in the San Gabriel Mountains in Southern California studying the hawks and owls inhabiting the Mt. Lowe to Mt. San Bernardino via the West Ford Range to Christal Lake and Mt. Wilson district.

A Day With the Birds at Weeping Water, Nebraska.

On Saturday, May 30, 1914, I accompanied the annual foray of the Botanical Seminar of the University of Nebraska for a day's outing in the neighborhood of Weeping Water. This

village is situated about thirty-five miles east of Lincoln, nearly eighteen miles west of the Missouri river, and along a small stream bearing the same name. The woods are mainly of bur oak and white elm, with a sprinkling of red oak, scarlet oak, walnut, basswood, hackberry, hickory, locust, box elder, ash, plum, cherry, etc., with the usual accompanying shrubs and vines.

In this sylvan, hilly region, I gave my time to the study of such wood birds as were to be found. During the day I observed and identified thirty-five different kinds. Of these the catbird was far the most abundant and I saw over fifteen of them.

Next in order of abundance was the mourning dove which was to be found, especially in the morning, along railroad beds, but was very rarely to be seen later on in the day. Then there was the towhee which is quite frequently, if not often, found hereabouts.

I have usually not seen many tanagers on one trip but on this one I came across them frequently. They build their nests so as to overhang the paths and roads, and far out on branches, where it was extremely difficult to secure them. The bird itself was usually to be seen on the top of a high tree where it would not be very conspicuous.

At this time of the year the blackbirds, the red-winged and the cowbird, are not to be seen frequently; but I was surprised how scarce they really were. I saw only two birds the whole day, one early in the morning and another late at night, and both were the red-winged.

The downy woodpecker was also scarce while the red-headed woodpecker was seen several times. On observation the red-headed woodpecker was found to nest chiefly in a dead limb of a willow tree, overhanging a

creek, pond, or some other body of water.

Kingfishers were also seen along the creeks and in the marshes, especially the latter. This bird nests in the ground but I saw two sporting about a nest as though it was their own which was in a thick growth of young willows, some twenty feet from the ground.

Other birds frequently seen were the indigo-bird, goldfinch, crow, blue jay, pewee, nuthatch, kingbird and the cardinal bird.

Fred L. Fitzpatrick.

A Red Start Record.

Here are my four years' experiments with American Redstarts along the Concord River. This river, as it will be remembered, was formerly the favorite life resort place of famous men such as Thoreau, Emerson and Sanborn. As follows:

May 18, 1911. A redstart's nest (partly completed) found in a young ash tree about fifteen feet up.

May 13, 1912. Redstart caught busy constructing a new nest in the crotch of a young ash tree about seven feet up.

May 15, Redstart, No. 2, nests in white birch about 25 feet up.

May 20, Redstart, No. 3, builds a new one in black birch about seven feet up.

May 23, Redstart, No. 4, busy at nest building in black birch about twenty feet up.

May 18, 1913. Redstart's nest in white birch about twenty feet up.

June 20, two more redstart's nests found in low elevation, (4 to 6 feet from the ground). One in an elderberry bush. 4 eggs in each nest. Believed to be second breeding.

July 17, 1913. Another redstart's nest in black birch about 12 feet up. Three eggs.

May 20, 1914. Redstart seen on nest in black birch about ten feet up.

July 5, Redstart's nest about 30 feet up in ash tree. Seen both sexes feeding young every time they could.

July 5, Redstart nest found in a crotch of an elderberry bush about four feet from the ground. Three eggs in it. Flowers in bloom. Believed to be second breeding.

July 19, Three full-grown young of same species there.

Now I am going to write a few notes on some tragedies of rose-breasted grosbeak's nests along the Concord River.

May 18, 1911. A rose-breasted grosbeak's nest in the fork of a young sapling about 20 feet up. Male around it. Female not seen. One week later the nest was cancelled. Branches of the tree showed fresh broken.

May 20, 1913. Another nest of same species found in same place as it was in 1911. Five days later female seen on it. June 6, same female still on it. June 20, nest not there. Branches of tree showed fresh broken.

Myles S. McGeever.

Lowell, Mass.

Breeding Records of the Upland Plover.

(*Bartramia longicauda*)

Breeding records of the Upland Plover, (*Bartramia longicauda*) in Virginia are so rare now, that I was much pleased to find a pair on July 19th, 1913, at Massanetta Springs, Rockingham County with young a few days old. When first seen the old birds made a great outcry, and finally got the young into an uncut wheat field, where I could not follow them. A gentleman who was with me at the time, informed me they formerly bred commonly in Fauquier County and when shot during the fall months, were very fat. A few pairs bred this

season (1914) in Montgomery County, and from other records coming to us, they were more common breeders in the state this year, than for a number of seasons past.

H. B. Bailey.

Sea Birds Ashore.

On July 2d, 1914, Prof. L. W. Welch and the writer found dead on the sand three miles west of Sunset Beach in Los Angeles County, Southern California, three pinkfooted shearwaters (*Puffinus creatopus*), three sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*), one Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) and an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*).

The shearwaters were covered with oil and this is the cause for their deaths. The Ancient Murrelet was shot. Three holes penetrated its left side and one limb was gone. This is the first Ancient Murrelet I have seen in this territory.

Alfred Cookman.

Dept. of Biology,

University of So. California.

Rough Winged and Bank Swallows.

By S. S. Dickey.

Owing to the neglectful and unscientific observations of a local oologist I was for some years past led to believe that the bank swallow nested in the vicinity of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Upon reading some recent articles concerning the two swallows (*Riparia riparia* and *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*; and, again, upon comparing my observations on the swallows with those of my friend, Professor Richard C. Harlow, I was sufficiently interested to peruse my recorded notes relating to these birds and to make a further study in the field.

I formerly thought that the swallows which resorted to crevices in rocks, stone walls, etc., for nesting sites were

rough-wings; while those that regularly inhabited holes in banks, I was led to believe were bank swallows.

Recent literature relating to these swallows implies that riparia invariably lines its nest with feathers or similar material while *serripennis* uses blades of grass, pieces of yellow straw, and at times, horse hairs. In addition to such lining there are frequently found, small leaves of black willow (*salix nigra*); leaflets of the locust (*Rabinia pseudo-acacia*), or petals from the blossoms of flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

May 24, 1898. I found what I then supposed was a nest of the bank swallow. It was built one foot back in a burrow which had fallen away in the lower part, causing the excavation to extend upwards about 30 degrees. This burrow, I am quite positive, was not made by the swallows. The nest was composed of weed stalks and blades of dry grass and small leaves of the willow, (*salix nigra*). The swallows flew about near the run which bordered the five foot clay bank that contained the nesting hole. I watched these birds for some time and concluded they were bank swallows. After a careful examination of the five eggs, and considering the conditions of the nest and its site, I feel sure that they belonged to *Stelgidopteryz serripennis*.

A number of other nests which I examined were lined with blades of grass or small leaves, and none held feathers. The burrows used by the swallows were in most cases partly excavated and abandoned ones of the belted kingfisher. In several instances the burrows had caved in towards the entrances, and had drifted out somewhat, making the identity of the original excavator of them quite obscure. However, I feel safe in stating that all holes in banks, occupied by swal-

lows, were originally made by kingfishers, and I at once concluded that the birds inhabiting them were not bank swallows but rough-wings; since bank swallows are said to excavate their own nesting burrows.

To make further proof, I examined, during the past spring, several swallows and each proved to be *S. serripennis*. I feel sure that *Riparia riparia* does not nest in this locality.

The Yellow Breasted Chat.

Mr. Edward F. Bigelow, president of the Aggasiz Association, calls our attention to the remarkable fact that so far as his investigations go, the Yellow-breasted Chat has never been photographed in life. We had never thought of this before, but if it is a fact, it is remarkable, and we trust that the cameras will shortly be pointed in goodly numbers at this yellow gowned vocal acrobat.

Happy Family.

On June 5th, 1914, Mr. John Bell called our attention to a Yellow Warbler's nest containing four Warbler's eggs and one Cowbird's egg in a tangle of Prairie roses along the edge of the Lily Pond Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y.

The Cowbird's egg and one of the Warbler's eggs hatched out on June 9 and as none of the other eggs were hatched the two lived in comfort and good fellowship.

The nest was visited almost every day and no evidence of quarreling between them was seen, in spite of the fact that the Cowbird was twice the size of the Warbler.

The day before they left the nest on June 20, they were side by side and well feathered out, the Warbler was beginning to show the yellow tinge beneath.

Wm. L. G. Edson,

Richard E. Harvey.

Rochester, N. Y.

You ought to have taken the Cowbird's egg out when you first found the nest. Then probably all of the Warbler's eggs would have hatched.—Editor.

Field Glasses Great Aid.

On May 17th I was assiduously watching a pair of Blue-grey Gnatcatchers in the timber. I followed the flight of one and while sweeping down the branches with my glasses, a slight movement arrested by eyes.

On the under side of a dead branch was an excavation that my eyes alone would never have discovered. Had not the head of a female Downy Woodpecker appeared every few seconds dropping the last chips from her almost completed home, I would have left in ignorance of the presence of the nest.

Not a sound was made as she put on the finishing touches. May 7th delivered me the set of five fresh eggs and a nest branch so perfect in excavation that I mounted it in true museum style.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Ills.

Yellow-Headed Blackbird.

For the first time in twenty years of bird study, I am able to report the Yellowhead in east central Illinois (Champaign county). The lone individual visited us April 29-30, May 1st and 2nd. He stayed with a company of Bronzed Grackles and followed them in the plowed fields picking up worms.

Isaac E. Hess.

The Chipping Sparrow.

I haven't looked into a nest of the Chipping Sparrow in eight years. This formerly common summer resident is certainly gone from this locality. What is the experience of ye Editor regarding this bird that we hear so little about any more?

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Illinois.

Woods Birds in Village.

The slaughter of the woodlands has at least given our villages a few more residents. This June several pairs of Screech Owls, three pairs Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, one pair Red-eyed Vireo, one pair Crested Flycatcher and a half dozen pairs Wood Peewees are making their summer homes with us.

Isaac E. Hess.

"Treganza" a Bird Loving Family.

We are under obligations to Mrs. Treganza for the article on the Birds of Salt Lake appearing in this issue. The name Treganza is inseparably interwoven with the study of Utah birds. Father, son and daughter. No more accurate observers exist; gifted in being able to transcribe their observations attractively to paper, we deem it a lucky day for the readers of THE OOLOGIST when copy from any of this family of nature students reaches this office.—Editor.

Sets of Five Eggs from the Yellow Breasted Chat.

In Southwestern Pennsylvania the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria v. vierns*) is a quite common summer resident, nesting in patches of blackberry briars or haw bushes that grow in deserted fields. During the past few years it has been my pleasure to examine a number of nests of this species but three of which held sets of five eggs each. The first nest to contain five eggs was found May 29, 1904. It was built four feet up in a red haw bush that grew in an open field, close to a second growth woodlot. One of the eggs of this set was noticeably smaller than the remaining specimens. The second clutch of five eggs was discovered May 18, 1905, and was built four feet up in a wild crab apple bush that stood near a clump of

bushes, in a corner of a grassy field. The eyes of this set were especially large. The last set of five eggs was found on May 21, 1908. It was built 3 feet up in a clump of black haw bushes that stood above the bank at a roadside and just below a large wood. These specimens resembled each other both in size and in color, being especially well marked for eggs from *Leria v. virens*.

S. S. Dickey.

J. W. Preston's Collection.

We have recently acquired all that part of the collection of birds eggs that we could use of the collection of J. W. Preston of Spokane, Wash., about thirteen hundred in number. This lot includes such rare and much wanted specimens as eggs of the Yellow-billed Loon, Whooping Crane, American Crossbill, Clark's Nutcracker, California Condor, Vaux's Swift, etc. It is a valued addition to our accumulations, and one of these times we may inflict upon our readers a review of some parts of this collection.—Editor.

Notes From Bear River Marshes, Utah.

By Edward Tregonza.

These marshes are probably, with their contingent mud flats, wet or dry, one of the largest breeding grounds in the interior mountain country.

They are situated on the northeastern margin of the best game preserves of the state, which are controlled by several gun clubs, far and near. These marshes are composed of the deltas of Bear and Weber rivers. The deposit or silt carried down the rivers meet the resistance of the lake and forms these large marshes, many miles square: they are favorite feeding grounds for many species of birds during the spring and fall migrations.

Also desirable breeding grounds for many species of water and shore birds.

This vast expanse is covered, almost as far as the eye can see south and west, by a dense growth of tule and cattails.

The mud flats are either a deposit of the rivers at high water or drowned lowlands caused by back-water of floods.

After one enters the marshes he finds many narrow open and very crooked water currents; these constitute the delta, with an occasional lagoon, or open space 100 x 250 feet more or less, where the birds sport.

Our camp is at one of the gun club sheds, which proves to be quite comfortable at night and during a storm.

Birds note in Bear River Marshes and contingent flats, two trips:

Canada Goose—41 nests located.

Mallard—Fairly common, breeding many resident.

Shoveller—April 2, 1911. More in evidence than all other species; later not common, but breeding.

Pintail—Common, breeds freely.

Gadwalls—Quite common, breeds, nests found far from water quite often.

Green Winged Teal—Many seen, breeds.

Blue Winged Teal—Met quite a number, breeds.

Cinnamon Teal—Common, breeds freely.

Ruddy Duck—Many found, breeds.

Ballpate—Fairly common, breeds.

Redhead—Common, breeds freely in cattail marshes and tule tussocks.

Killdeer—Common, breeds in all meadows above and in adjoining marshy flats.

Black-necked Still—Common, on mud flats.

Am. Avocet.—Common, on mud flats.

Snowy Plover—Breeding on dry alkali flats.

Great Blue Heron—Several hundred in colony.

Snowy Heron—Several colonies, breeding.

Black Crowned night Heron—Common, breeding.

White faced Glossy Ibis—Large flocks seen every morning coming from the farther marsh fields.

Am. Egret.—On July 17th, 1910, a colony in which 64 nests were found containing young and eggs in various stages of incubation, being so late in the season I considered that these birds must have been driven from other localities.

Long-billed Curlew, on the grassy ridges between the waterways also in the dry meadows adjoining.

Double Crested Cormorant—Frequently seen flying inland, evidently from Egg Island.

White crested Cormorant—Same as above.

Western Willet—Along the margin of the narrow water ways leading into the marshes, not common.

Wilson's Snipe—In the marshy meadows before one comes to the marshes proper.

Desert Horned Lark—On the dry sandy sage-brush knolls in the flats. Common.

Meadow Lark—In all grass meadows.

Yellow throat—A few seen in tules. Song Sparrow—Often heard, but seldom seen. In old tule marshes.

Savannah Sparrow—Common in salt grass near margin of marshes.

Wilson's Phalarope—Seen breeding in pools near grassy flats.

Duck Hawk—Seen almost every morning and evening seeking prey.

Tule Wren—Seen and heard everywhere along water ways in tule.

Barn Swallows—All barns near the marshes have its colony.

Am. Bittern—Usually common, but this year (1911) very scarce.

This is a record of two four-day trips to these grounds, including time of travel.

◆◆◆

In Denver.

While in Denver early in July on a short business trip it was our pleasure to make the acquaintance of Mr. J. D. Figgins the director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History. We found him a very pleasant and entertaining gentleman and much interested in Ornithology. It was a satisfaction to have him call attention to his recent contribution to THE AUK, Vol. XXXI No. 1, while discussing the unfortunate drift of some ornithologists toward infinitesimal and unjustifiable subdivision of species of birds into alleged geographic races. This our readers all know we abhor.

We found a real up to date museum and one that bore evidences of recent and substantial growth and of having a master mind at the head.—Editor.

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The Carolina Wren.

(Thryomanes ludovicianus ludovicianus).

By S. S. Dickey

It is now March and during the past few days the cheery song of the Carolina Wren has sounded from the briars and brush that cover a steep hillside near my home. Not only as spring approaches does this spry bird send forth its shrill song but upon any bright day of autumn or winter one may chance to hear the wren's music as it pauses to sing from a safe retreat.

In Southwestern Pennsylvania this Wren is quite an abundant species. He flits about brush heaps, hops over board piles, and scans every nook and crevice in search of his favorite

food. Insects and their eggs, larvae, and spiders comprise his bill of fare; myriopods are also taken when procurable. I have watched these birds devour a quantity of "bugs" which dwell upon or near the ground. They must do an enormous amount of good work in destroying insect pests, even though they do destroy numerous beneficial arachnids.

As the bright sunny days of early spring shed their radiance over the fields and woods these wrens repair to suitable places in which to build their nests. They do not seem particular in regard to where they shall establish their abode: the sod banks of roadsides; the damp rooty soil that often borders streams of water; deserted corners in outbuildings; or perhaps an old hat, a shoe, or some discarded piece of clothing that has been hung away in a quiet nook,—each will answer the purpose of a nesting site.

The materials selected for nest building consist of coarse weed stalks, strips of inner tree bark, soft grass blades, horse hair, and many other constituents. A warmly lined domicile is constructed and four, five, and rarely six eggs are deposited therein. If the repulsive Cowbird adds an egg of hers the wren often discontinues the laying of a full set of eggs and we usually find but three or four. The female sits closely upon her beauties and at the lapse of twelve days the callow young come into the world. Now the parent birds are kept busy providing their offspring with nourishing food. The youngsters grow rapidly and in a short time leave the nest to seek a living for themselves in the great out-of-doors.

The Carolina Wren has always been one of my favorite birds, and during the past ten years I have had some excellent opportunities for mak-

ing a study of its nesting habits. The first nest that I ever found was built in a cavity at the top of an old-fashioned fence-gate arch. The wood had rotted away from the boards, making an opening large enough to admit the wrens. To this place they carried building material, constructed a cozily lined nest, and deposited five pretty eggs,—pure white and speckled with shades of reddish-brown. This was in early May, 1902, and I had not long been collecting eggs. I prepared the specimens poorly then, and of course made second class data.

As the years passed a number of wrens' nests came under my observation. Saturday, April 18, 1903, in company with a school chum, I went to hunt birds' nests in a creek valley some four miles from home. Towards noon as we tramped up a road which led through a ravine away from the valley, I spied a ball of green moss, tucked away in among the overhanging sod, at the roadside bank. Glancing in I could see five beautiful fresh eggs, resting on a lining of red cow's hair and pieces of snake skin. The bird was not at home, nor did she appear while we were in that vicinity.

Some days later I found another nest of the Carolina Wren in overhanging roots. The bank in which the nest was situated was only a few feet from a railroad track, and lay at the base of a steep wooded hillside. At this time the nest held two fresh eggs. Upon returning to it a few days later—April 27—I found the female peacefully sitting upon five pretty eggs, more heavily speckled than those of the preceding set. The nest was a large ball of green moss (*Polytrichum commune*) mixed with grass and leaves, and lined with hair.

On May 22, 1903, some boys who had been playing ball in a field adjoining town reported to me that they had

found a wren's nest in a privy that stood in the rear of a church building. I at once went to the place, and sure enough, there in the corner of the hollow eave, I found the nest. It was made of bark strips, weed stalks, roots and moss, and was warmly lined with hair. It held five pretty fresh eggs which I collected and now have in my possession. These five eggs are speckled and spotted chiefly about the larger ends with light reddish-brown and lilac. A number of pin-point dots cover the remaining shell surface. The eggs measure: .73 x .60, .75 x .60, .74 x .60, .75 x .61, .72 x .62.

One morning late in June, 1909, as I was picking my way over the rough stony mountain side which bordered the Cheat River of Northern West Virginia, I chanced to find a small shingle shed which had some time since been constructed by lumbermen. Upon entering this shed I was greeted by a fine sight. There in a small pot-hole on the side of a huge rock which formed one side of the shed, rested a Carolina Wren's nest, with the bird at home on five incubated eggs. She made a great fuss when I caused her to flush from it; but in spite of her outcries I collected the five eggs and they now adorn my series of eggs of *Thryomanes l. ludoviciana*.

Several nests of this species that I examined held eggs of the cowbird *Molothrus ater*. A nest found April 22, 1905, was built behind some overhanging sod, in a bank bordering a public road. It was composed of moss, weedstrips, leaves, weeds, and dry grass, and was lined with hair. The bird laid but three eggs when a Cowbird deposited one of hers. These eggs were sprinkled over the entire shell surface with dots of a reddish tinge. April 24, I found a nest built in a depression of the sod, at the base

of an apple sprout, which grew on a bank at the roadside. The female incubated three eggs of her own and one of the Cowbird's. Some years later two more nests of this wren, containing eggs of the Cowbird, came under my observation.

I have known of six nests which held sets of six eggs each. One found by a boy, in May, 1905, and brought to me, was built in the corner of a small shed that stood by a public roadside. June 17, of the same year, a boy living near the creek which flows past the lower part of town, showed me a nest in a privy that stood on a creek bank. The bird was incubating six eggs. These I collected and have in my series. They are heavily marked specimens, being well spotted with reddish brown over the entire shell surface. May 21, 1906 I discovered a nest and six eggs in the sod bank above some outcropping sandrocks. The nest was principally of green moss, and was lined with strips of grape vine bark and soft hair. The bird was quite pugnacious at my presence and made a great fuss when I collected her treasures. These eggs were lightly marked with spots and specks of brown and lavender.

Early in April, 1908, I found a Wren building in a depression at the base of an American elm (*Ulmus americana*) sprout on a bank at roadside, and high up on a hill. April 19 it held six lovely eggs which were finely decorated with spots and wreaths of light reddish-brown and lavender. The eggs of the Carolina Wren offer such variation in markings, size and shape that they are quite desirable for series, making an attractive exhibit. The markings range from light reddish-brown through lilac and lavender. The average measurement of a number of specimens is: .74 x .60 inches.

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MIGRATION

The Fall migration is now with us. The wonderful instinct that causes the birds to wander back and forth over the lengths of the continent semi-annually has been the wonder and the admiration of the ages. From the mightiest to the tiniest, nearly all birds, save a few resident species, move Spring and Fall across many or few degrees of latitude; some ranging all the way from the Arctic shores to Patagonia; others wandering over comparatively short distances. Some traveling at such immense altitudes as to be scarcely discernable; others being almost terrestrial in their movements.

The roll of the Crane and of the Swan coming from the sky at such altitude that the bird responsible for it frequently cannot be seen with the naked eye. The little Rail travelling much of its distance skulking on foot amid the vegetation of the earth's surface. Some making the prolonged flight from the shores of Nova Scotia to the shores of South America without a single halt; others flitting from tree to tree and bush to bush, but always in the same direction.

Little, comparatively is known in regard to the migration of the birds, though very much has been written. Such observations as are presented in P. G. Howes' contribution to this month's Oologist will do much to elucidate and make plain that which is now more or less evolved in mystery. No ornithological publication publishes a higher class of scientific papers than that presented by Mr. Howes in this issue, and we wish to thank him for the contribution.

Editor.

Fall Migration of the Olive-Backed Thrush, 1912.

(*Hylocichla ustulata Swainsoni*)

By Paul G. Hawes, Stamford, Conn.

"Pooorp - peenk - pue - pooorp." The night voices fill the September air; wierd, almost awesome are these whistles of the migrating thrushes, guided by some unknown power through thousands of miles of space to their winter home in the tropics. It is thrilling indeed when one hears the sound high in the air and far in the distance. Gradually it comes closer as the bird flies steadily southward. As it passes, unseen, directly over head, again the cry floats down to earth and a fainter answering call in the north, tells one of a companion or perhaps a mate. Thus the voices echo back and forth across the sky from evening 'till early morn, when the birds drop down from the high road of travel to feed and rest in the friendly woods and thickets. I know of many bird voices and calls, but none of them could be used as a comparison, for the notes of the Olive-backed Thrush are quite distinct from those of any other bird that I am familiar with. Not the metallic "Peenk" of the migrating Bobolink nor the sharp "peet peet" of the sandpipers, but a singular mellow and almost plaintive whistle, sweet-toned and far reaching, seems best to describe the calls of this thrush.

This fall, between September 5th, and October 17th there passed a horde of these birds, more than the writer has ever seen before, over and through the country about Stamford. The migration started on September 5th, when about fifty birds, comprising two larger flocks than I had ever noted, dropped down out of the sky into a small patch of woodland about 5 A. M. I managed to secure two of these birds which proved to be young males.

The appearance of these flocks gave me the idea of studying and recording the interesting points of the migration as shown in the figures 1, 2, and 3. This idea was to mark out a square upon the ground; six hundred feet, being the length of its sides. By this method one might note each bird that passed through a corresponding area of sky, this area being directly above the square upon the ground. Not only could the bird be noted, but the exact direction could be taken and easily recorded in the figures.

On the morning of the fifth, four singles were noted and these, together with the two flocks, totals about fifty-four specimens, noted between the hours of 5 A. M. and 7 A. M. The singles were all flying several hundred feet in the air, in a south-westerly direction, none of them coming down to rest. The two birds which I took had nothing in their stomachs, and the flocks began at once upon the berries of the common Elder (*Sambucus Canadensis*).

The morning of September 10th found me again at my "Bird Square" before sun up, and this time, a flock of twenty-five (afterwards splitting into two smaller ones), three flocks of ten birds each, and four singles were noted in one hour. This total of fifty-nine birds were seen in exactly one half of the time that the fifty-four were seen on September fifth. (Compare Fig 1 and 2.) None of the birds noted on the tenth came down, and all of them were flying very high. Notice that the temperature for 7 degrees lower on the tenth than on the fifth and that the barometer was also 10-100th lower.

September sixteenth found this extraordinary bird movement at its height. The temperature was eighteen degrees lower than on the fifth,

MIGRATION OF OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH, 1912.

September 5TH 1912

Conditions: Weather Clear. Temperature 72°. Barometer 30.10 inches.

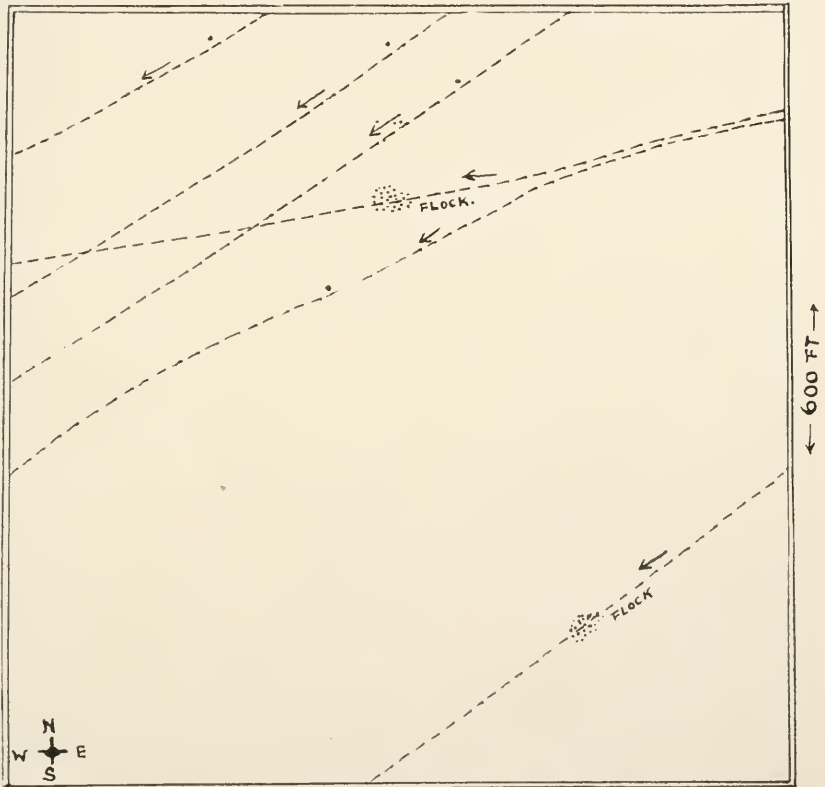


Fig 1.

Birds WHICH Passed Through Given Area Of Sky,

Between 5 A.M. And 7 A.M.

Migration of Olive Backed Thrush Sept. 5, 1912. Drawing by P. C. Howes.

and eleven degrees lower than on the tenth. The barometer was also lower than on either of the other occasions, reading 29.90 inches. I reached the "Square" at 5 A. M., and by the time an hour had passed, more birds than ever had been seen. First there came single birds, one after another, until fifteen had been recorded in my field note book. These were all flying steadily southwest and roughly speaking they were perhaps one hundred and fifty, to two hundred feet in the air. Had it not been for their continual calling to one another, it would have been impossible to even guess at their identity. At just six o'clock two flocks containing twenty-five birds each, appeared in the northeast. The flocks were about two hundred feet apart, flying at the same level and not over one hundred feet from the ground. All of these birds dropped into the woods near by to feed. They had probably been in company for some time as they flew similarly (see Fig. 3), and after a short rest left the woods together, flying to a thicket some five hundred feet away where they remained all day. The total number of birds noted in one hour on this morning was sixty-five, which is more than is usually seen here during an entire year!

After the sixteenth the numbers of individuals dwindled rapidly. On the morning of the eighteenth I took two more young males from a band of twelve which were found in a thicket. On the twentieth I saw three in the woods about 7 A. M. These birds were feeding upon the ground at the foot of some cedar trees. They were very shy and took wing when I approached with my gun. A slight drop in the temperature on the night of the 27th, brought a few more down from the north, seven being noted on the morning of the twenty-eighth in

the woods, and with them was a single *Hylocichla guttata pallisi*. After this none were seen until October 9th, when I succeeded in taking a male in fine plumage from a band of two individuals. The stomach of this bird was well filled with parts of a large locust, many weed seeds and one very large downey seed, as large as, and about the same shape as a pumpkin seed.

On the morning of October 10th, about 8 A. M., three Olive-backed Thrushes were noted in the woods near my home. One of these birds had lost most of its nape feathers so that the skin of its neck could be plainly seen, and being thus plainly marked, I decided to watch the birds carefully through the day, keeping tabs upon their movements. This was not difficult and they stayed in the same locality during all of that day, quietly feeding and occasionally calling to one another in well modulated voices. At 5:15 P. M., they became restless and as darkness came on several other birds of the same species joined the band of three which I had been watching. These new comers came from various parts of the woods and I had not been aware of their presence during the day. It is possible that they had been together on the previous night's journey and had scattered in the woods at daylight, only to band together again at evening. By 6 o'clock it was entirely dark and soon I heard the flock leave the woods. They must have mounted straight in the air to a desired height, as I could hear them calling directly above me for quite some time before the voices began to grow fainter, telling that they had turned southward. I had often wondered at what time the birds started their night's journey and this observation was indeed a fortunate one.

MIGRATION OF OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.

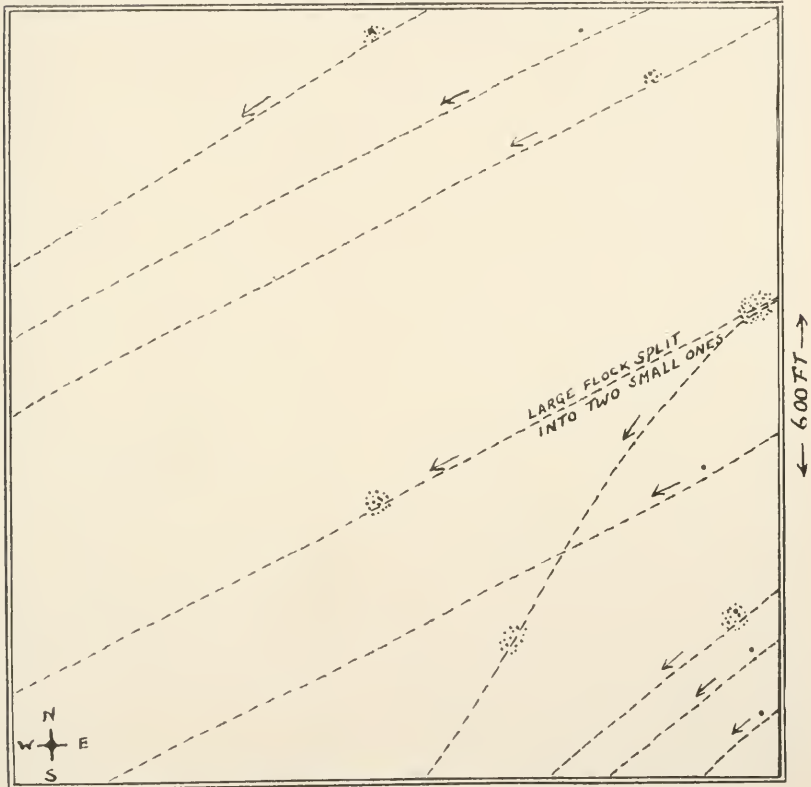
September 10TH 1912.Conditions: weather Clear. Temperature 65° Barometer 30.00^{IN}

Fig 2.

Birds which passed Through Given Area of
Sky, Between 5 A.M. And 6 A.M.

Migration of Olive Backed Thrush Sept. 10, 1912. Drawing by P. G. Howes.

As I have seen birds come down to rest as early as 5 A. M., and on the other hand, leave for the night's journey at 6 P. M., it is not unlikely that this species travels the air for eleven hours at a time. If they cover two hundred miles in a night, which is not a maximum figure by any means, their rate of speed while in the air would be slightly over eighteen miles per hour, which, as near as I could judge, was about the speed that the individuals traveling in the early morning were making.

Six birds were seen about 10 A. M., October 14th, and a single restless individual on the 17th, marked the last of the migrating thrushes seen at Stamford.

According to the latest ornithological literature, the breeding range of the Olive-backed Thrush is: The lower Hudsonian and Canadian zones from N. W. Alaska to S. Ungava, and New Foundland, south to Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, E. Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, N. Michigan, New York and in mountains from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania, and W. Virginia.

Just how the birds migrate is impossible to say, but it will be remembered that all of the birds seen flying over my bird square, were traveling almost directly southwest. Now if it should happen that the birds fly all the way to their winter home in southern Mexico and Central America, in a perfectly straight line, it would be very likely and evident that those noted in the locality from which I am writing came directly from New Foundland and Nova Scotia. If one were to draw a straight line as an imaginary migration route from eastern New Foundland to say Pueblo in Mexico, the route would pass through Stamford, where all of the birds were noted by the writer. Another route

might be from eastern N. F. to New Orleans, where the birds might join forces with other northern migrants coming down by way of the Mississippi valley and thence to their winter home by land, or over the gulf, as shown in the map (Fig. 4. This map was drawn from one in the Century Atlas and although too small to be very accurate, it gives a fair idea of the possible migration routes mentioned above.

This is indeed an interesting problem and some time in the future I hope to be able to definitely establish the exact route taken by these birds. Fall migration notes are all that is needed and it would be of great assistance if all those possessing such data would report them to the Oologist.

The following table gives an idea of the entire migration as observed by the writer at Stamford, Connecticut. It will be seen that eleven observations were made each on a different day, the first bird being seen on September 5th, and the last on October 17th, which credits a migration period of just about six weeks. Average temperature of the eleven observation days 62 degrees Fahr. In all 221 Olive-backed Thrushes were recorded.

Owing to the conditions of the Scientific permit in Connecticut, the holder thereof is limited to five birds of a species per year, and owing to this fact, I was unable to make more stomach examinations than those mentioned in the article and table.

PAUL GRISWOLD HOWES,
Stamford, Conn.

Migration of the Olive-backed Thrush
at Stamford, Connecticut, 1912.

◆◆◆◆◆
Making good As a Bird Man.

When you have succeeded in developing a reputation in any line of endeavor in your respective communi-

MIGRATION OF OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.

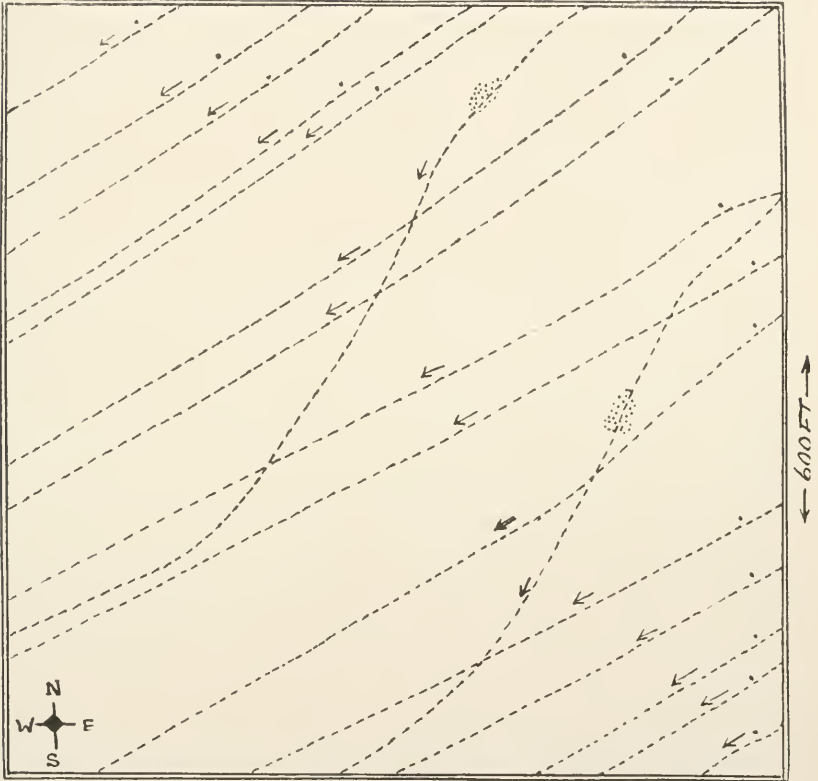
September 16th 1912.Conditions: Weather Clear. Thermometer 54° Barometer 29.90ⁱⁿ

Fig 3.

Birds WHICH PASSED THROUGH GIVEN AREA OF

SKY, BETWEEN 5 A.M. AND 6 A.M.

Migration of Olive Backed Thrush, Sept. 16, 1912. Drawing by P. G. Howes.

MIGRATION OF THE OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH AT STAMFORD, CONNECICUT 1912

DATE	WEATHER & TEMP.	NO. SEEN	REMARKS
Sept. 5th,	Clear, 72°	54	Two taken. Stomachs empty.
" 9th,	" 70	2	
" 10th,	" 65	59	
" 16th,	" 54	65	
" 18th,	" 60	12	(Two taken. Stomachs contained Elderberries)
" 20th,	" 60	3	
" 27th,	" 58	7	
Oct. 9th,	Cloudy 65	2	(One taken. Stomach Insects and weed seeds.)
" 10th,	" 70	10	
" 14th,	Clear, 58	6	Very restless.
" 17th,	" 50	1	Very restless.
11 DAYS	AVERAGE TEMP. 62	221	

ity, have you noticed how seldom the fates will turn the wheel to help you along the road of fame?

I have just experienced the opposite sensation. Recently while in company of a Men's Bible Class picnicking in the woods, I was called upon for a short bird talk. I heard the song of a Kentucky Warbler a short distance away and made him my subject. Finally as each present admitted familiarity with the Kentucky's song, I invited them to follow me with my glasses and get a peep at the author. When acquainted with the form and color of this favorite woods Warbler, I enlarged upon his nesting habits, explaining that only the advanced students are so fortunate as to find the Kentucky's nest. I told them that only the expert Oologist had any show at all toward studying the nesting habits of this bird at first hand, for he was an adept deceiver and was the limit at strategically enticing intruders away from his admirably concealed nest.

Fate must have directed my footsteps, for just as I had finished my peroration, a female Kentucky flushed

directly at my feet and there nestling at the base of a small sapling was her beautifully finished hair-lined nest containing three well-wreathed eggs. Slowly and with manifest awe, the 42 interested amateurs in nature study, filed past and took their first look at a Kentucky Warbler's nest "in situ."

It is needless to say that "Uncle Cy" was boosted up another notch as a real ornithologist and thus are some reputations made. May 28th, 1914, Kentucky Warbler, 3 eggs.

ISAAC E. HESS.

Philo, Ills.

Some Central Pennsylvania Birds.

During the spring of 1913, I had the pleasure of spending several days of May and early June in the mountainous country of Huntingdon and Centre Counties, which lie in the central part of Pennsylvania. The mountains there are well covered with second growth of timber, consisting of oaks and chestnuts, with here and there clusters of hemlocks and pines. May 7, in company with Mr. R. C. Harlow, I made a trip to an extensive valley which is surrounded on three sides

TWO POSSIBLE MIGRATION ROUTES OF
THE OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH:—



Fig 4.

ARROWS REPRESENT ROUTES OF MIGRATION.

DOTTED AREA; WINTER
RANGE OF SPECIES.

Two possible routes of Olive Backed Thrush Migration. Drawing by R. G. Howe.

by mountain ridges. Late in the afternoon of this day, we saw a Pileated Woodpecker near the border of an old timber slashing. On the following day we discovered the nest some thirty feet up in a dead red-maple snag. Upon examination this nest was found to hold four fresh eggs. During this same trip we noted a number of migrating and resident Warblers. In some briery thickets we heard Golden-winged Warblers singing, and along the wooded hillsides we caught the faint notes of both Black-and-white and Worm-eating Warblers. Parula and Magnolia Warblers flitted about in the pines and hemlocks, both of them being summer residents. Old nests of the Magnolia Warbler were seen on the ends of several drooping hemlock branches. In the extensive growth of oaks which covered a knoll, I searched for Wild Turkeys. A farmer told me he had flushed an old bird from her nest, but I failed to find it. During this search I flushed a Ruffed Grouse from a nest and thirteen eggs, beside a fallen dead white pine. The nest was simply a deep depression warmly lined with dry leaves and Grouse feathers. Some days later I flushed another Grouse from her nest and a single egg. Upon visiting the nest a few days later it was found deserted. Beside a rail fence which bordered a wood I found the nest and remains of a grouse. The old bird had evidently been killed by some prowling animal; egg shells were strewn about near the nest. Several Chickadees were seen, and a nest discovered. It was seven feet up in a dead apple tree stump that stood in a clearing at the base of a mountain. The mother bird sat closely, but soon flushed, revealing seven slightly incubated eggs. During a later visit Mr. Harlow found another Chickadee's

nest, three feet up in an apple stump, beside a small orchard. It held eight heavily incubated eggs. A tufted Titmouse was heard to call frequently from a wooded hillside; it was the only one noted in the whole region.

May 23, we made a second visit to this valley and found a number of birds nesting.

May 24, was a very wet day, but during the afternoon we set out for a search for nests of the worm-eating Warbler. Mr. Harlow had seen a Worm-eating Warbler building during our first visit to the place. On a steep bank which was well strewn with oak saplings, laurel bushes, and clumps of rhododendron, I searched carefully for a Worm-eater's nest and was so fortunate as to flush a female Warbler from her nest and six beautiful fresh eggs. This nest was built in a slight depression in the soil, and was protected by a bunch of fallen dry leaves. Farther on we came to the nest Harlow had found being built; the female flushed from six heavily wreathed eggs. A couple of days later I found a third nest of the Worm-eater built in the bank of a small ravine; it held four fresh eggs. In the evening we searched for the nest of a pair of Henslow's Sparrows which Mr. Harlow had discovered in a low wet pasture field. The Sparrows were so wary that we failed to locate their nest. However, a couple of days later I found the nest and five incubated eggs; it was built in a depression at the side of a slight drain, and was somewhat arched over. During later trips two more nests of the Sparrow were found. One held four eggs and the other four young birds. Among the raptors we saw, Cooper's Sharp-shinned, and broad-winged Hawks; the broad-wing nests here regularly and Harlow found a nest and two fine eggs during a pre-

vious season. We saw a Short-eared Owl that had been nailed up on the side of a hunter's cabin, and a Red-tailed Hawk which the farmer had nailed to his barn door. At one place crows were seen chasing a pair of Great Horned Owls.

Hooded, chestnut-sided, black-throated green, black-throated blue, and black-and-white Warblers were frequently seen. Louisiana Water-thrushes and Maryland Yellow-throats were abundant.

On May 30, Mr. David E. Harrower, accompanied me to the valley, and he discovered a beautiful nest and four eggs of the Hooded Warbler. This nest was built about four feet up in some low saplings. Redstarts were nesting, but any amount of searching failed to reveal a nest. Oven-birds were common, and I found three nests. In a clump of raspberry briars, I flushed a female Golden-winged Warbler from her nest and five fine eggs; it was built four inches above the ground. A pair of these Warblers could be heard singing at any suitable clearing where there were plenty of briars for them to hide in. Altogether six nests were found containing eggs or young. In each case five was complement of the nest. Mr. Harrower found a Chestnut-sided Warbler's nest four feet up in a cluster of low bushes; it held four eggs. As I passed through a small second growth woods of chestnuts which lay on a slight hillside, I caught sight of a female Black-and-White Warbler as she sat on her cozy nest, at the base of a sugar maple sprout. She sat so closely that I was able to approach within three feet of her and secure a fine photograph. She soon fluttered from her nest and revealed five beautiful eggs, resting on the warm lining of horse hair.

In a large woods three miles down the valley Harlow and I found the

nest of a pair of Solitary Vireos. It held four young birds. The parents came to the nest frequently with food for the young. This nest was built in a small fork of a flowering Dogwood tree that grew at the base of a hill. Nearby we found a number of Parula Warblers which were undoubtedly nesting in the huge white pines, but we failed to find a nest. Some days later Harlow found a Blackburnian Warbler's nest in an unaccessible position high up in a large white pine. Under a bank of sod, by a pool of water, he found a nest and five lovely eggs of the Louisiana Water-thrush. Early in June several nests of the Maryland Yellow-throat were found; all of these held less than five eggs. Yellow-breasted Chats were seen and a nest with four eggs found in a brier patch. In some of the deeper and more secluded ravines I saw Canadian Warblers but failed to find a nest.

I saw Northern Ravens several times as they flew from mountain ridge to mountain ridge. These birds nest on the secluded rocky cliffs in the wilder parts of the maintains. A nest found on March thirteenth held five eggs. The nest was a huge affair of sticks, and was warmly lined with hair from the belly of a deer.

Quite a number of commoner birds were seen, such as House Wren, Baltimore Oriole, Dawny Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Pewee, etc.

American Woodcock were most plentiful of the game birds seen. During twilight we watched and heard their flight song. This is a beautiful sight. The male bird rises high in the air, hovers there singing, then suddenly drops to the earth. He is answered by the female who utters the peculiar notes, "scape, scape." The Woodcocks nest here during early April.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

Bird Notes from Virginia.

Sunday, February 15th, found me out in the woods looking at the eagle (*Haliaeetus clinecephalus*) tree mentioned in the February issue of the *Oologist*, page 29. I thought the pair might try to fool me by laying early, especially as I had fooled them last season. A light snow had fallen on the 13th but had melted, leaving water standing in every low spot in the woods, and I had some difficulty in keeping my feet dry while working deeper into the timber. As I came within twenty feet of the huge line pine towering above the surrounding timber, I was disgusted to find two things evident at a glance, first, that the nest was deserted—second, water blocked my headway. As I glanced around to find a small hummock to jump to, my eye was attracted to some dark spots appearing on the water, over what had been a slight elevation or hummock. The more I looked the less I believed my eyes, for there, not six feet away was a set of four Woodrocks (*Philohela minor*) surrounded by water and almost completely covered. The melting snow had caused the water to rise so high that the bird had evidently deserted them the day before, as she was not around and they were icy cold. Did I get my feet wet? Well, I guess! And so happened my earliest record of Woodcock eggs for Virginia. February 9, 10, 11 and 12.

On February 19th we found a heavy snow with us again, and no prospects of eagles on the 22d, which is my regular day for fresh eggs in this section. Sunday, the first of March found a rainy, dreary day, so as I am neither a millionaire or draw a salary for collecting eagle eggs for some Museum, I passed it up. Fortune favored me again with a fine day on the 8th and taking a friend with me, we caught the 6:30 A. M. train for a

good trip. Twenty miles ride by train and eight miles by spring wagon brought us to the first tree—a giant, four and a half feet across the stump—seventy feet to the nest. Every evidence of eggs below the tree, and a heavy blow on the trunk with a light wood knot sent the female screaming from the nest. How the country boys' eyes popped and with mouths opened and bated breath, they watched to see the two eagles which were now around tear the climber limb from torso. But as usual the birds disappeared in the blue sky and the boys, who always gather around when they hear the eagles are to be robbed, turned homeward, sadder but wiser in eagle lore.

What! Young, at this time of year, yes, five and six days old, and well supplied with two freshly killed and plucked Pie-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Eggs laid last week in January, another early record.

Was there a load stone? No, I never found one, and poor Billy Crispin told me he never found one either, the nearest approaching being an oyster shell with a hole in it. We leave the Grebes on the ground, pack the young in cotton and are off again to the beach, five miles away where a launch is to take us across to a point where a friend had told me "were three eagle nests." Five miles across the water, a wade ashore in leaky boots and nothing in sight but a flock of Canada geese on the other side of the point. Back over the same water and road, and ten miles in the opposite direction to look at a tree from which Billie Crispin took a set of two last season. Away the old bird flew as we came in sight of the tree—sure signs—and as the under side of the nest is reached, sixty feet up, out pops a big grey squirrel, who's home is neatly tucked away in the heavy frame work. Two eggs is the

crop and as the wagon leaves us here we "hike" it back to the railroad station to wait for the down train, reaching home at 8 o'clock P. M.

Sunday, the 15th, finds me at my Woodcock Eagle tree once more and sure enough, a revolver shot brings her off, but the water makes it impossible to reach without a wagon and hook.

Tuesday, the 17th, finds us bound up on the 5:20 P. M. train, a buggy drive of a mile, half in water up to the wheel hubs, and we are there. No Woodcock eggs in the nest, only two eagle eggs, no load stone either, so back home by the light of the moon.

To date, 3-21-14, finds had snow and ice once more, so I presume this ends all eagle trips for this season, while Woodcocks have had to lay not less than three times, a necessity not blameable to oologists, much as some persons would like to.

Harold H. Bailey.

◆◆◆

Gavia Imber.
(Loon)

Before I came to Manitoba, I lived in Ontario near the shores of beautiful Doe Lake, where the loons were regular summer visitors. As the lake was about 9 miles long, though narrow, there would have been plenty of room for several pairs of loons, but, as a matter of fact, only one pair, evidently the same one, came every spring to stay there the summer.

About two miles west of Doe Lake was another smaller lake, the Rainy Lake. Between these two lakes the loons had two aerial routes; a northern route, direct over my house, for traveling westward to Rainy Lake and a more southerly route for the return passage. The northerly route was very seldom, if ever, used for eastward travel and vice versa. The pair very seldom traveled together;

one generally went first, making the air fairly tremble with his far sounding call to his mate, who as a rule, followed a few minutes later. "Wah-ho-o-o-o-o-o-o, wah-ho-o-o-o-o-o," was the general trend of the note, while on the wing, but, when swimming in the water, their note sounded more like a fierce, diabolical laugh.

For six years I tried in vain to locate the nest of this Great Northern Diver. The 24th of May was annually spent at the Narrows of Doe Lake, where I believed the nest to be, as the birds spent more time around there, than anywhere else. The shores of these two lakes were very rough, rocky and deep, which fact of course was an advantage to the loons, but a great drawback to the nest-hunter. The loons generally had a good laugh, and no doubt, at my expense, when they finally saw me set sail on the "White Wings" (my clipper sail boat), and take a homeward tack across the lake, sick and tired of the nest-hunter's job.

Now (1914) I am living in northern Manitoba, and as the luck would have it, I am located once more between two beautiful lakes. Once more have I come in contact with the loons and once more they are having their aerial route, this time north and south, some 200 feet above the roof of my home. Early this spring a pair of loons arrived and it seemed to me that they were going to locate their homestead near mine, on the north shores of Birch Lake (the largest one of these two lakes).

But as the end of May drew nearer and I had not been able to locate the nest yet, though I had searched for it several times and had taken in all the observations that I thought of any value, I commenced to think that possibly the nest is at the other end of their daily routine.

So on the 31st of May I started out

towards Stony Lake, which is about a mile north of Birch Lake. The lake itself is nearly round, maybe a quarter of a mile or so across. The shores are low and level; some sandy beach and some of more swampy nature. When looking over the lake, one will see an old muskrat house here and there.

I did not have to look long for the loon's nest this time. At a great distance I could see a black object on top of one of the muskrat houses. As I got nearer I could see the male bird in the water some 200 yards or so from the nest. As I kept coming nearer and the male bird saw that there was an intruder nearby, he thought it high time for an alarm. "Ho-lee-ee-oo, ho-lee-ee-oo" is what he tremulously tooted. Like through a great speaking trumpet this warning went to the lady of his heart. That then is their alarm note, so different from their ordinary call note "wah-ho-oo." Just as soon as the alarm was given, the dark object slid off the muskrat house; just one plunge, and it was out of sight. Before I got to the nest, the female was swimming away out in the lake, as unconcerned as if nothing had happened. I had to do a little wading in order to get to the nest, but wasn't it worth the while? Here, on top of the moss-covered roof of the domicile of the muskrat, in a shallow depression, not more than an inch deep, lay the two treasures of this "Lady of the Lakes." The top of the mound was about 10 inches above the water and the water outside of it about 3 feet deep, just nicely deep enough for a dive. When comparing this mound with several others in near vicinity, I noticed that this particular one was the only one that had deep water along side of it. From this I gather, that the loons are taking that advantage into consideration when selecting a nesting site.

In shape the eggs resemble those of a domestic goose. The color is very dark clay brown, with black and grayish spots evenly distributed all over the semi-glossy surface of the entire egg. Incubation fresh on the 31st of May. Size of eggs: 3.25 x 2.11 and 3.26 x 2.10. Whether this is the average size or smaller, I am not prepared to say, as I have no other specimens for comparison. C. A. Reed, in his Bird Guide (part 1) gives the average size as 3.50 x 2.25 and Ottomar Reincke, in an article in a recent issue of the Oologist (Vol. XXX, No. 11) states that the average size is 3.50 x 2.20.

In closing this episode I may say that the two loons are at this minute swimming in Birch Lake, within a couple of stone throws from my door.

Ernest S. Norman.

Mulvihill, Manitoba.

A Record of the Nesting of the Black-billed Cuckoo at Philadelphia.

The Black-billed Cuckoo, never a common bird in the vicinity of Philadelphia, is now of extremely rare occurrence in this locality, in summer as I haven't seen any birds or found any nests for several years past.

In view of the fact it is of importance to place on record the nests of the Black-billed Cuckoo which I have found here during previous years, as the data will show how uncommon a bird it has always been and will probably add something to our knowledge of nidification.

Unless stated otherwise, all nests were found in Philadelphia County, Pa., and most of them were discovered in the Northeastern part of the County.

1. Four fresh eggs, July 7, 1898, Frankfort: Nest twenty feet up in a big apple tree in edge of small orchard; placed about twenty feet out on a horizontal limb, near the extrem-

ity over a road. A slight depressed platform of small sticks, lined with several dry leaves and walnut catkins. Female flushed; stayed away in silence while nest was robbed.

2. Two fresh eggs, July 29, 1895, Holmesburg: Nest seven feet up in a willow along a creek and eight feet out on a horizontal limb, four inches thick, in a cluster of sprout. A platform of small sticks and twigs, lined with dead willow leaves; it measures seven inches across the top, and was depressed half an inch. The female was flushed.

3. Three eggs, two fresh and one far advanced, June 18, 1902, Frankford: Nest eight feet up in a poison-ivy vine-covered spicewood bush, placed on the vines and twigs, in a woods. Composed of small sticks and twigs, lined with oak catkins, loosely put together and about half foot wide across the top and depressed half an inch. Eggs elliptical; light blue, one a darker shade; size, 1.15 x .91, 1.14 x .88 inches. Female was flushed.

4. Two eggs, one half incubated and the other far advanced, June 27, 1902, Landdale: Nest placed five feet up in top of large, thick clump of blackberry bushes in field beside thicket at bottom of low railroad embankment, well hidden from view by the foliage. A shallow bottom of leaves, weed stalks and grass stems, lined with grass stems and two leaves. Eggs light blue, elliptical; size, 1.15 x .88, 1.12 x .84 inches. Female flushed off nest.

5. One rotten egg. October 16, 1902, Frankford: Nest long deserted was twelve feet up in a triple crotch of a willow sprout along three-fringed creek and was loosely put together and made of small sticks and twigs, and lined with fine weed and grass stems, very slightly depressed. The egg was dirty and disclosed a hole in

the side; elliptical in shape and measured 1.12 x .87 inches.

6. Two fresh eggs, June 12, 1903, Frankford: Nest six feet up in an alder bush along creek in alder thicket, containing many willow and White Ash Trees, placed on a horizontal branch near the top. A platform of dry cucumber vine stems, lined with several dry willow leaves and willow catkins; fairly well constructed. It measured about six inches across the top and was half an inch deep, and one and one-half inches thick. Eggs light blue; elliptical; size, 1.11 x .79, 1.05 x .83 inches. Female reluctantly flushed off the nest.

7. Three eggs, one fresh and others begun in incubation, June 12, 1903, Frankford: Nest in same alder tract as the preceding, about one hundred yards away, placed five feet up in a double elder crotch amidst a thick clump of these bushes in the creek bank, within ten feet of the stream, and well hidden like the other; made of few twigs and dry herbaceous (wild cucumber) vine stems, loosely put together, and lined with dry willow leaves and catkins. It measured: Outside 6½ inches; inside, 4 inches; depth outside, 1½ inches; inside, ¾ inch. Eggs light blue and elliptical; size 1.04 x .79, 1.06 x .84, 1.04 x .80 inches.

8. Two naked young and a half incubated egg, June 14, 1905, Frankford: Nest six feet up in a tangle of spicewood bushes and blackberry briars in edge of woods, fairly well hidden, and near a yellow-bellied Cuckoo's nest containing three eggs. Loosely put together and made of small sticks and twigs lined with hickory catkins. Hardly depressed. Brooding female almost touched, behaved very excitedly, cried and fluttered about. Nest empty on 22d.

9. Nest just started, June 6, 1905,

at Holmesburg; nest four feet up in an alder crotch in bushy field and subsequently deserted by the touchy bird whom I watched place a twig in it.

10. Three rotten eggs, August 1, 1905, at Frankford, in a Yellow Bill's nest, containing three addled eggs of *Americanus*. Nest placed five feet up in a clump of blackberry bushes along wood at bottom of a steep, bushy railroad embankment and close to the nest I found on June 14, 1905. It was a shallow platform of small sticks and twigs lined with pignut catkin. As the Black-billed Cuckoo's eggs reposed upon the Yellow-bill's I concluded that the nest must have been built by the latter and that *erythroplithalmus*, either too lazy to build a nest or through destruction of hers laid her eggs in *Americanus*' nest. None of the eggs were preservable on account of decomposition, in fact two of them exploded in my hand while I was examining them, showing me the rotten contents, so I hastily dropped them. The eggs were typical of each species, those of the *Americanus* being as usual noticeably larger and darker in coloration.

Query: Was the nest deserted when the Black-bill laid her eggs in it and if so what caused the bird to abandon it after laying her eggs?

11. Two piped eggs containing dead embryos, September 1, 1905, Frankford, (in Juniata Park). Nest placed fifty-seven inches up in hammock of Virginia Creeper and wild cucumber vines, between the branches of Spicewood sprout in woods; well hidden. A platform of sticks and twigs loosely put together, and lined with dry leaves and ironwood; hardly an inch deep but 9 inches across the top. The embryos had not been dead long as decomposition had not set in. Eggs typical. Owners were probably killed.

12. One large rotten egg, September 13, 1905, Frankford. Supposedly

of this species on account of its color. Nest was thirty feet up in a black gum tree on wooded bank near creek, placed about 8 feet out on a horizontal limb and the highest Cuckoo's nest I have ever seen. Loosely put together and made of sticks and twigs, lined with dry leaves and grass; it measured 8 inches across the top, and was $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. Hardly depressed. Egg globular and light blue; size 1.20 x 1.20 inches, and unusually large Black-bill's egg and an unusually spherical egg.

13. Four eggs, incubation begun, June 19, 1906. Petty's Is., opposite Philadelphia, Camden County, N. J. Nest was placed $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet up in a hammock of herbaceous vines in bushes in thicket near middle of Island and well hidden. Well made of small sticks and twigs, and lined with dry leaves and grasses. About 5 inches wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. Light blue in color and elliptical in shape of normal size; eggs nest-stained like many Cuckoo's eggs.

14. Three young several days old, June 19, 1908, Sandiford. Nest $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet up in pear tree in edge of thicket, along roadside, placed 4 feet out on a horizontal limb. Typical in composition.

15. One fresh egg, June 29, 1908, Frankford. In a Yellow-bill's nest containing one egg of the owner of the nest that was slightly incubated, although a Black-bill was flushed from the nest. It was 8 feet up in a small willow tree at bottom of steep railroad embankment and along a marsh, placed up on the slanting stem 2 inches thick, in a cluster of sprout. Loosely made of sticks and twigs, many over a foot long and $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch thick; thickly lined with willow catkins with adhering scales. Outside width $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches (exclusive of extremes), inside $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; outside depth 2 inches; inside $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Richard F. Miller.

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IN MEMORIAM

The last of a race of countless millions. A Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) died at the Zoological Gardens of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, September 1, 1914.

With it a harmless, beautiful and economically valuable bird vanished forever from the face of the earth. Only another added to the large list of sacrifices to the brutal vandalism of man. It joins the Great Auk, the Carolina Parakeet, the Labrador Duck and others similarly banished. Soon to be followed by the splendid California Condor, the stately Trumpeter Swan, the beautiful Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the magnificent Whooping Crow.

O! Will such scandalous, malicious and uncalled for destruction ever cease? It makes us sick to think of it. Too sick to write of it. The bird net, the shot gun and the cautiousless hunter have done and are doing this work every day.

Readers of THE OÖLOGIST, put your shoulder to the wheel wherever you are and see that it is stopped in your own location at least.—Editor.

The Last of the Passenger Pigeon.

While on a trip in Ohio I had the pleasure to visit the Zoo at Cincinnati, on August 19, 1914, and there saw the last of the race of the Passenger Pigeon. It is a female and she is dying slowly of old age. Death was but a question of a few days and when she passes into the realm of the unknown there will be none to survive her. She was at that time unable to sit on her perch and was on the bottom of her cage with her wings drooping, and was very weak and feeble. She is 29 years old, a ripe old age for a bird of this kind. Superintendent Sol Stephan said that four pairs of Passenger Pigeons were inmates of the Zoo in 1877. The young came and at one time there were thirteen there and the surviving one among them and the little flock seemed prosperous but as years went by one after another died. The last male bird died four years ago. Then an effort was made to find a new mate for the surviving female but none could be found. Mr. Stephan said that for four years a reward of \$1,000 has been hanging up for the production of a mate but there was none forthcoming. Mr. Stephan said that when she died her body would be sent to the Smithsonian Institute. Remarkable is the fact that the race of the Passenger Pigeon has been cut down from millions to a single bird within the memory of the present generation. In August, 1896, I shot a female which I saw light in a walnut grove near San Jose, Ill., which I mounted and have in my collection. This was the last live Passenger Pigeon which I have seen in Illinois.

O. S. Biggs.

San Jose, Ill.

others mentioned as being in this Zoo with her. Here is what one of the most influential of the Illinois papers has to say on this subject:

THE LAST WILD PIGEON.

Announcement is made of the death in the Cincinnati zoo of the last wild pigeon in the known world. For some years past a standing reward of \$1,500 has been offered by the members of the National Audubon Society for a living mate for this captive bird but no response has been received. A similar reward was offered by an ornithological society of New York to any one in the United States who would discover a wild pigeon nest but nothing came of it. It is assumed that the species is now wholly extinct on the American continent and on the face of the earth.

There is a touch of sadness in this announcement to those who still remember the millions of these beautiful birds that used to sweep in migratory flight across this country. Every man who was a boy in those days can still picture to himself the long extended and graceful lines in which they moved, column after column, in rapid succession, for hours and even days.

And there is also a touch of indignation against the ruthless pothunters who have worked this destruction. In many instances it has been a destruction of these birds, not for the use of their flesh on the table, but a destruction for the mere sake of destruction—wanton and brutal to a degree. And yet with this object lesson before us there are pothunters in this country today—some of them here in Illinois—who are trying to have the courts invalidate a recent law of congress for the protection of the migratory birds. They have hunted the wild quail and prairie chicken to their last hiding place and if allowed their way would put the wild goose and wild duck in

We have seen this bird, which has since died—a number of times, both before and after the death of the

the same grave with the wild pigeon.

To check this vandalism is the purpose of the Audubon Societies throughout the country. It is the purpose of many movements and organizations among school children, promoted by educators and lovers of nature. It should be the purpose of every true sportsman and every good American citizen. It is time to cease making war on the birds and use all legal efforts to stay the hand of the pothunters who are bent on the destruction of the nation's patrimony of beauty—*Bloomington Pantagraph*, Sept. 25, 1914.

Notes From Northern Illinois. Highland Park, Ill.

The perseverance of some birds is shown by the following incident. On May 14, 1914 a set of five bluebird eggs were collected from a hole in an old stump. On May 19, another set of five was taken. On June 21, there were five healthy young ones about a week old in the nest. No new nesting material was brought in, that in the first nest being used for all three sets. I am sure it was the same pair of birds who had all three sets.

Although I don't suppose, sets of five Brown Thrasher are uncommon, I was surprised at the large number found by my friend, Mr. W. A. Goelitz, of Ravina, Ill., this spring. On May 19, 1914 a nest with five eggs was found in some grape vines 8 feet up. On May 22 another nest with five was found on the ground, and on June 7 a third nest with five was found in a willow bush about four feet up. All these were within a radius of one mile.

I know Towhees raise two broods but I was surprised to find a set of three fresh eggs on August 9, 1914.

Colin Campbell Sanborn.

Highland Park, Ill.

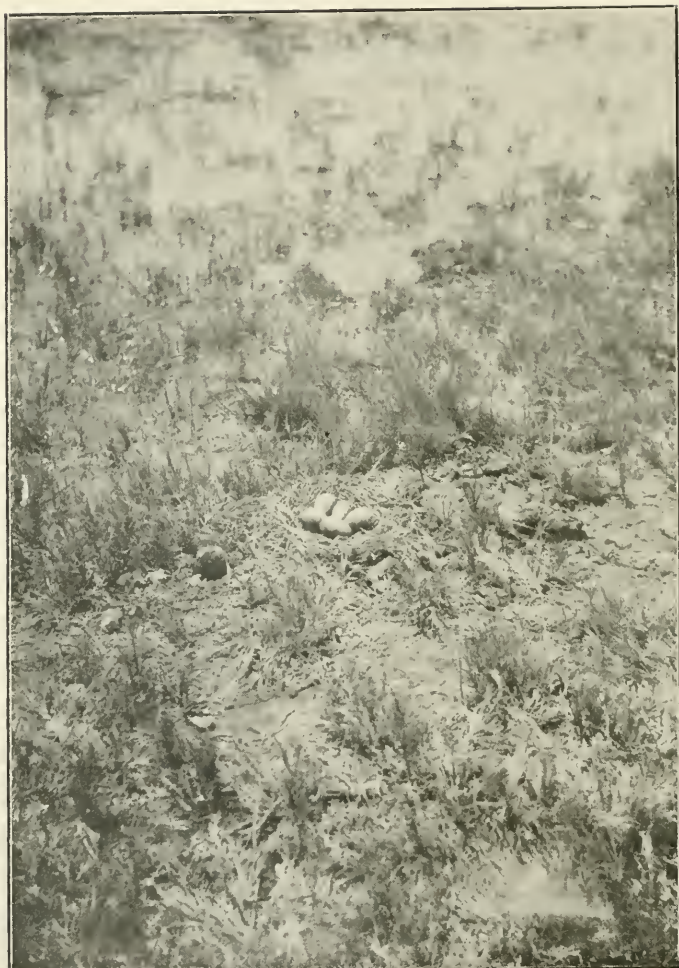
K. B. Squires reports that Common Tern are again very plentiful at Newport, Rhode Island, reporting some of the beaches there to be literally white with these birds. We are glad to note the increase.

Courtesy.

One of the older Oologists whose rank is exceeded by none that we know of, writes us, among other things, as follows:

"I think it might not be a bad idea for the Editor of THE OOLOGIST to preach a little sermon to his readers sometime, on the subject of courtesy. This does not apply to the older members of the fraternity, as much as to the new and younger brothers. The point being that all answers to advertisements should be acknowledged at once, even if the lists sent do not contain anything desirable, and that when a request is made that the list be returned, such a request should be complied with. It is quite a bit of work sometimes to make out a list if one does not happen to be within reach of a typewriter. It means copying by hand, which is tiresome after a while."

We think the above suggestion is a good one and are sorry to say that we really feel that The Editor himself is sometimes subject to the above criticism. It is a good idea to reply to correspondence of all kinds by return mail, or within a few days. This is especially so where a party sends a list which he desires to be returned to him. We presume there are times when there is a good excuse for not so doing, and with us it is some chore to keep up with a reasonably successful law business, do as much work with an egg collection as we do, publish and edit a magazine such as THE OOLOGIST, without at times neglecting our correspondence. However, we endeavor to do the best we can



—Photo by John G. Tyler

Nest and Eggs of the Black-necked Stilt, Showing unusual set of Five Eggs in Situ. Fresno, Calif., May 11, 1914.

though at times letters and communications must of necessity lie unanswered for as much as thirty days. This without any intentional lack of courtesy on our part.

An Unusual Set of Eggs of the Black-necked Stilt.

Himantopus mexicanus (Muller).

Throughout all the overflowed pasture lands near Fresno, California, one of the most common and by far the most conspicuous birds is the Black-necked Stilt. Arriving usually in early April and remaining only until September this species can be confidently looked for at any time during the summer months.

About seven miles from Fresno is a twenty acre pasture with a depression in one end that always holds some water. Late in the fall it is shallow and stagnant but earlier in the season a pond is formed that is often four or five acres in extent. Here I have found the Stilts earlier than at any other place in the valley and here, too, they remain later in the summer.

Around this pond a colony of fifteen or twenty pairs of the long-legged black and white waders have nested year after year and have furnished me many pleasant experiences while studying their nesting habits. On May 11, 1914, while passing this pond in an auto, I noticed that several birds were occupying nests built out in the salt grass at the east end of the pond, but as I neared the west end only two stilts could be seen on nests. One of these was on a little island some distance out in the water. I had no desire to disturb these birds and was in somewhat of a hurry so paid little attention to this bird.

The other nest was on a small point of land not ten feet from the roadside and as the owner was sitting in a most unconcerned manner, I knew that she

was covering a set of eggs. Then the possibility of finding a new type of markings came to mind so I stopped the machine and started to get out and investigate but at the first move in her direction the bird arose and stalked away with notes of protest, revealing to my gaze the only set of five eggs of this species that I have ever discovered.

The following day I returned with a camera and secured a small photograph of the nest and eggs. This nest was much more elaborate than is usual with this species, being a well built, saucer-shaped structure, composed entirely of weathered and bleached grass stems. The five eggs were about half incubated and were remarkably uniform in size, shape, coloration and markings.

In view of the circumstances surrounding the finding of this set and the actions of the birds in the colony, I think there is hardly a possibility that more than one female contributed to this complement of eggs. The different pairs in this colony have always shown a tendency to scatter their nest over a large area and it is only on rare occasions that I have found two nests placed close together.

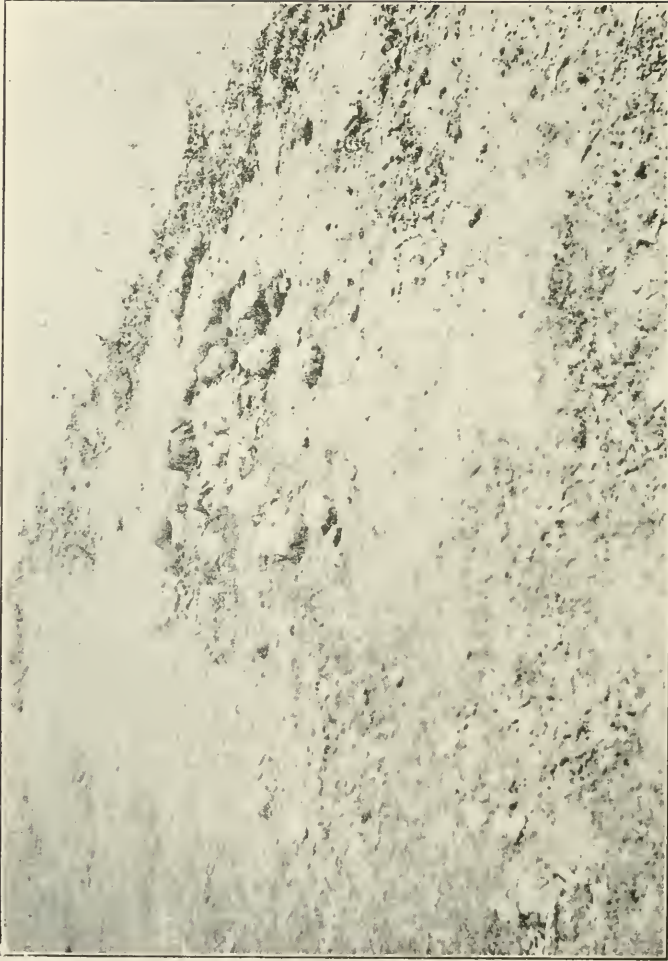
John G. Tyler.

Semipalmated Sandpiper.

While on a day's vacation on the Canadian side of Lake Erie about eighteen miles from Buffalo in the latter part of August, strolling along the sandy and gravelly beds, I had the good fortune to observe three or four flocks of Semipalmated Sandpiper on their migration to the Gulf States down to Brazil.

As far as we know, they breed in the Arctic Regions.

In the First Vol. of Birds of New York, N. Y. State Museum in Albany, Director John M. Clark gives a full de-



Typical Nest and Nesting Site of the Black-necked Stilt.
Fresno, Calif., May 12, 1914

—Photo by John G. Tyler

scription and their almost lifesize colored pictures.

I now have several well mounted specimens in my collection.

Ottoman Reinecke.

Further Notes on the Summer Residents of Philadelphia County.

For additional data on the Summer Birds of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, see *Oologist*, 1910, page 116 and 1912, page 208. These records are enumerated so as to make the list more complete.

273. Killdeer. I found a nest on May 8, 1913, at Frankford in rather an exposed situ; it was in the center of a cinder head upon the ground along the unfinished Northeast Boulevard, within several yards of a frequently used dirt road and not two yards from a narrow gauge railroad, then unused. The nest, a depression in the cinder two inches deep held four eggs containing large embryos and was lined with many white cinders. The pile was not half a foot high but over a yard in area and the eggs were hardly discernable when I stood over them so well did they harmonize with the surroundings.

343. Broad-winged Hawk. At Holmesburg on May 20, 1912, I collected my first set in this county, consisting of two slightly incubated eggs which is one of the very few clutches ever taken in Philadelphia, where the hawk is a very rare breeder.

265. Barn Owl. In my last paper (*Oologist* 1912, page 210) I inadvertently stated that this species had been bred in the Alexander Henry School House, in Frankford, when it should have been the Henry Herbert School House in Frankford. I saw a Barn Owl on August 7, 1912, at Olney, gazing out of a hole over seventy feet up in a big red oak, but it never nested in the cavity, nor has it been seen

since in it, and I am still vainly trying to find a nest in the county. I have been told that Barn Owls nest and have nested for years in the steeple of a Catholic Church in Kensington, which is built thickly up with houses and mills, and close to the Delaware River, but I have never verified it.

393. Hairy Woodpecker. On May 1, 1912, I found two nests at Holmesburg and Bustleton containing four eggs each; fresh in the first set and slightly advanced in the other, beside several nests in 1913 with young.

587. Chewink. My efforts to find a nest of this rare breeder are still a failure, but I observed a fledgling on June 9, 1913, at Bustleton, thus establishing a breeding record although I could not locate the nest.

608. Scarlet Tanager. At Bustleton on July 18, 1911, I found a nest containing three well incubated eggs, and June 18, 1912, within a hundred and fifty feet of that nesting site found a nest holding three fresh eggs. Both nests were in Buttonwoods.

639. Worm-eating Warbler. For an account of the nesting of this species see *Oologist* 1912, page 375, wherein there is described a nest with four eggs which I found on June 4, 1912, at Chestnut Hill.

677. Kentucky Warbler. Have found many nests containing eggs and young in the County beside the one mentioned in *Oologist* 1912, page 210. This species is extending its range in Northeastern Philadelphia as a pair bred in a woods at Frankford in which they were never seen before in my experience.

756. Veery. I reported in the *Oologist*, 1912, page 210, of having a hazy recollection of having read somewhere that this species had been found breeding at Germantown. The account as I now recall it was published in a nature article in the Philadelphia Rec-

ord's Miscellany Page over a dozen years ago and it mentioned a nest being found at Upsal and I think containing eggs. Who the writer was or anything else regarding the paper I cannot remember but would very much like to know as the Veery is an extremely rare breeder anywhere in southeastern Pennsylvania and particularly so in this county.

Richard F. Miller.

A Queer Set of Cedar Waxwing.

On August 12, 1914, while looking for nests with a friend, I saw one ten feet out on the limb of a white oak tree and about twenty feet up. It was made of grass and I took it to be a Waxwing's nest, but on climbing up and examining it I found eggs resembling those of Red-winged Blackbirds. I was sure it was a Waxwing's nest but to make certain I came down and my friend and I watched the nest from a distance. Soon a bird flew into the tree and after hopping around a bit, settled on the nest. It was a Waxwing.

The nest was rather bulky and built entirely of grass. The eggs were of normal size. All of them had the ground color of Red-winged Blackbird's eggs but three were plain and the other two had black scrawls and markings near the larger end. One of these resembled a question mark. The nest and eggs are now in my collection.

Colin Campbell Sanborn,
Highland Park, Ill.

Birds of an Iowa Village.

Eldora Iowa is a town of about 3,000 inhabitants, situated in the central part of the state. I had occasion to visit a friend there on May 15, 1914, and while I had no opportunity to observe birds afield, I was surprised at what I saw in the village.

One pair of Blue Jays had a nest in a tree near my friend's house, and a pair of Robins were nesting in another tree near by. Mourning Doves were to be seen everywhere, and Red Headed Woodpeckers were particularly abundant. Baltimore Orioles, Chipping and English Sparrows, House Wrens, Catbirds, Red Shafted Flickers were to be seen. A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were evidently preparing to nest in the shrubbery near the house. On the outskirts of the town the Western Meadow Larks and Brown Thrashes were abundant.

Here is a list of the birds I saw in the village during my day's stay: Rose Breasted Grosbeak, Blue Jay, Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, Robin, Catbird, Chipping Sparrow, English Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Red Headed Woodpecker, Red Shafted Flicker, Western Meadow Lark, Brown Thrush.

John Lewis Childs.

The Killdeer.

The Killdeer has interested me for some time. Although I have known the bird since I was a small boy, and have frequently found them inhabiting plowed fields during the nesting season, it has only been in recent years that I looked upon my first nest.

June 2, 1908, a farmer residing some two miles west of town reported he had found a Killdeer's nest containing three eggs. On the morning of the day following I went to the field where he was hoeing young corn and he showed me where to find the nest. It was simply a slight depression beside a hill of corn and was lined with bits of stone. The three eggs it held were far advanced in incubation. Both birds watched me from a distance but did not come near.

June 4, 1909, a farmer telephoned me that he had found a nest and four eggs of the Killdeer in his corn field.



—Photo by Alex Walker.

Nest and Eggs of the Spotted Sandpiper, Taken at Mulino, Ore., May 27, 1912.

I went to his farm and found the female bird on her nest. She was quite wary, however, and hurried away as I approached. The nest was simply a depression beside a hill of corn. The field lay on a hillside, not far above a river. The farmer told me he had worked all around the nest.

In April of the following year I found another nest of the Killdeer holding three incubated eggs. This nest was in a sandy corn field, near a large creek.

In 1913, one night about 8 o'clock towards the middle of April as I was tramping along a public road near State College, Centre County, Pa., I heard two Killdeers calling in a low pasture field down by a creek. A few days later I returned to this place and found the pair of birds still inhabiting the wet grassy meadow. They seemed nervous at my presence, but although I stayed there about two hours they showed no signs of having a nest. In one week I returned, and after a careful watching, saw one of the birds go to a small "hump" of sod. I ran towards this place and flushed the Killdeer from her nest and three eggs. She made a great demonstration and spread her wings and tail as if she were injured. The nest was visited again later and a fourth egg had been added. The nest was simply a slight depression in the damp sod, well lined with pieces of drift material; bits of wood and grass stubble.

May 1, I discovered a second pair of killdeer in a field one mile east of the College. Once I scared the bird from the vicinity of her nest and she sailed away to join her mate, screaming shrilly all the while. I went away and returned in a half hour. The bird flushed near the same place in which I had first seen her and lit upon a knoll not far away. I searched carefully over the ground and was about

to give up when just in front of me, I spied the nest and four eggs. This nest was just a depression beside a stone and was well lined with wheat stubble. The birds pretended lameness and uttered their notes frequently.

At several other places I saw Killdeer and felt quite sure they had nests nearby; but a careful searching and a long wait failed to reveal them to me.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

The Winter Wren.

This hardy little fellow arrives early in April and is met with up until November. When we have an early spring I occasionally note this bird late in March and during a late fall it is often met with well along in November. Have never seen the Wren but once in winter. The winter of 1890-91 was a very mild one and on January 4, 1891, I saw one.

During the migrations it can possibly be found anywhere in the woodland but when settled for the summer it is found only in the mountains.

The Winter Wren is not uncommon as a summer resident in Virginia forests and large second growths where there is plenty of hemlock, laurel and mossy logs. In such places its odd and rippling song entirely different from any other bird's song heard in this region, can be heard in the gullies and along the mountain streams. This little fellow is shy and secretive keep well hidden among the logs, thickets and fallen tree tops. Usually allows a close approach before he takes a short flight to dodge into the next hiding place. If one happens to sit down close by he will soon appear and flutter about scolding all the while, but remain quiet and he will soon forget.

Nest building begins early in May. A close search of any locality inhab-



Nest and Eggs of the Kildeer, Taken at Mulino, Ore., May 27, 1912.
—Photo by Alex Walker.

ited by a pair of Winter Wrens usually results in finding four or five decoy nests of this wren for he has a habit of building such nests, the same as the other species of Wren found here. The real nest though is difficult to locate. In this region the nests are usually found on the under side of an old decayed moss-covered log lying off the ground in places, and under the roots of partly fallen and upturned trees, especially hemlocks. When underneath a log, the crevice or hole is excavated by the bird as the fresh pieces of decayed lying about on the ground shows. When under a partly uprooted tree the nests are placed among the roots and usually well under and hidden. I have also found nests in crevices underneath large overhanging rocks and among mossy roots on steep banks along streams.

The nests are quite bulky and are built up against the log or dirt of the upturned root, the entrance being a small hole about one and one-fourth inches in diameter. They are built of moss with a few fine dry sprigs of hemlock mixed in. The entrance is always rimmed about with these fine sprigs. Decoy nests are smaller and not so bulky as the real nest, and are never lined. All the good nests I have found have been thickly lined with feathers.

The sets usually consist of five to a clutch, often four, and in one case six. The females are close setters and when disturbed are rather slow to leave. After the young leave the nest the whole family roam about for some time.

I have read several times that these Wrens will desert the nest if at all disturbed or even if a finger is inserted to feel inside but that is not the case with me. At different times I have felt inside the nests to determine whether or not they were decoys, and

in so doing have disturbed the entrance more or less. Several times I have found the nests all lined and ready for eggs and on visiting the place later have found the female at home on her eggs.

Last year while Mr. Harlow was visiting me we were one day (May 31st), exploring among some large rocks that lay along the brow of a steep mountain-side, when we discovered a Winter Wren's nest in a crevice well under a large overhanging rock. Inserting a finger in the entrance we found the nest to be empty, and as the Winter Wren usually in this vicinity, has its full set laid by May 15-20, I supposed the nest to be a decoy so pulled it out for examination. It came out in good shape and we were surprised to find it all lined with feathers and apparently all ready for eggs. We put the nest back and in a few days later on being in that vicinity I paid the nest a visit and was greatly surprised to find a wren peering out of the entrance. Investigating I found her to be sitting on four eggs. This instance certainly did not look as if they were easily disturbed and quick to desert.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

Fate of the Swallows.

Mysterious fate seemed to direct all of my doings at the opening of the new year, and the month of May found me installed on a farm. I afterwards attained the rank of blowhard and liar, when I attempted to initiate certain others in the mysteries of the generally unknown world—known to us cranks as Nature. Well along in the spring a pair of Barn Swallows started a home on the site of a former one in the horse stable; now the horse stable contained a treasure to me, in the shape of a most beautiful and rare

cream-colored mare, with white eyes and white mane and tail, this is a rare type of a horse. I have owned and known some thirty odd cream colored horses but only one of this type, consequently I spent a deal of my spare moments petting this little mare, and being quite near the Swallow's nest, and also interested in it. I closely observed the progress the birds made in building until one cold blustery day when the nest was nearly completed, it became necessary to close the back horse stable door, thereupon the birds were compelled to desert it but began another in the cow stable at once. This nest being directly over me at milking time I also had an opportunity to watch it, especially as there were three hungry, lazy, tough, well fed cats also tenants of this barn; every thing progressed lovely till the nest was all ready for the eggs, when one night as I entered the cow stable, I heard an angry growl, I knew instantly what that meant and seizing a club that stood handy I went after the cat. I thought the bird still alive, as I could just make out the bird in the semi-darkness, I soon routed the cat and chased him out but could not get the bird. Well, of course that broke up this pair, either the male got a mate or another pair started another nest in the cow stable, which was also deserted because of the closing of a door. About this time a pair built a nest in the hog house, as I was especially not interested in this filthy department of the farm, I lost track of this pair and their home until one day in September, I overheard the farmer tell his wife that the little bird that had a nest in the hog house was clinging to its nest, head down, stone dead. I investigated and found the female just in the position he had said, with wings outspread, truly stone dead, but why was she there, a closer look showed

me two strong white (white mind you) horse hairs looped about one knee had held her prisoner until death came by starvation or fright. Not one pair of birds succeeded in raising their young on this farm so far as I know. It seemed to be the fate of all these Swallows to fail.

George vos Burgh.

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Breeding of the Kingbird at Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, Ont.

1. June 16, 1914. Nest built on top of last year's nest, on dead stump 4 feet above water, 3 eggs (advanced.)
2. June 16, 1914. Nest on horizontal limb of apple tree 12 feet up, 3 fresh eggs (complete setting).
3. June 17, 1914. Nest on dead stump 2 feet above water, 4 fresh eggs.
4. June 19, 1914. Nest 6 feet up in bush, 3 eggs (advanced).
5. June 21, 1914. Nest 2 feet above water in grapevine tangle, 1 white egg, nest deserted.
6. June 21, 1914. Nest 2 feet above water on bush, 3 fresh eggs (complete setting).
7. June 21, 1914. Nest 1 foot above water in bush, 3 fresh eggs (complete setting).
8. June 27, 1914. Nest 20 feet up on horizontal branch of spruce, 3 pure white eggs.
9. June 27, 1914. Nest 10 feet up on horizontal branch of apple tree, 2 eggs (advanced).
10. June 28, 1914. Nest 7½ feet up in grapevine tangle, 4 fresh eggs slate blue, with blackish spots at large ends.
11. July 11, 1914. Nest 4 feet above water, 2 eggs long and narrow with purplish blotches at large end.
12. July 12, 1914. Nest 5 feet above water in grapevine tangle, 3 fresh eggs (complete setting).
13. July 17, 1914. Nest 3 feet above water in bush, 3 fresh eggs (complete setting).

14. July 23, 1914. Nest 8 feet above water on grapevine tangle, 3 fresh eggs (complete setting).

House Wren

July 1, 1913, one heavily incubated egg of wren in nest of English Sparrow, which contained four English Sparrows just incubated. Two feet away under some beams, wren's nest with four fresh eggs.

Paul Harrington.

Prof. D. B. Burrows of Lacon, Ill., left a few days since to take up his year's school work in Texas. Though little seen in print, the professor is one of the best naturalists of our acquaintance and has had far more experience with Texas birds than most Texas ornithologists. He recently enriched our collection with a nest and set of eggs of the rare Audubon's Oriole, taken by himself. Thanks.

Sign of the Times.

It is with pleasure that we look forward to the arrival of THE OOLOGIST and the CONDOR; both of which treat its readers and members with equal rights to all! To any one reading the first of the editorial notes of the last Condor, page 242, it is more than evident that Joseph Grinnell has the welfare of the Cooper Club at heart, and that he thinks too much of the club as a whole, to see disruption in the ranks of the members and supporters, even though a majority voted, "two to one in favor of expansion." We also remember the democratic way Joseph Grinnell saw vanish another cherished wish of his in the Condor, "simplified spelling" by putting it up to the club supporters in open vote, "special privilege to none." No wonder the Club and the Condor has forged ahead, and the "Big Men" who held back from joining a Club of workers, have seen their folly and

dropped into its membership list one by one. We wish the men who control the "Auk" and the A. O. U. destinies, could follow the lead of Joseph Grinnell and the Condor, and think more of the working men as a whole of today, than their personal desires. We are now looking forward to the October "Auk" in hopes to hear of the long looked for changes in the A. O. U. by-laws which we have heard whispered around, were to take place. We have however, seen no notice in any of the late "Auks," asking the various classes of members who give their financial support to the A. O. U. to cast their votes in the open, for the proposed amendments, similar to the method used by the Cooper Club. We are glad to see the Wilson Club has taken this same broad minded Grinnell into its membership, he will be a useful man to have on the Committee of Nomenclature when the time arrives for such work. A study of the membership list of that club will convince every one, that its members can gather together sufficient material to pass upon any and all proposed new sub-species that its workers may bring forward in the future. We trust the Auk and the A. O. U. officers may soon join the democratic movement "special privilege to none."

H. H. Bailey.

Newport News, Va.

Birds Seen On a Day's Tramp in Allegheny Co., Pa., May 2, 1914.

1. Morned Grebe, 4.
2. Scaup Duck, 5.
3. Solitary Sandpiper, 1.
4. Spotted Sandpiper, 5.
5. Killdeer, 2.
6. Mourning Dove, 5.
7. Screech Owl, 1.
8. Belted Kingfisher, 5.
9. Hairy Woodpecker, 1.
10. Downy Woodpecker, 3.

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11. Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, 2. | 60. Tufted Titmouse, 1. |
| 12. Red-headed Woodpecker, 2. | 61. Chickadee, 1. |
| 13. Flicker, 15. | 62. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1. |
| 14. Chimney Swift, 10. | 63. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 4. |
| 15. Crested Flycatcher, 1. | 64. Veery, 2. |
| 16. Phoebe, 3. | 65. Wood Thrush, 8. |
| 17. Least Flycatcher, 1. | 66. American Robin, 15. |
| 18. American Crow, 6. | |
| 19. Bobolink, 6. | Thos. D. Burleigh. |
| 20. Cowbird, 3. | |
| 21. Red-winged Blackbird, 10. | |
| 22. Meadowlark, 8. | |
| 23. Baltimore Oriole, 2. | |
| 24. Bronzed Grackle, 5. | |
| 25. American Goldfinch, 3. | |
| 26. Vesper Sparrow, 1. | |
| 27. White-throated Sparrow, 15. | |
| 28. Chipping Sparrow, 3. | |
| 29. Field Sparrow, 10. | |
| 30. Slate-colored Junco, 3. | |
| 31. Song Sparrow, 15. | |
| 32. Towhee, 10. | |
| 33. Cardinal, 3. | |
| 34. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 8. | |
| 35. Barn Swallow, 10. | |
| 36. Rough-winged Swallow, 2. | |
| 37. Red-eyed Vireo, 1. | |
| 38. Yellow-throated Vireo, 4. | |
| 39. Black and White Warbler, 5. | |
| 40. Worm-eating Warbler, 2. | |
| 41. Golden-winged Warbler, 3. | |
| 42. Nashville Warbler, 3. | |
| 43. Yellow Warbler, 8. | |
| 44. Myrtle Warbler, 4. | |
| 45. Cerulean Warbler, 20. | |
| 46. Blackburnian Warbler, 1. | |
| 47. Black-throated Green Warbler, 1. | |
| 48. Yellow Palm Warbler, 1. | |
| 49. Oven-bird, 10. | |
| 50. Water Thrush, 1. | |
| 51. Louisiana Water Thrush, 1. | |
| 52. Maryland Yellowthroat, 1. | |
| 53. American Redstart, 8. | |
| 54. Catbird, 5. | |
| 55. Brown Thrasher, 2. | |
| 56. Carolina Wren, 1. | |
| 57. House Wren. | |
| 58. Brown Creeper, 2. | |
| 59. White-breasted Nuthatch, 2. | |

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Philadelphia Bird Notes.

A heavy wind-storm swept over Philadelphia on the evening of April 2, 1912, uprooted "Old Baldy," a big oak tree in Independence Square, which was more than a hundred and fifty years old. It received this name from the famous Bald Eagle which was owned by Charles Wilson Peale, the artist, when he had a museum in Independence Hall. He kept the Eagle in a cage built around the tree which at that time was even of large size and beauty. It is now mounted in the hall museum where it is admired annually by thousands of visitors.

It was the custom to bring the children to the Square to see Old Baldy, the Eagle, and it was probably the first attempt of a zoo in the country. The big tree was chopped up and people carried off chips of the wood as relics of Old Baldy, the tree, and as memento of Old Baldy, the Eagle. The tree is reported to be one of the last left in the Square which stood there when the Declaration of Independence was read.

According to the Rittenhouse brothers, Wild Turkeys and many Pheasants or Ruffed Grouse, were killed on the Wissachicken Creek, as late as 1845. The Grouse occurred much later and bred on the wooded ridges. Philadelphia is now the only one of the 67 counties of Pennsylvania in which the Ruffed Grouse is not found, on account of its small size and dense population.

The State Game Commissioner has

been for years restocking the state with Quail, with the exception of Philadelphia and Cameron counties, which the report ingeniously says, "Philadelphia county, not adapted, because of its dense population to the raising of Quail," and "Cameron county whose severe winters renders it impossible to keep Quail alive unless fed." It is not altogether true that Philadelphia county is not conducive to the raising of Quail, for although it is the smallest and most densely populated county in the state in proportion to its size, it has more idle, uncultivated and farm lands adapted to the raising of Bob-white, than probably any of the other counties in this comomnwealth.

Robert Robertson, one of the three riggers who christened the statue of William Penn, on the City Hall, when it was completed, had in his possession when he died, over two years ago, a stuffed Flicker which, it was reported, he took alive from a nest it had built in William Penn's coat, a week after the statue was in place. This is highly improbable as the last portion of the statue was placed in position on the tower on November 28, 1895, unless it nested in the unfinished effigy, which is also improbable. The bird was undoubtedly caught alive in the coat where it had either sought shelter or a roost.

Richard Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

The Beers Collection.

Henry W. Beers of Bridgeport, Connecticut, one of the best known oologists of that state, and whose death has heretofore been noticed in THE OOLOGIST, amassed during his lifetime, a very large collection of North American Birds eggs, containing some of the most splendid series in existence; particularly those of the Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed

and Sharp-shinned Hawks, besides the Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Louisiana Water Thrush, and Blue-winged Warblers.

This collection Ye Editor has recently acquired, and spent about two weeks in Bridgeport packing and preparing the same for shipment to Laccon.

Owing to the magnitude of the collection it will be a long time before it is unpacked and arranged; but when this is done, we will have, without doubt, the largest and best exchange list that exists in North America, for we are not in a position to use in our own collection, to exceed one-eighth of the specimens we received.

An Acknowledgment.

Ye Editor wishes to express his appreciation of the courtesy extended to him while at Bridgeport, Connecticut, recently by Thomas J. Hawley, a young and enthusiastic ornithologist of that city, and a very intimate and close friend of the late Henry W. Beers, deceased; he having charge of the final disposition of the collections of the late Mr. Beers, which have been purchased by us.

No person could have been more kind, more thoughtful, or more helpful than Mr. Hawley. Not the least pleasant part of our association with Mr. Hawley was an opportunity to meet W. Winifred Dunbar, Otto C. Hastings, Mr. Ford and Game Warden Williams, beside some other members of the bird fraternity of Bridgeport at the home of Mr. Hawley where a very pleasant evening was spent in the interchange of ornithological reminiscences.

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Hunted Unto Death; a Wounded Western Redtail in Montana

—Photo by Earl R. Rorrest.

A harmless beneficial bird, a Western Red-tailed Hawk hunted unto death by the causeless shot of a bird butcher in Montana.

A List of Birds Observed in the Big Hole Basin, Montana.

Earle R. Forrest

The following list is by no means complete. It was made from May 19, 1913, to July 9, 1913, and only covers a small area of the Big Hole Basin. This basin or valley is located in Deer Lodge and Beaverhead counties, Montana. It is surrounded on all sides by high rugged mountain ranges. These notes were taken principally in the Continental Divide Range on the side of the basin at the foot of these mountains. While some notes were taken in other parts of the basin they were made principally in Township 1, North Range 16 West, Township 1, North Range 15 West, Township 1, South Range 15 West, and Township 1, South Range 16 West. A total of 34 species were identified.

Anas boschas. Mallard. Common on the streams and swamps in the valley during the latter part of May.

Nettion carolinensis. Green-winged Teal. Common on the streams and swamps in the valley during the latter part of May.

Actitis macularia. Spotted Sandpiper. Common about small mountain lakes. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Aegialitis vocifer. Killdeer. Common in the basin and on the open lowlands. Not seen in the mountains. Probably breeds as it was observed during the breeding season.

Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus. Sooty Grouse. Very common in the fir and pine forests of the mountains. Breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Dendragapus franklinii. Franklin Grouse. Commonly called "Fool Hen" because of its lack of fear. Several were caught at different times by workmen, but were always released. During the open season they are often killed with clubs and stones. They

are very common in the mountains. Breeds. Found in the Canadian Zone.

Bonasa umbellus togata. Canadian Ruffed Grouse. Very common. They were heard drumming around camp and all through the woods as soon as we arrived, and a large number were seen. Breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Circus hudsonius. Marsh Hawk. Seen occasionally flying over the meadows in the basin. Probably breeds.

Accipiter atricapillus sariatulus. Western Goshawk. The nest of a pair was found in the top of a small pine tree about 35 feet from the ground. It contained four young that were about four or five days old on June 1st. One adult was shot thus making the identification positive. The nest was rather bulky and was composed of large sticks, lined with small twigs. The nest was visited a number of times and one bird was always found on guard. They were very aggressive and attacked me once while climbing to the nest. Found in the Canadian zone.

Buteo borealis calurus. Western Red-tail. The most common hawk seen in the mountains and on the open country of the basin. A pair was always to be found in the vicinity of every gopher "town". The farmers of the Big Hole regard them as their friends and try to protect them as much as possible. They are very tame, and one can approach quite close to one that is sitting on a fence post. Breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Falco sparverius phaloma. Desert Sparrow Hawk. Common in the open country in the basin below the mountains. Breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. American Osprey. One was observed at a small lake in the mountains, where it was watching for fish. Prob-

ably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Bubo virginianus pallascens. Western Horned Owl. Two were observed in the woods near camp, and were heard almost every night. They are said to be rather common in the basin. Breeds in the Canadian zone.

Picoides americanus dirrsalis. Alpine Three-toed Woodpecker. Very common in the mountains. Breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. Seen occasionally in the mountains. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Chordeiles virginianus henryi. Western Nighthawk. Rare. Only one specimen seen and that was in the mountains. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Pica pica hudsonica. American Magpie. Common in the basin. Not observed in the mountains. Breeds.

Corvus brachyrhynchos. American Crow. A few observed in the basin. Not seen in the mountains. Probably breeds.

Hummingbird. Several were seen in the mountains but the specie was not identified.

Nucifraga columbiana Clark Nutcracker. One of the most common birds in the mountains. There were always large numbers of them around camp, and they were very tame. Breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Agelaius phoeniceus. Red-winged Blackbird. Seen occasionally in open valleys and in swampy land in the basin. Breed.

Sturnella magna neglecta. Western Meadowlark. Common in the fields and meadows in the basin. Not seen in the mountains. Breeds.

Euphagus cyanocephalus. Brewer Blackbird. Common about streams, and irrigated and marshy land in the basin. Not seen in the mountains. Probably breeds.

Pooecetes gramineus confinis. Western Vesper Sparrow. Seen occasionally in the basin and at the base of the foothills, but never in the mountains. Probably breeds.

Zonotrichia leucophrys. White-crowned Sparrow. Seen occasionally in the lower valleys in the thick willow brush along streams. Probably breeds.

Spizella socialis atizonae. Western Chipping Sparrow. Fairly common in the mountains. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Junco montanus. Montana Junco. One of the commonest birds seen in the mountains. They were very tame and were frequently seen in camp. A pair built a nest and raised a brood of young within five feet of one of the tents. Found in the Canadian zone.

Piranga ludoviciana. Louisiana Tanager. A few were observed in the mountains in the vicinity of camp. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Progne subis. Purple Martin. Very plentiful at Bowen Post Office in the basin, where boxes had been put up for them. Breeds.

Hirundo erythrogastra. Barn Swallow. Common about farm buildings in the basin, but not observed in the mountains. On June 20th I saw a large number gathering mud from a small stream near Bowen Post Office for nests.

Cinclus mexicanus. Americana Dipper. One specimen seen along a small stream in a rocky gorge in the mountains. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Parus gambeli. Mountain Chickadee. One pair was observed in the forest near camp. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Hylocichla guttata auduboni. Audubon Hermit Thrush. The nest of one



Scoty Grouse in its Native Haunts
—Photo by Earl R. Forrest

pair was found breeding in the thick forest high in the mountains. The nest contained two eggs on June 10th. Found in the Canadian zone.

Merula migratoria achrustera. Western Robin. Common in the mountains. Probably breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

Cialia arctica. Mountain Bluebird. Fairly common. Seen around ranch buildings in the basin, and occasionally seen in the mountains. Breeds. Found in the Canadian zone.

A Full Stomach.

On September 26th I received a Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) which was shot on the fresh water marshes in the southern part of Philadelphia. On examining the contents of the stomach I found the following: Seven specimens of *Neoconocephalus palustris*, an insect closely resembling and allied to our Katydid; one specimen of the De Kay's brown snake (*Storeria De Kayi*) six inches long, one water snake (*Natrix sipedon*) nine inches long, and three meadow mice (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) each four and a half inches long. All the specimens were in first class condition except one of the mice, which was partly digested. In my time, I have examined the stomachs of a thousand or more birds, but for a full stomach this bittern "takes the cake."

Warren in his "Birds of Pennsylvania" cites a case of a bittern in which the stomach contained two snakes ABOUT eighteen inches in length—another case of a full stomach.

Philip Laurent.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Some Towhee Nests.

In May, 1914 number of THE OOLOGIST, is an article "Elevated Nests of the Towhee," in which the author cites two instances of Towhees nest-

ing one at a four foot elevation and the other at an elevation of two feet. He was of the opinion that the Towhee commonly nested on the ground. I would like to add a few more instances of elevated Towhee nests. In fact,, I have never found a nest on the ground, although the birds are plentiful around Clinton.

On May 2, 1911, I found a Towhee nest containing three young in a brush pile on the side of a hill in a pasture near town. The brush was about two and a half feet high and the nest was in the top of the pile.

April 14, 1913. Towhee nest in a small oak bush, containing three eggs. Nest was about two feet above the ground and was in an open place.

Same day. Towhee nest in a small cedar tree in a gully, about four feet up and containing three eggs. Both of these nests were in the growth along a small branch and were only a few hundred feet apart.

May 31, 1913. Towhee nest in a cedar tree in a patch of woods above a railroad cut. This nest was easily six feet up and the tree had to be climbed to secure the set of three eggs which are now in my collection.

June 6, 1913. Towhee nest in a small redhaw bush in a large plum thicket. Nest was about two feet up and contained two eggs.

June 16, 1914. Towhee nest containing three eggs, in a small bush in the woods. This nest was only a foot and a half from the ground.

June 21, 1914. Towhee nest with three eggs in a small cedar in open woods. Nest was three feet up.

June 28, 1914. Towhee nest in a small cedar in a patch of open woodland. This nest was two feet up and contained one egg. A few days later the female was flushed from the nest which then held three eggs.

Many other nests have been found



Double Red-winged Blackbird's Nest

—Photo by J. B. Lackey

which were certainly Towhee nests and all of them were elevated. Possibly one reason for this is because we have very little ground growth here suited to Towhee nests.

J. B. Lackey.

Clinton, Mississippi.

Double Blackbird Nest.

On June 17, a friend and I were examining a colony of Redwing nests which were in a thicket of young willows growing in a dry pond near town. There was a large colony of nests, deserted for the most part, as this is late for Redwings here, but one discovery we made was rare at least for us. In one small willow a Redwing nest had been built a month or so earlier and then another had been built immediately above this one, so close that the bottom of the top nest touched the rim of the lower nest. Both were well preserved and both were empty. I think, however, that both at one time held eggs. I would like to know the history of these nests. We have no Cowbirds here so the lower nest was not deserted because a cowbird egg was laid in it, and I can think of no good reason for placing them so close together.

J. B. Lackey.

Clinton, Mississippi.

An Albino.

Albert J. Kirn of New Cambria, Kansas, reports an Albino Bank Swallow, almost pure white. Also a Red-headed Woodpecker's nest containing five eggs. August 13th which is late. Also numerous hybrids Red-shafted plus Golden-winged Flickers.

The Wilson Bulletin.

No. 88, Sept., 1914, contains three things that especially caught our eye.

First, a statement on page 119 that the stomach of an Old Squaw Duck found floating in Jackson Park, Chicago, April 1, 1914, contained 140

whole minnows averaging two inches in length, besides many fragments of others. Let's see; one hundred and forty minnows two inches long would be two hundred and eighty inches of minnows. This equals twenty-three and a third feet of minnows "besides many fragments." Whew! Some fish story to tell on a poor dead defenseless duck.

Second, Mr. Jones mourns on page 148,—“There are too few **short field notes.**” Right you are Professor. It looks much like the published wails of Ye Editor when we are short of copy. But it is still true, “There are too few short field notes.”

Thirdly and lastly, as the parson would say, we note Brother Stephens on page 157 has declared war on “W. L. M.” of The Auk's Book Review staff because in a review W. L. M. charges Brother Stephens with having published certain matter relating to the contents of birds' stomachs as the result of “over enthusiasm.” Stephens says (between the lines) the reviewer is after him because he has trespassed upon “the peculiar domain of the Biological Survey,” in presuming to study the contents of birds' stomachs.

We had supposed over enthusiasm usually resulted from what one got into the bird student's own stomach: not from what they got out of a bird's stomach. However, if Brother Stephens will keep off the sacred preserve, W. L. M. may let him alone. We hope so anyway. As an ornithologist we always had great respect for the Dove of Peace.

Ospreys.

I had the opportunity to look over the egg notes of the late William B. Crispin not long ago, and found some interesting reading in connection with the taking of his Osprey eggs.

His first set was taken in 1892.

Only one set of three was recorded. Not until 1906 did he commence to make any unusual records in the way of securing the eggs. From 1906 to 1912 he was most active in the field and took on an average over 100 eggs each year.

His records show that he took 20-1, 36-2, 262-3, 22-4—340 sets. I have the last set he took, marked in ink 430-3, found May 2, 1913.

Of the 22-4 he found, he kept 12-4 for himself. I never was able to purchase but 1-4 from him in all those years. I had four sets altogether in my collection, but three sets were secured by other means.

That left 6-4 he parted with to others, showing how hard it was for anyone to secure from him sets of four Osprey which he considered rare, and difficult to get.

Nearly one-half of these Ospreys were taken in Delaware; the balance in New Jersey. Since his death there have been no Ospreys taken that I am aware of in or near his locality.

The record of securing nearly 1000 Osprey eggs may not be a subject to blow about, especially now when all eggs may not be a subject to blow about, especially now when all egg men are keeping mum about the number of sets they get. But at the same time, I believe that Billy Crispin got more Osprey eggs in seven years of his most active work than any other collector did in the same time.

The farmers love to see the Fish Hawks flying around and strongly object to anyone robbing their nests. They are of no benefit to man as far as I can see, living on fish, like the Great Blue Herons.

They lay a second set when their nest is molested, so what's the objection to us taking their eggs, that are so beautiful in various shapes and colors?

E. J. Darlington.

Wilmington, Del.

Hunters Beware.

We noticed in the Shrewport Times recently where the United States marshal has made an arrest for killing a woodpecker and two arrests for killing wood ducks. These are migratory birds and Uncle Sam says you must let them alone.

A Hog.

A good example of a bird exterminator was revealed to me today. I was talking to a man about the birds and in the course of our conversation he mentioned that in one day he had killed as many as eleven Curlews and eighty-two Yellow-legs. He also mentioned that the people who made laws to protect the birds did not know what they were doing as the birds did not do any good and were, in fact, ruinous to the farmers. I tried to reason with him but when I found that he was beyond reason I left him in disgust. Instead of people preventing the collecting of eggs, they should attend to bird-butchers like him.

E. M. Kenworthy.

Wilmington, Del.

A Complaint.

We are in receipt of a complaint by C. W. Chamberlain of 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass., against certain dealings had by him with Mr. G. W. Stevens, formerly of Alva, Oklahoma, and we have written and re-written Mr. Stevens without getting any reply to our communications. The complaint made by Mr. Chamberlain seems to be based upon sufficient foundation, and we are very sorry to have to call the attention of our advertisers to this misunderstanding. But the dealings referred to arose because of advertisements inserted by Mr. Stevens in these columns.—Editor.

Just Remarks.

I am noticing in the October issue

of THE OOLOGIST in the Editor's "In Memoriam," a sentiment with which I am entirely in accord. I notice his reference to the "splendid California Condor, the stately Trumpeter Swan, the beautiful Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the magnificent Whooping Crow."

I must admit that I was somewhat puzzled over the correct identification of the latter species, but I think I place him all right. I recall to memory an occasion about four years ago while collecting on the edge of a swamp bordering on a field of corn stubble, a somewhat obstreperous crow coming down the line too close to me ere he saw his mistake. When he saw me he let go one startled and raucous Whoop, and turned a complete summersault in the air trying to get back to the home plate before he was put out.

On the spur of the moment, and being a little startled myself, I let go a charge of sixes and hit that crow in no vital place. I think it was where his sternum attached to his duodinum and some of his lesser light,—and you ought to have heard that Crow whoop. He whooped it up to beat the band for a quarter of a mile. He was a Whooping Crow all right, but from the abnormal size and volume of the white streak he left behind, I could not see anything specially magnificent about him.

Frank S. Wright.

Auburn, N. Y.

The above comes in our mail and is altogether too good to keep. Editing THE OOLOGIST six hundred miles from the place of publication is hard enough, but when the proof reader cannot tell a Crow from a Crane, it is what Sherman called war.—Editor.

Black Necked Swan.

October 15th we added to our col-

lection of live birds, a pair of these rare and beautiful swan. Coming from the Southern Hemisphere the seasons will be reversed for them, and we do not know how they will stand our northern climate, but determined to take a chance on it which, if unfortunate, will be expensive.

The birds are about two-thirds the size of our great American Trumpeter Swan. They have pure white body and wing feathers with a black neck and head, a small white line passes from the base of the bill back over and under each eye, a mere pencelling. The legs are a very light purplish lavender color and the bill of the same color with a salmon colored saddle like knob at the base of the upper mandible covering the anterior third of the same. They swim with the arched neck of the European Mute or Park Swan. Altogether they are truly elegant and graceful birds of seemingly mild disposition, and very tame.

But few pairs of these rare birds can be found in North America, none of course in a wild state. Their home is in the southern part of South America, and we deem ourselves lucky to secure such specimens. The books tell us that unless protected from the cold they are likely to go blind in extreme weather, and of course this coming season being their first in the northern Hemisphere, the danger will come with their first molt.

Later. The female has just died.—Editor.

They Never Recover.

A letter from far away Mexico contains among other things the following:

"I was a subscriber to your publication twenty-five years ago, from my boyhood in Illinois, and wish to renew my acquaintance with lovers of bird life, for I have never recovered from my active interest in nature."

A College Bird Course.

This year Waynesburg College has instituted a course in Ornithology, under my direction, with a large class enrolled. The course comes under the department of biology and gives three hours credit throughout the school year. It has as its chief aim the identification of our native birds. We have one laboratory period, one lecture period, and one trip to the field each week.

The laboratory work consists in the examination of bird skins and mounted specimens and the filling in note books the following outline:

1. Name of Bird. State sex as shown by the signs ♂ male; ♀ female. Also state briefly the color differences in male and female if any.
2. Give the order under which the species comes; also the family.
3. Give Geographical Range.
4. Description: (a) Colors of parts, (b) Measurements:
 - (1) From tip of bill to tip of tail.
 - (2) Length of bill.
 - (3) Length of tail.
 - (4) Length of wing.
5. General Haunts.
6. Description of nest and eggs.
7. Food and Economic Importance. (Full notes here).
8. Remarks.
 - (1) Times of Migration in this Region.
 - (2) Is the Species Resident, Summer Resident, Transient visitor, or Straggler in this Region?
 - (3) Does the Species nest commonly or rarely in this region?
 - (4) How are the legs and feet arranged? Describe them briefly.
9. Make a careful drawing of the bill.

As a text we use Chapman's Bird Life, a splendid work for the class

room, published by D. Appleton and Company. Some attention is given to Morphology and Taxonomy but less stress is placed upon these departments than on others. During field trips the students record each species observed and look it up in their text books after returning home. The students seem to be greatly interested in the subject and feel that a knowledge of our birds is not amiss in their college course. Teachers and others interested in bird courses are earnestly requested to write me concerning the work done at Waynesburg College—address, Biological Laboratory.

Books Received.

BULLETIN, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NO. 128: DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION OF NORTH AMERICAN RAILS AND THEIR ALLIES.

This is a very well prepared paper by Wells W. Cooke, though there are some omissions. It takes up each of the several species and gives their winter, summer and breeding ranges, platted on skeleton maps of North America, an extremely good idea.

One of the late and interesting records of the Whooping Crane which seems to have been overlooked is that made by John F. Ferry at Quill Lake, Saskatchewan in the summer of 1907. And a like omission is noted in regard to the Yellow Rail.

REPORT OF THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FOR 1911-1912.

This is a very well prepared annual report of this institution, that portion of the same particularly interesting to the ornithologist, being a list of the birds and eggs now lodged in the Museum.

Another Doubtful Geographical Race.

The ceaseless search for sub-specific

geographical races of North American birds, based largely upon superficial, and upon imaginary, and more than often untenable grounds, we are sorry to say, still continues.

The last issue of *The Auk* contains a paper on the subject of the Bushtits of Western United States. In order to arrive at the conclusions therein set forth, and which are admittedly of doubtful foundation, the author saying, "such a study as the present one is obviously incomplete." It is recited that a series of four hundred skins of these innocent little birds was examined. The author, after an examination of four hundred skins, leaves the status and range of these birds in as uncertain an atmosphere as seems to pervade the conclusions reached in said paper. It may ultimately become necessary to sacrifice four hundred thousand and possibly exterminate the species before we can finally determine just whether or not there is, or is not, a shade difference in the coloration of the birds from one county in California from those in another county.

Likewise the last issue of *The Condor* (Sept.-Oct., 1914) contains a description, as the author dubs it, of "a supposed Island race" of the Rock Wren. This wonderful discovery is based upon the examination of ONE single isolated skin (and so was the supposed discovery of an Arizona race of the Spotted Owl, except in that instance the skin was a mummified, dried up, direlect that was found in the dry wash of a creek and the description promptly published of it regardless of what effect the water, sun and long exposure to the elements may have had upon the color of the feathers of the poor victim).

This new and imaginary island form of the Rock Wren is described as "illustrating intergradation between the

two" species. It may be possible to settle with scientific exactness the status of some new and heretofore undescribed species or family of birds, upon examination of one single specimen when the characteristics are strongly marked, but to attempt any such differentiation of merely geographic sub-species, upon such an amount of material appears to us as absolutely beyond the bounds of possibility.

Would it not be better to await a thorough investigation of these new or supposedly new geographical races of birds until some definite conclusions might be arrived at, based upon the examination of a reasonably sufficient amount of material, before rushing into print?

If such a course were pursued, possibly the names of some of our ornithologists might not go thundering down the vast ages to come as the first to discover and describe some of these alleged geographical races, but on the other hand, some of them might not be bulletined in ornithological literature as having described and attempted to foist upon the ornithology of the world so very many such alleged or supposed races, which upon examination proved untenable, and were rejected by the A. O. U.

Within the past year the writer has been upon both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of this country, and at many, many intermediate points, always hunting up those interested in ornithology when time would permit, and during that time has conversed with a large number of thoroughly scientific ornithologists, many of them of note in that line. There is a uniform feeling existing in this country today among ornithologists that this imaginary, hair-splitting based upon a description that something is "similar to" something else and "slightly different" from some other thing, has

gone to such extremes as to bring our science to the verge of ridicule among real thinking people.

The recent description of an alleged sub-specific geographic form of one of the Herons based upon a skin that was afterwards discovered to be a juvenile of one of the well known species, being a case in point. The Editor has repeatedly had occasion to express his views on this subject and in so expressing them has merely re-voiced that which has been poured into our ears practically every place we have gone, and wherever we have met ornithologists.—Editor.

Thanks!

In a letter from Lillian L. Beers, widow of the late Henry W. Beers, to the Editor, relating to the recent purchase of the collection of eggs made by Mr. Beers in his lifetime, the following among other things is found:

"It gives me great pleasure to express my appreciation of your unfailing courtesy and consideration in connection with the packing of Mr. Beers' collection. As you will so well understand, it was not an easy thing to me to see my husband's collection, representing the work of a lifetime, broken up and sold. But it will always be a satisfaction to know that it went into hands of one who could appreciate its worth . . . I want to thank you for your kindly interest and the fair treatment you have shown in your business relations with me. It has been a pleasure to deal with one so courteous and fair minded."

Note.

W. A. Strong, San Jose, California, reports taking an English Sparrow, February 18th with the head and back light rusty brown, wings and tail much lighter and throat and under parts nearly white.

Likewise under date of July 2d makes the announcement that he has seven dead-cats this year to his credit. Let the good work go on.

June Here and Elsewhere.

Your latest number comes to hand, while we are enjoying June weather; Oriolus is singing in the apple-trees before I am out in the morning. How different are the nesting habits of his kind from those of the Emperor Penguins in the Southern Hemisphere. According to Mr. Wilson of the "Discovery" expedition, they nest in the dead of winter, in the middle of the Polar night, (in the month of June), in cold that may reach 50 degrees below zero.

These birds come together on a solid iceberg to lay a single egg. There are no preparations, no nest. To keep the egg off the ice, the penguin places it on his feet, held between the legs, protected by a fold of skin covered with feathers, at the base of the abdomen. As the incubation last nearly two months, the birds, of which not many are engaged in brooding, pass the egg to one another in turn. At the beginning of September the egg is hatched. There is only one chick to ten or more adults, and as every one of these latter wishes to brood, there is much struggling to get possession of the little ones, sometimes causing death.

This seems as wonderful as any of Baron Munchausen's stories, and yet it may be read in more ample form in the Smithsonian annual report for the year 1912.

Some years ago, a gentleman from this section where I now live published a monthly, "Birds and All Nature" very liberally illustrated with colored plates, and to my mind those representing eggs and nests were faraway the best. I have a hope that THE OOLOGIST may have a circulation

sufficiently large to print it to take up and continue that part of "Birds" work.

J. Thompson.

Cold Brook, N. Y.

Bird Law Has Won Advocates in Many States.

Measure to Prevent Slaughter Has the Support of Thousands.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 28.—A young man, armed with a 22-caliber rifle, picked up from the base of a fence post the body of a meadowlark he had just killed, merely to prove his accurate eye. The act excited no comment from a passing farmer who owned the field.

Had someone told him that the young man with the rifle had carelessly thrown away a protective agent worth \$5 in cash a year, the farmer would have inquired into the matter which so closely touched his pocket.

It is not the argument of the nature lover, the tender-hearted bird lover, that is being made; the United States each year is coming nearer the time when it will consume all its own food-stuffs and be forced to import the production lacking. The productivity of the soil must be maintained and increased, and birds are an essential part of this scheme of economy. To protect birds is to protect dollars. Not once during the hearings and debates on the McLean bill was anything said about the brutality of killing birds for fun; the argument was entirely on economic and legal lines. And the Senate, after bristling with objections, smoothed its ruffled self when the bill finally came to a crucial point and it was passed by unanimous consent.

The argument in favor of this measure, which provides "that all wild geese, wild swans, brant, wild ducks, snipe, plover, woodcock, rail, wild pigeons and all other migratory and insectivorous birds which in their

northern and southern migrations pass through or do not remain permanently the entire year within the borders of any State or Territory, shall hereafter be deemed to be within the custody and protection of the government of the United States," were based on facts adduced by naturalists and by the Department of Agriculture.

Ravages of Insects.

As long ago as 1904, Dr. C. L. Marlatt, who based his conclusions on the crop reports of the Department of Agriculture, estimates that the agricultural losses in this country resulting from the ravages of insects amounted to \$795,100,000 per year. This is twice the value of the property destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire. It would build three navies as large as the one the United States boasts. The immensity of the figure can be shown in a score of other ways—it is almost as large as the national debt, it is nearly 5 per cent of the entire value of farm products produced last year and it would equal the pension roll for five years.

Were it not for birds, which have been ruthlessly slaughtered for years, it is believed that the vegetation of the country would have practically disappeared. Insects threaten the earth. Weather, parasites, fungi, poisons and birds keep down the numbers, but of all these agents birds are most effective.

According to the United States Biological Survey, the green leaf louse, or aphid, destructive to hops and other valuable crops, will reproduce their kind, if undisturbed, at the rate of ten sextillion per year. Such a population would cover every inch of land above water. But thirty-eight variettes of birds feed on the aphid and similar pests and the threatened devastation is held off year after year.

One pair of potato bugs will pro-

duce from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 of their kind a year. The natural increase of one pair of gypsy moths would defoliate the United States in eight years, according to one of Uncle Sam's experts. The locust, army worm, cinch bug and others reproduce with equally alarming rapidity.

Against these myriads which threaten vegetable life and, in turn, the animal life which feeds on it are natural agents to preserve the balance in nature.

The appetite of a bird is not a proverb. Why it is not is uncommon hard to determine. The observed feats of birds are much more remarkable than those of pigs or other animals with large appetites.

Voracious Appetites.

Birds eat most of the time and insects are their principal diet. The old bird is quite as ravenous as the young. A young crow will eat twice his weight in a day. A young robin has been known to eat sixty-eight angle worms in a day; scarlet tanagers have accomplished the feat of eating thirty-five gypsy moths a minute for eighteen minutes at a stretch; the yellow-throated warbler is credited with being able to devour 10,000 tree lice in a day. An Ontario scientist fed a young robin seventy-five cut worms in a day for fifteen days and the bird seemed willing to continue the remarkable feat.

Game birds, no less than insectivorous birds, live on insects. Prairie chickens, quail, grouse and wild turkeys feed their young very largely on insects.

In this appetite, a demand for tiny prey in huge quantities, which wakes with each new sun as eager and strong as on the day before, lies a large part of the safety of the crops of the United States. Senator McLean, speaking in behalf of his bill, quoted with approval

the statement that "men who have had this subject at heart and in hand for many years assert that bird life is one of the most indispensable balancing forces of nature."

Game and insectivorous birds have been charged with feeding on seed to such a degree that they prove destructive to crops. Careful observation, according to the Biological Survey, disproves this contention.—San Francisco Bulletin.

W. A. Strong.

San Jose, Cal.

Copy Wanted.

We are very short of copy. What is especially desired is short pithy bird notes and observations unaccompanied by illustrations. We have on hand a very large amount of illustrated copy. We want articles unaccompanied by illustrations.

The December number will be out promptly on the 15th of the month and possibly the 10th and all advertisements must reach us here at Lacon by the first of December.—Editor.

Early June Birds of Cresson, Cambria County, Pa.

Cresson is a small town and summer resort lying on the Allegheny mountain plateau, in Eastern Cambria Co. During the first week of June, 1913, a friend and I made a trip to this region, having heard that it was inhabited each summer by several species of "Northern birds." At noon, on June 6th, we left the train and made our way to a road which led away from the town and through a wood. No sooner had we entered this wood than the pretty song of a Slate-colored Junco reached our ears. Nearby a Least Flycatcher sat perched in a small tree, uttering its peculiar notes. Some distance further on we heard the clear notes of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak,

which perched in a tall tree by a farm house yard. At the farm house we arranged to stay for a couple of days. After procuring lunch we went to a large wood a short distance west of Cresson. As we neared its edge we could hear the sweet song of a veery nearby. Several Black-throated Blue Warblers were also heard singing from the deeper parts of the wood. Beside a cluster of huge white pine trees we stopped to rest a moment and soon heard the buzzing of a Parula Warbler. I made a careful search for the nest but failed to find one. Beside a large tulip tree stump, I flushed a female Junco with feeding material in her bill. I made a search and found two young birds perched on the lower branches of some saplings. My friend went into the woods and soon found a nest of the Magnolia Warbler. It was built on the end of a drooping hemlock branch and was about thirty feet above the ground. Upon examination it was found to contain four incubated eggs. The Black-throated Blue Warblers kept up their singing, so I decided to search carefully among the low beech sprouts for a nest. Finally I found one built in a cluster of low sprouts; it was two feet up and held a single egg which had been sucked by some prowler. I made a further search for the nests of the Warbler but failed to find any new ones.

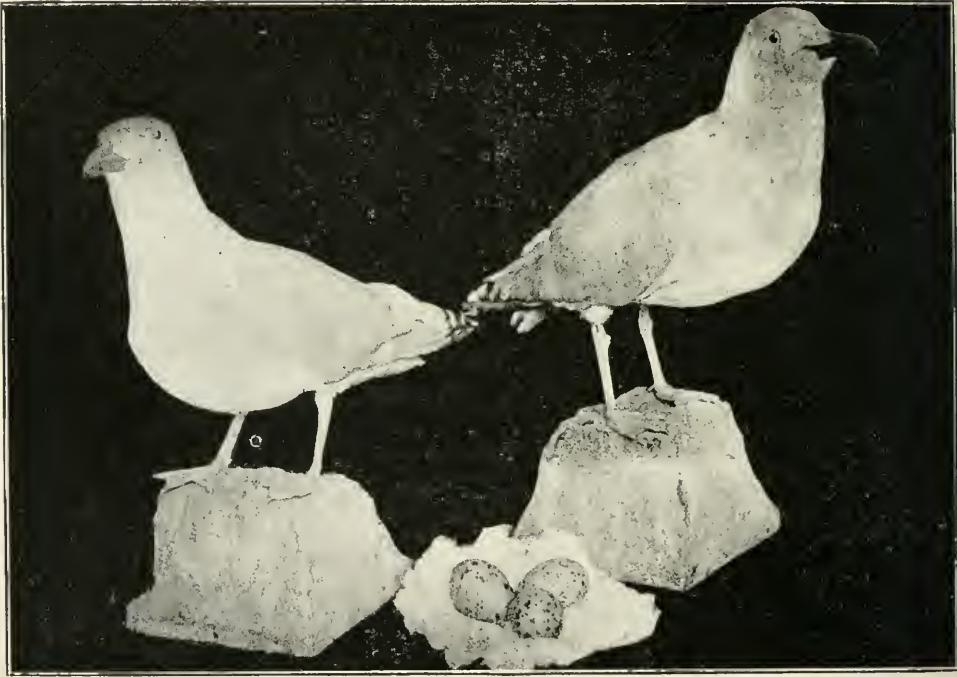
However, I did discover two or three last year's nests. In a small beech sapling I found a newly constructed nest of the Veery Thrush. Careful hunting among the low hemlocks revealed another nest of the Magnolia Warbler, but as yet it held no eggs. Later two more nests of this Warbler were found,—one was fifteen feet up in a hemlock and the other was five feet up in some tall briars that bordered the wood. Both of these nests held

four eggs respectively. In a low beech sprout, I found a second nest of the Veery which held a single blue egg.

In the evening we walked to a dense slashing east of town. Here we heard a number of Juncos and Verrys singing their evening songs. We also noted several Canadian Warblers; one of them made quite a demonstration at our presence but we failed to find a nest. At one place a Junco made some fuss, so my friend watched it for a short time and finally saw it take building material to a newly made nest; it was a depression under the corner of a large lime stone which lay by a path, just inside the woods. At this place the Juncos were quite numerous. As darkness approached we decided to go back and return on the morrow.

We were up early the following morning and on hand in time to hear a number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks singing. Several Black-throated Blue Warblers sang from the tangle of rhododendron, so I went in to search for a nest. However, I failed to discover it, even though the female bird made a great fuss. In a slender beech sapling we found a Rose-breasted Grosbeak's nest which held but two eggs. Further on were two more nests of this bird but they held no eggs at that time. The Canadian Warblers were certainly nesting nearby because they seemed so annoyed at our presence. In the deep ravine they became tolerably common. At one place we saw a Northern Raven fly across the wooded hill. Louisiana Water-thrushes were quite numerous in the ravines where clear streams splashed along. The country about Cresson seems to be suited for some of the Northern birds but comparatively few of the common and more Southern birds were noticed.

S. S. Dickey.
Waynesburg, Pa.



Mounted Herring Gulls and Set of Eggs

—Photo by C. L. Phillips

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Vol. XXXI.

1915

With this issue we close Volume Thirty-one of THE OOLOGIST. We have published therein forty illustrations and pages. While it has not been up to our anticipations and hopes, we surely have served our readers with more and better of its kind than they could have gotten any other place on earth for Fifty Cents.

The articles on the North American Swan which we proposed publishing, has not been completed. The list of the Birds of the Isle of Pines was postponed at the request of one of the greatest of our Scientific Institutions, and the Bibliography of Amateur Bird Oological and Natural History publications is still in the making. The third and final proof now being in process.

All these articles will appear later in THE OOLOGIST. We regret the confusion of numbers appearing in this Volume.

The coming year is a promising one for bird students. We can look forward with much pleasure to what is coming. The Federal Migratory Bird Law will do much for the birds, and every reader of THE OOLOGIST should assist in its enforcement.

Legitimate scientific collecting for both public and private collections will not suffer. The camera man,—that best of all bird students, will be increasingly active, and the thousands of loyal friends of THE OOLOGIST will do what they can to make it better than ever. No magazine ever had a more loyal clientele;—there is a sentiment in it that we truly appreciate.

R. M. BARNES.

A Great Flight of Grebes.

Of late years the Horned Grebe is not very plentiful but up to a few years ago there almost always was a day or two during April when there would be quite a few Grebes passing.

On April 25th, 1893 occurred a most remarkable flight.

On the 24th it was warm and clear. There were no waterfowl about except a single Grebe seen at noon. Toward evening it clouded. The wind shifted to the northeast and became brisk, along in the night a steady rain set in. On the 25th the wind had increased and all day it blew hard. It was cold too and there was frequent showers. At daylight on the 25th the Horned Grebes were everywhere.

I spent the day at my favorite ducking grounds down the river and that day I saw more Grebes than I ever expect to see again. All day long flock after flock kept coming up the river. At times I could see four or five flocks coming at once. Here and there were flocks floating down stream and you could not walk any distance along the shore without seeing whole droves come piling out of the overflowed willows ahead of you. I laid around a good deal in the heavy bush and behind drift at what we called the "dead-water." A piece of quiet water along the shore that was always a fine feeding ground for water-fowl. As the river was high, flocks of Grebes floating down gathered in this place, other nocks flying decoyed and came as did ducks and at times great flocks of Gulls hovered and circled about. At times three or four hundred Grebes were in this place at once and it was surely a great sight to me. Occasionally something nice in the duck line came along and I would shoot. Then there would be a tremendous scattering but right away they would begin dropping in again and were soon as thick as ever.

Beside the Grebes there were a good lot of Bonaparte Gulls. Some flocks of over one hundred came along during the day and during the morning an occasional big Herring Gull passed.

A few flocks of five to twenty Long-tails and Bufflehead came along and several flocks of Lesser Scaup. Also saw singles or pairs during the day of Blue-wing Teal, Ruddy, Wood-duck, R. B. Mergansers, Mallard, Black duck, Whistlers and one pair of Whitewing Scoters. A large flock of Geese were reported seen but I didn't see any and think it was rather late for Geese.

Most of the Grebes were in full dress but a few were still in winter plumage and many were in all stages in between.

There must have been thousands and thousands of Grebes in this flight as reports from places between here and Pittsburgh, one hundred eighty miles south of us by rail and between here and Olean, N. Y., sixty miles above us all stated that great numbers of "hell divers" were seen and many were shot.

Parties who came up from Pittsburgh that day said that they could look out of the car windows any time and see plenty of Grebes.

Here at Warren the shooting sounded like a fourth of July celebration and a large number were killed. At Oil City, Olean and other places a great many were shot and altogether the flight must have suffered severe loss.

Some gunners here killed as high as eight and ten at a single discharge into the huddled flocks along the shore. There did not seem to be any flight or increase of land birds at all.

Next day but very few were seen and probably most of those seen were wounded birds.

Old timers and settlers along the river tell me they never saw such num-



Albino Robin at Philo, Ill., Sept. 7, 1913

—Photo by Isaac E. Hess

bers of "hell divers" before, although years ago great flights of water-fowl often occurred in April.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

An Albino Robin.

I am sending you for THE OOLOGIST a photograph of an Albino Robin, making its home in Philo this summer. His back and tail is alternate black and white with an almost pure white breast. He chirps and digs earth-worms just as the ordinary Robin but his relatives seem to regard him with suspicion. I have had my camera placed for him for three weeks and Sunday morning after setting focus I was engaged in entangling my string to snap the shutter when he splashed in for his morning bath. Imagine my feelings when I realized the opportunity missed because I was not ready. However I scared him out hoping he would return and finish his oblations. Here is reproduced his pose just as he alighted again on the pan. I suppose his pink eyes are responsible for his sleepy look as you well know pink makes little impression on a camera plate. I shall hope for other poses but THE OOLOGIST deserves the first (probably) picture of a live wild Albino bird ever taken. It is rare to see an albino—it must be regarded as fortunate when one is photographed in its wild state.

Isaac E. Hess.

So far as we know, this is the first photograph of a wild Albino Robin ever taken or published, and we congratulate Brother Hess on his rare luck and splendid success. It is his fault that THE OOLOGIST is furnished this "scoop," which is a nice thing to close up the year with, and we surely appreciate it.

Oscar Baynard with his Dusky Seaside Sparrow article and Hess with the

above photo, have enabled us to make two hitherto unattained records in ornithology this year, and we have another of the same kind and fully as important for the January issue.

A Correction.

In my paper "Summer Residents of the Pensauken Creek, N. J." published in the June OOLOGIST, there occurs two omissions and a slight contounding of data of one species, as follows:

- 58. Crested Flycatcher. Not common.
 - 59. Phoebe. A pair has nested for many years under an open-fronted wharf. This data should be included here and not under the Crested Flycatcher.
- Crow. Common.

Richard F. Miller.

Nine Unusual and Interesting Experiences.

In the Spring of 1913 one of my "Pet" Woodcocks could not be located. Whenever I entered the brushy pasture the male was flushed but I was evidently not looking in the proper place for the cunning female. I was climbing through the fence at the conclusion of my fifth unsuccessful attempt at locating her only to perceive the bead-like eyes peering through a mass of brittle oak leaves, away from the shelter or protection of any hazel, alder or sumach. The situation in which she was squatting was one that might be considered typical as a nesting site for Whip-poor-will. No nest was in evidence, not even the customary hollow in the soft soil. Could she be sheltering four little fellows so early in the spring? She seemed almost glued to the spot and flushed only after being touched. There were four very dark shaded eggs lying loosely on the uneven leaves without any semblance of the arrangement so



Wood Cock on nest, April, 1913
Note blotch on brush. These are occasioned by scale which is gradually
killing this cover.

—Photo by G. A. Abbott

characteristic with our shore birds.

Carefully surveying the cover within a radius of fifteen feet I presently discovered the original nesting site up the hill a few yards from where the eggs now lay. The downy feathers and one-half of the hollow plainly showed where the motherly breast had rested when incubation first began.

During recent heavy rains a portion of the slops had been washed away and with it the lower rim of the nest, allowing the four eggs to roll from their original resting place down the leafy incline. Regardless of this disturbance the eggs were intact and the mother had succeeded in gathering them together and successfully covering all four.

I stooped, gathered some soft, damp soil, reshaped the nest and covered the area with dead grasses and leaves, then I replaced the four eggs with points together. In ten minutes the parent was incubating her clutch in the re-made nest, and as I bent over her chunked form I could almost feel that there was a look of appreciation in her eyes.

Another Woodcock was detected at the base of a briar. She was covering four handsome eggs. There was a triangular scar on her forehead which might have been caused by a thorn or barbed wire. This served as an identification mark and when I revisited the spot shortly afterwards the duties of incubation were progressing but the bird with the scar was not on the job. Another Woodcock slightly smaller and presumably the male, was at home.

The following year the Woodcock with the patch on her forehead took up a nesting site in close proximity to the old one, which is conclusive evidence that the same pair of birds returned to their old haunts and fur-

thermore, (at least in the case of the Woodcock above) both sexes assist in the duties of incubation.

Along the boarder of one of the little tributaries of our Calumet region I have always looked for a pair of Woodcock. I found my first nest there in 1901. Several seasons ago I started to make my annual tour of inspection and this clump of willow and hazel was on my route. Peering cautiously ahead I perceived the male motionless but "sitting high" which was conclusive evidence that beneath him was nothing oological and so I started to find his affinity. Finally she crossed through the brush to the leeward and after thoroughly canvassing the neighborhood I could not even detect an incomplete set. I did, however, feel that someone had robbed me, (and the bird) of the eggs because there was a neat hollow at the base of a little poplar. Three little fluffy brown feathers were there. A bird's body had certainly caused the depression. I never had known of a woodcock who made much attempt at nest building, especially when no eggs were in evidence, so I concluded to wait two weeks and possibly find the the second clutch. There was no doubt but that a second clutch would be laid if the first had been taken, but possibly someone else would beat me to it.

Returning April 24th I naturally went direct to the spot which I imagined contained the four handsome eggs early in the spring, and believe me, the female was squatting over that very cavity and as I lifted one wing I could see the large ends of four fine eggs.

A Killdeer followed me over a gravel slope from which the sod had all been removed. Watching her through my field glasses I noticed she returned to a little knoll and there squatted. I approached. She depart-



Nest and Eggs of Upland Plover
—Photo by G. A. Abbott

ed from another direction and I saw one egg in a little hollow.

Repeatedly I visited the same cover and watched her withdraw from identically the same area, yet the number of eggs had not increased. Could it be that she was incubating only one? On the thirteenth day subsequent to the finding of the first egg I again watched the fleet footed creature trip over the uneven sod and as I approached the nesting site I was surprised to see that the full compliment of four eggs had finally been deposited.

I was in northwestern Minnesota during June, 1913. With my Indian guide, Joe, we were beating the grassy knolls and a Prairie Chicken arose twenty feet ahead. She left a nest of ten eggs. One hundred yards further and I came upon another Chicken sitting in regular woodcock fashion except she moved her eyelids periodically and nervously. I have never seen a sitting woodcock move a muscle until actually disturbed. It was remarkable how this Prairie Hen allowed us to stand within three feet of her and I thought what a splendid opportunity to photograph a pinnated grouse on her nest. Three days later sixteen empty shells convinced me why this Prairie Chicken was so attached to the nest from which I never disturbed her.

Near the source of the great Mississippi we came upon three broad, shallow pools with very muddy borders. An imaginary line around the edge of all three would have been equal to a triangle with three equal dimensions of four hundred yards each. We first saw the pot holes June 14th and 27 Marbled Godwit were probing in the oozy soil. They were tame, noisy and several of them very solicitous. Three groups of Phalarope comprising both sexes were alternately wading and swimming in the dirty water and they

too gave evidence of concern when we approached certain portions of the marshy boarders. Noisy Yellow Legs of both varieties paroled the borders and two large flocks of little shore birds apparently Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers flew nervously from pond to pond not allowing us to get within one hundred and fifty yards of them. Upland Plover could be heard whistling on the elevated knolls in every direction and from two to eight birds were always in the air soaring or volplaning to the cover of unbroken raw prairie.

We could find the nests of the Bartramians but repeated searching would not reward us with a single nest of any other wader, so I returned next day determined to obtain a few of the birds at least.

I took five Marbled Godwit and saw a lone wader in the midst of one of the boggy pools, which, to my surprise, was a handsome plumaged Hudsonian Godwit. I disturbed none of the Phalarope but it is quite evident they were not nesting at the time we visited the place.

The Godwits were extremely fat, full plumaged, but apparently non-breeding birds.

This is the third time I have chanced upon small flocks of shore birds during June but in each instance the species were without either young or eggs so far as our extensive observations went. In all probability many of our waders do not breed until the second season and are attracted to certain places where their particular food is abundant and the community is immune from disturbance by either the agriculturist or the shooter.

Mr. E. W. Nelson, one of the pioneer ornithologists of the Great Lake region used to cover the Chicago area from the Calumet marshes southeast, north to the Skokie and blind river



Nest and Eggs of Killdeer, May, 1913
—Photo by G. A. Abbott

sloughs on the State line between Illinois and Wisconsin. He describes Wilson's Phalarope as out-numbering all other shore birds, the Spotted Sandpiper not excluded. This delicate little variety still inhabits our local marshes but in very limited numbers. An unusual wet spring will possibly detain a small colony of half a dozen pair and they are soon divided into two groups. The more conspicuous flock consists wholly of the brightly streaked female and they divide their time between the shallow lake sides and the muddy flats. The males are strictly at home and were one to judge them from their behavior and plumage he would by all means consider them not only figuratively but literally the mother birds.

A few years ago I found four nests in one little area and the little birds would vacate the eggs before I was in sight of the nests. Their manner of flight at the time was suggestive of the Black Tern but their note of warning was a feeble attempt at offering any protest. The birds are long winged and fly with remarkable ease, stopping momentarily to hover over the nest whenever they pass near it.

It is to be regretted that these dainty little creatures have diminished so in numbers. They are almost dove-like in their actions and one can hardly think of them as being a game bird so unsuspecting are they when either breeding or migrating.

In early September some years ago I took a male Northern Phalarope in our Calumet region which appears to be the only record of northern Illinois.

Bobolinks are abundant in our prairie sloughs and adjoining hill sides. They are far more numerous than any other ground nesting bird, but their distribution is, of course, erratic and in many localities through

Illinois they are practically unknown as summer residents.

Two springs ago I found a Bobolink's nest which was three inches above the ground in the crotch of a weed stalk. This seemed extremely peculiar and after removing the eggs and carefully examining the plant I came to the conclusion that the nest when constructed was placed upon the ground but the rapid growth of this particular stalk had carried the nest in to a most unusual situation. Most Bobolink nests are securely hidden and they are hard to find considering the abundance of the bird.

With us we have the Horned Lark twelve months in the year. (I refer to the sub-species, Prairie Horned Lark.) The first nest is sometimes completed as early as February 25th and golf players on our public courses in the city limits have on several occasions come upon nests early in March containing eggs which were in the course of incubation. One nest in particular was built adjacent to a new drift and approximately fifty people passed within five feet of the abode every day.

Gerard Alan Abbott.

Chicago, Ills.

Died.

Sidney Dickinson, an enthusiastic bird student and supporter of THE OOLOGIST, died at his home in Thompson, Iowa, September 1st, leaving a large circle of friends and acquaintances to mourn his untimely decease.

We are just advised of the death of Dr. M. A. Steele of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, a subscriber to THE OOLOGIST and an earnest bird student.

Very Unusual.

Guy W. Lay of Sidney, Illinois, reports finding a Brown Thrasher's nest with four eggs in the cavity of a wil-



Nest and Eggs of Meadowlark, May, 1913
—Photo by G. A. Abbott

low tree; the old bird was much at home sitting on her eggs as would be a Woodpecker or any other cavity nesting species.

Herring Gull.

Larus argentatus.

Doubtless nearly every one who visits the haunts of this bird is more or less familiar with its appearance. It is a large, clean looking species some $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in extent. The young of the year have a brown appearance; the birds of the second year a mottled or marbled aspect, and the adults of three or more years are white with pearl-gray backs, a little black on tips of primaries, and bill is yellow with vermilion spot near top of under mandible, while feet are flesh-color and iris is white. It is said that a bird of this species has been known to live 44 years.

The birds range from Cuba in winter to the Arctic in summer. They are especially abundant along the New England coast during fall, winter and spring, and a careful observer will note a few during the summer months, which fly down from their southern breeding limit, in search of food. Also they may at times be seen migrating over the land, flying very high.

During the present winter I have observed thousands of these along Cape Cod. At Providence one is enabled to study them at close range. Large flocks frequent the wharves and harbor, where considerable refuse is obtainable from the wholesale fish houses and their fleets. Here, when a favorable feeding place was located, a large number of birds would congregate and hundreds would swim gracefully around the spot. Occasionally one would duck its head and disappear for a second or two under water, it would probably emerge with a small dead fish, or a piece of fish, and take

wing to avoid having the morsel snatched from its mandibles by a companion. In doing this it would strike the water three or four times with its webbed feet to gain impetus, and then give itself two or three vigorous shakes in the air to rid its plumage of water. It would then draw up its feet so that they were not noticeable, and gracefully fly to a distance to enjoy its food. No doubt, it would soon return for more, as hundreds of the birds were circling over the spot.

Several years ago I spent a week on the Nova Scotia coast, in the vicinity of Annapolis Bay, and noticed that this was the most common gull at that place. The excessive tides of the Bay of Fundy expose an abundance of food for the sea birds there. I have observed a bird of this species which followed a steamer for twenty-five miles. This is a habit, the purpose of which is to gleam the refuse thrown overboard.

These birds utter a whining, or distressed note in a low tone and also have a harsh "kuk" which they occasionally utter six or eight times, and also a more pronounced "chee-ah". A few White-winged Scoters were with the flocks at Providencetown. The latter seem to feel secure if the gulls show no suspicion.

At Plymouth I noticed a few Great-blacked Gulls with this species, and the Herring Gulls were trying to rob a flock of Redbreasted Mergansers of their catches. The latter were too agile, however, for the gulls. There were about twenty Mergansers in flock and in an hour's observation I failed to see a gull get a fish. The Mergansers got them, but by rapid swimming and diving managed to retain their prey. I thought they seemed to enjoy outwitting the gulls, for the Mergansers did not seem inclined to leave the spot. At times these gulls succeed in stealing from the Mergansers.

This species is said to catch some live fish, to feed on shell fish and crustaceans and to drop hard-shelled species upon the rocks, to break shells and render contents more easily obtainable.

This gull breeds from No Man's Land, an island some twenty miles off shore from Rockland, Me., to the sub-Arctic coasts, breeding abundantly at certain points in Labrador. I believe they also breed commonly around the great lakes, where the desired insular protection is best.

Nests are usually composed of sticks, moss, sea-weed or analogous material, with considerable depression for eggs and it may be placed on the ground, on rocks, or if much disturbed, on high stumps or in-tree tops. The eggs are greenish or grayish brown or drab with numerous spots, blotches and scratches of different shades of brown more or less over the entire surface. The conventional wreath of spots at the larger end is often in evidence. Three eggs are usually laid and the downy young closely resemble the egg. The coloration affords both the best possible protection, as they resemble the conglomerate stones rounded by the ceaseless action of the sea, and might be easily overlooked by enemies.

Half tone represents two adult males, and a characteristic set of eggs.

(The half tone plate accompanying this article showing the mounted male and female bird and a set of eggs will be found on page 208 of this volume (November issue, 1914).

Charles L. Phillips.

Taunton, Mass.

Nesting of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in South Jersey.

On July 7th, 1913, near Lenola, Burlington County, N. Y., on the north branch of the Pensauken Creek, where

I was camping for several days I found an empty Rose-breasted Grosbeak's nest in a small maple grove. It was in an arrow-wood sprout seven feet high, placed about five feet upon several horizontal limbs beside the stem, and loosely situated. It was a typical nest of the species and so far as I could judge no young had been raised in it. I think it had been robbed as it was along a path and no Grosbeaks were observed anywhere in the neighborhood.

The rarity of this species as a nester in South Jersey makes it desirable to record the discovery of this nest. There are only two records of its nesting in this part of the state; Beverly, a few miles above Lenola, and Haddonfield, several miles south of where my nest was found.

Richard F. Miller.

Oddities in Coloration.

I have in my collection, the Virginia Rail, clear white sets; some are slightly marked and finely; some are very dark blotched. Among the Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers several sets that have a double yolked egg, fully again as large as the others in the sets.

Several years ago I was with a friend in the Tonawanda Swamp. We found the nest of a Marsh Hawk with three eggs. My friend shot the Marsh Hawk and mounted it. When in the act of skinning, we found one egg inside, which is of the same color as the Green Heron's eggs, light bluish color, and as I keep my collection in completely dark drawers, it has until today kept the bluish color.

Ottomar Reinecke.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Results of the Federal Bird Law.

November 11th and 12th was spent with a few friends at Thompson's Lake on the Illinois river. The closed

season for spring shooting already seemed to show its results at this lake. Not many Canvasbacks come this way formerly in the fall, but last week they were here by thousands. The middle of the lake for five miles was simply covered with them, at one time three; a male and two females swam into my blind and the yall staid with me. I made a fine skin of the male.

Other ducks obtained were several each of Ruddy, Black Jack, Bluebills (Scaup), a pair of Hooded Mergansers, a male Wood Duck, some Teal, several Mallards, a female Cormorant, a pair of Pied bill Grebes. Skins were made of all the finer specimens. American Coots were too common to shoot at, though many hunters were doing it in mere wantonness. A few Bobwhites were secured. Though it was a little too early for the main flight of Mallards, other ducks were here in greater numbers than had been observed for many years.

Dr. W. S. Strode.

Lewiston, Ill.

Infinitesimal Subdivisions.

Out of many letters received since the November issue of THE OOLOGIST came off the press, we extract the following from just one, which is signed by one of the most prominent of eastern ornithologists:

"I have just read in your November issue of THE OOLOGIST, your remarks 'Anent Hair-splitting, Microscopic Subspecies.' Good. Give us more; them's my sentiments."

Snakes Eat Birds Eggs.

May 30, 1914 I flushed a Grasshopper Sparrow from her nest of four eggs in a meadow and left them to go back next day and get a set of five, as I hoped. The next day I went to the nest and all of the eggs were gone, while the nest remained in perfect con-

dition. I hunted all around on the ground, but could not find any eggs or pieces of shells.

I soon flushed another Grasshopper Sparrow from her nest, which had one egg, and later found another with two eggs, and one with three eggs, all in the same field. In a couple of days I went back to look at the nests and every nest was empty like the first that I had found. The nests were all in perfect order, and there was no stock in the field. What was the cause of this; will they carry their eggs to another nest or not?

Guy W. Day.

The cause of the foregoing disappearance of eggs is without doubt the black snake or blue racer. These snakes are inveterate egg thieves.—Editor.

The Starling at Hartford, Connecticut.

It is estimated that there are over ten thousand Starlings roosting nightly in the two spires of the Cathedral on Farmington avenue. There are over three thousand roosting in the pine and hemlock grove in Kenny Park across the street from my house and they keep up a constant chatter all night. They are increasing at an alarming rate as they raise from four to six young to a brood, and two broods a year. They are driving out the Flickers, Sparrow-hawks and other birds very fast. They do not as yet seem to trouble small fruits or grain in feeding their young, they go to a ploughed field for the food. It is only a matter of a few years when they will be a pest.

Clifford M. Case.

Small Woodpecker's Eggs.

On May 25, 1914, I took a queer set of Red-headed Woodpecker eggs from a hole in a dead stub about fifteen feet up. There were three eggs in the

set. One was the normal size of this bird's egg, one was about the size of a Downy Woodpecker's egg and the last was as large as a Robin's egg. This last one was very fresh and the shell was so thin and soft that it broke when I was removing it from the nest. The other two which I now have were more advanced in incubation.

After reading Mr. J. B. Jackey's and A. C. Harlow's articles on elevated nests of the Towhee, I should like to give my experience in regard to such nests. In the last four years I have examined ten Towhee nests, five of which were placed at elevations of from one to six feet. All of these elevated nests were found in July and August and were no doubt second sets. The ones found in the spring were all on the ground. The two nests found by Mr. Harlow were on June 26 and August 7, both late. I think that in the spring when there is no thick under brush the birds nest on the ground, but that when they come to raise the second brood the under brush is thicker and the nests are placed at an elevation.

Colin Campbell Sanborn.
Highland Park, Ill.

It is not unusual to find runt or undersized eggs—one or more of them in Woodpeckers nests.—Editor.

Unhatched Cowbird's Eggs.

The finding of unhatched Cowbird's eggs in nests containing young birds of the nest owner is of rare occurrence, and Bendire in his monograph on the Cowbird mentions this fact. Instances of this kind, however, have been recorded and I have found unhatched Cowbird's eggs in several nests as follows:

In June 18th, 1909, at Audalusia, Bucks County, Pa., I found an infertile Cowbird's egg in a Yellow Warbler's nest containing two half-grown

and also two infertile eggs of the owner. On the same day and at the same place I found an addled Cowbird's egg in a Yellow Warbler's nest containing an infertile egg of the owner.

On June 17th, 1910, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pa., I found a Cowbird's egg with a dead one-third formed embryo in a Red-eyed Vireo's nest containing two small naked young of the owner.

As is well known, in most cases, the Cowbird's egg is usually the first one to hatch out in a nest, but the above three cases the eggs failed to incubate.

Richard F. Miller.

A New Contributor.

A few days ago on the way home from my office I was waylaid by a nine year old subscriber, who stated he saw in the November issue that we needed copy; and handed us the following contribution (which is here reproduced verbatim) and another, with the statement, "Here are a couple of stories for your paper."

Genius must bud before it blooms, and must make a beginning somewhere and some time!—Editor.

The Red Bird.

In the summer I found a Red Bird's nest in the orchard which contained three fresh eggs. On July 7th my brother busted the eggs. The other day I found the nest on the ground. I put it in a small apple tree and I am going to keep it. And my brother got a whipping for it.

Harrison Jay Green.

Lacon, Ill.

Don't Be a Game Hog.

One party murdered one hundred forty ducks on the opening day of the hunting season, yet if an oologist collected one hundred forty eggs of any

species of duck what a howl would be raised from the Audubonites and bird protectors and particularly from gunners. Yet these one hundred forty eggs would probably have been laid by fourteen pairs of birds only and at the worst only that number of birds would be destroyed. But they are not destroyed for in a couple of weeks longer they would all have had second clutches.

As a factive field oologist eighteen years standing I can speak authoritatively on the subject of bird destruction vs destruction of birds by egg collectors, from experience in this vicinity.

Most of the closest naturalists who condemn oological collecting have large collections of birds, many in large series, and these men, least of all should keep their mouths closed in regard to egg collecting.

An egg collector can rob every nest (if he can find them) in his vicinity and the birds will show no decrease in number, but let a skin collector during the nesting season get in his murderous work in the same locality and the local oologist will note a useful decrease in birds. I speak from experience, although the birds in this instance were killed by illegal gunners.

Richard F. Miller.

A Field Sparrow's Egg in a Maryland Yellowthroat's Nest.

On June 7th, 1914 at Stone Harbor, N. J., I found a Maryland Yellowthroat's nest containing three eggs of the owner and one Field Sparrow's egg. Incubation was highly advanced in all and I was unable to save this unique "set."

The nest was placed upon the ground in a bunch of low yarrow weeds at the base of a low red cedar sprout in the edge of a bayberry thicket at the bottom of a low sand dune and

was well hidden. The female yellowthroat was flushed off. The eggs of both species were typical specimens in every respect.

Richard F. Miller.

PAY UP.

It takes money to run a magazine, large or small. Money comes from subscriptions and advertisements. With this issue, many subscriptions run out. Under the U. S. Postal laws, we cannot send "The Oologist" to any one more than a year in arrears on subscription.

We trust all whose subscription expires with this issue will renew at once while the matter is fresh in mind. Also let each one make a special effort to enlarge our subscription list by adding at least another name besides their own to our list.

The only way to keep up interest is to enlarge our circle of bird students and observers.. Send in your own subscription and another for a friend. DO IT NOW.—Editor.

Some Notes on the Sierra or Thurber's Junco.

(Junco hyemalis thurberi).

Most everyone is familiar with some of the species of Juncos, more or less, in their winter quarters, and during migrations, but very few know them in their breeding haunts among the deep canons and along the back slopes of the Sierras; at least, such is the rule that obtains here in Los Angeles County. Further north along the higher Sierras they are probably more common; but here in the lower coast ranges they are anything but plentiful, and of so shy and retiring a disposition, that you may wander through their breeding ranges for days and never see a single one, or even hear the silvery broken warble of the black-headed male.

I have found them breeding in the Sierra Madres, as low as the 3000 foot level, and never above 5000 feet. I do not say that five thousand feet is their breeding limit, but in a period extending over six years, a careful search has never revealed a nest of this species at a higher altitude. Their favorite haunts are the deep cleft canons of the back slopes, where a mountain stream dashes and tumbles over the lichen stained rocks and blusters boldly down the ragged falls, singing gayly through the summer days, and breaking the lonely silences at night, with its unceasing murmur. Here along some mossy cliff where the rocks are draped with ferns and the wild Columbine hangs its trumpet shaped flowers, where the fronds of the maiden hair ferns are asparkle with the drip, drip of the rock springs above. Given then a small shelf and clump of lush grass amongst the dripping ferns, and a careful search—may—reveal a nest with the demure little mother sitting close, and hidden from view by the close clinging growths.

Not always though, do they choose a secluded spot in which to hide their nest, for I well remember a nest I found that was situated under a small overhanging bank, beside a stream and less than three feet from our burro trail. My wife and I had probably passed within a few feet of the sitting bird dozens of times a day, and when I finally located the nest I found my footprints within twelve inches of the nest; and yet I don't believe the female was ever frightened off.

As showing the fearlessness of this pair, I may mention that this nest was built and laid in after we had made our camp. So there was no necessity for the birds to keep this spot, as would have been the case if the eggs had been laid before we arrived. This nest was about six inches from the

waters edge, and built under, and of the small reddish rootlets of a nearby tree that had been washed clear by the spring torrents. This nest was quite dry inside, differing in this respect from the majority of the nests that I have examined along the cliffs where they are invariably wet inside and out. This wetting may account for the infertile eggs that I have found at various times, never more than one in a nest though.

The females of this species so far as my experiences go to show, share with Western Gnatcatcher, the same trait of sitting close to their nests, never moving until your hand is almost touching them, and then dashing off with a sharp note of protest, and like the gnatcatcher they keep flying close around you, continually keeping up a plaintiff "percheep, percheep," as long as you continue near the nest. The males are usually more wary and keep some distance off, seldom approaching closer than a hundred feet of you, and then keeping pretty well hid in the tops of the nearby trees. While being such close sitters, I have found it almost impossible to get a picture of the bird on the nest owing to their situations. Most nests that I have found would average ten to fifteen feet above the stream, and in such a position on the face of the cliffs that they were scarcely less difficult to get at than their near neighbors, the Western Flycatchers, and Black Phoebes; but unlike these, in that their nests are never visible until you part the ferns and dripping grasses above them. Four eggs are the rule, although I have found them incubated with three, and in one instance, with five, which all hatch.

The adults could often be seen feeding in the underbrush and along the hillsides, scratching among the leaves and rotten bark, much as the Towhees



Nesting site of Thurber's Junco

—Photo by C. D. Hagner



Nesting site of Thurber's Junco—H. A. Edwards, pointing
—Photo by C. D. Hagner

do, and seldom going into the trees except when disturbed or frightened. They have a faint purling warble which just fits in with the dripping of the springs around their homes, and is a fit mate for the whispering winds stealing amongst the pines and down these lonely canon sides. I have never heard them singing during the day, and only by careful listening could I hear them in the early mornings, or more plentiful at eventide as the yellow sun slipped over the distant peaks.

They are a peaceful, shy, but wholly lovable little tribe that while away the warm summer times in the cool shades of the mountain slopes; and next to the Waxwings I know of no other bird that presents such a trim, spick and span appearance in the breeding season. March usually sees the last of them in the valleys around Los Angeles, and they seldom appear again much before Christmas time. Breeding dates range from the middle of May to late in June, and occasionally into July, but June is a favorite month.

I haven't been able to determine positively so far whether they raise two broods in a season or not. Nests vary greatly as to building materials; some being composed entirely of small tendrills and rootlets without any other lining at all; others of dry grasses and leaves, and some of fern fronds, mosses, and lined with feathers, etc. The eggs have a slightly pinkish tinge when fresh, but are a delicate bluish white, when blown, sprinkled with minute specks of reddish brown and a few larger spots over the surface, ringed around the larger end with chestnut brown and grayish lavender. They vary little in different sets, and averages slightly smaller than the common Song Sparrow. After the young leave the nest it is almost impossible to see a Junco

of any age whatever. They scatter along the pine clad slopes, and into the distant ranges, keeping so close to the underbrush and bushy canons that after the end of July they seem to have all disappeared.

I hope this year to get more complete data on the nidification of this species, particularly the number of broods raised in a season; and also to make some observations as to food, etc.

H. Arden Edwards.
Los Angeles, Cal.

The Meadowlark will be Spared.

The Meadowlark has been on trial before the legislature this session and has been put to a very severe test for its life and the existence of its species. The question has been whether it should be outlawed and declared the prey of everyone who would take its life, or be spared for the good it does, and it appears to win on its merits. The aesthetic side of the case has been considered, the fact that the lark is one of the most beautiful and joyous of our native birds, but it has been judged on its economic value only and seems to have proved its worth. There can be little question but that the Meadowlark is one of the best of our native insectivorous birds, and in proof of this the university has made a thorough investigation of its habits. It is conceded that it eats some grain in the season, as does the Robin also, but its destruction of insect pests is so great, especially during the nesting season—the season when insects are at their worst—that it pays for its slight destructive work many times over. There is no greater natural check on our destructive insects than birds. It is nature's check on insect redundancy, and their destruction can only result in an enormous increase in the pests that destroy our orchards, our gardens and our farms. The dam-

age done by our beneficial birds is a mere bagatelle compared with the good they do us.—San Jose Mercury.

W. A. Strong.

San Jose, Cal.

The Solitary Vireo.

(*Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*).

The Solitary is by far the earliest arrival among the Vireos and is usually two weeks ahead of the other.

From records kept for a number of years past of the arrival and departure of migratory birds I find that the Solitary has arrived on dates ranging from April 18th to May 1st, according to the severity of the season but always about two weeks in advance of the other Vireas and a few days ahead of the earliest of the Warblers.

Almost all the other small migrants when they first appear are found along the river valley where vegetation is more advanced and food is more plentiful.

The Solitary, however, is just as apt to be first heard back in the mountains and is always more common there than along the valley.

After the migrations have set in in earnest the Solitary is common.

When snow storms occur during the migrations in May, numbers of Warblers and Vireos sometimes appear in town about the fruit and shade trees and at such times I usually see a few Solitaries but ordinarily the Solitary is never about town.

As a summer resident it is quite common in the mountains in the heavier forests where there is plenty of hemlock.

In such situations the Solitary can be heard singing overhead at most any time. Its note is like the Red-eyes but is louder, richer and fuller. Their scolding note are also deeper and harsher. The Blue-headed begins nesting quite early and many have full

sets before the bulk of the Warblers and Vireos have fairly begun nest building.

I have frequently come upon females gathering nesting material and at such times they did not seem to be shy or show fear. I always found it an easy matter to keep the bird in sight until she reached the nest. The male frequently accompanies the female to and fro while nest building and at several nests where I spent some time on different days watching operations I found that the male bird helped at times. In this vicinity they do not nest very high. I have never found one over twenty-five feet from the ground and have found several nests not over four feet up.

The majority of nests are built in hemlocks. Occasionally a beech is chosen and I have found several close to the ground in with hazel and other bushes on hardwood timbered ridges.

In size, build and general appearance I do not believe they can be distinguished from the Red-eyed but they vary considerably in structure and decorations. A Vireo's nest in a hemlock though is certain to prove to be a Solitary's and I have yet to find a Red-eyed or other Vireo's nest in a hemlock.

Some nests of the Solitary are handsomely decorated in the deep and shady forests they inhabit they have an abundance of lichen, cobwebs and decorative stuff to choose from.

The eggs are, if anything, heavier marked than the Red-eyed, although if a number of sets of both kinds were placed together I do not believe they could be distinguished with certainty by color or markings.

The Solitary usually lays four eggs sometimes only three but as a usual thing four are laid. With the Red-eyed there is a full set. Although I have peeped into many a Red-eye's nest I never could find a set of four.

One nest of the Solitary that I found was only four feet up in witch hazel in hardwood timber and not far from the edge of the woods. In this nest I found three eggs of the Vireo and one of the Cowbird, thereby adding the Solitary Vireo to the list of victims of the Cowbird of this region. As a rule though this Vireo would nest in the deep woodlands where the Cowbird would not be found. The females when on the nest have always been very tame. When within reach of the ground they sit very close and will allow a person to walk up within a couple of feet before leaving.

Several times I have found nests in beech saplings in little forked twigs and almost against the trunk.

Several years ago I found one way out on the end of a long drooping limb of a big hemlock. It was fully thirty feet from the trunk of the tree and directly over a good sized mountain stream. In order to examine it I tied a forked stick to the end of a pole and climbing a beech that grew within ten feet of the nest I pulled the limb around within reach.

Several years ago a pair of Solitaires built in a little hemlock directly under one of my Goshawk nests. They laid a set of four eggs but were not disturbed by their big neighbors overhead. In the fall it is common during the migrations in late September and early October.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

The Whistling Swan.

Last year I had not received any information of the occurrence of this Swan at Niagara Falls. Early this year I had instructed my friends to inform me when they appeared. About a month later than in previous years, I received a message that they had arrived. The lateness of their appear-

ance may be due to the late spring, as they leave their home in the Gulf of Mexico on their migration to the breeding grounds on the Yukon River or the small lakes on the coast and islands of the Arctic Sea.

On their weary flight to the breeding grounds, they are hungry and exhausted, they drop in that lakelike expanse of water above the Falls, for rest and food. They are safe during daylight, but in dark nights float towards the falls, go over the rapids and finally are carried over the Horseshoe Falls to their destruction. In descending they are so badly hurt and maimed coming in contact with the rocks below the water, and their life is crushed out. In the early morning their lifeless bodies are swooped by the currents to the shore. Hardly one survives, but as the Gorge is perpendicular and impossible for them to fly up, they are easily captured. A few years ago to my knowledge more than a hundred lost their lives.

According to best information about thirty were picked up this spring. They are clear white with a yellowish streaky spot on the side of the black bill. I saw one specimen that was perhaps a hundred years old, as they attain a great age. The top feathers of the head were black and the side of the lore was entirely yellow.

As the migration of the Swan to their northern breeding grounds and their final ending has only been recorded within the past twelve or fifteen years, it can be imagined what immense numbers have been killed before.

The Buffalo Society of Natural Science has a group of six, that has no equal in the United States, presented by me.

The weather seems to have no effect to the migration of the American Woodcock in our locality. They ar-

rive here about the middle of March and have full compliment of eggs in the early days of April.

Ottoman Reinecke.

Just Notes.

The Bewick's Wren is rather a common summer resident in the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania. Deserted houses and out buildings situated on high ridges are his favorite nesting sites, and he is not at all particular where he places them. Nests have been found in old hats, trousers, tin-cans, buckets, buggy-tops and on top of sheep-shears.

S. S. Dickey has made a special study of this busy little wren and his series of their nests and eggs is the finest I have ever examined. Although the Bewick's Wren will return to the nest in most instances after the eggs have been touched, the following is very unusual:

June 2, 1910, a small boy discovered a Bewick's nest in a buggy shed. The nest had contained five fresh eggs, two of which the boy destroyed. I removed the remaining three eggs and left the nest undisturbed.

June 12, 1910, while passing the shed a Bewick's Wren flew out, looking into the nest I was surprised to see six eggs. Two of these later proved to be slightly incubated.

Referring to my notes, I find that every nest found containing abnormal eggs has been deserted. Very likely this is but a coincidence but it presented a problem to me.

My first record is April 20, 1907, when an American Robin's nest was found containing two abnormally large and very much elongated eggs. The nest was deserted after the laying of the second egg.

May 19, 1912, a Red-winged Blackbird's nest was discovered in a meadow, the nest contained three eggs, two of which were normal, the third

was a runt which measured .73 x .55. Incubation had begun in the two normal eggs, but when the eggs were discovered they were cold and covered with dew.

August 19, 1914, a Louisiana Waterthrush's nest imbedded in the bank of a small stream was discovered. The nest held five eggs, four normal specimens and one almost as small as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird's egg. The egg measured .50 x .41. The four normal eggs were partly devoured by ants, the runt however was unharmed. Some distance further up the same stream, another Waterthrush's nest was found which gave every indication of having held young birds. As but a single pair of birds occupy one small woods, this discredits the theory that the parent bird had been killed.

The question arises in my mind: Do birds in most cases desert their nests when any marked departure from the normal appear in the eggs? I would be glad to hear from others better versed on the subject than myself.

James B. Carter.

Waynesburg, Pa.

Large Sets of Birds Eggs.

By Richard F. Miller.

During the past seventeen years as an active field ornithologist I have found large sets of the following species, in regions where the species abounds, all of which are commonly credited in the books as laying from three to five eggs.

Chipping Sparrow—Out of an examination of forty nests of this species containing sets and young birds, I have found only one set of five eggs. This set was discovered on May 19, 1906, at Blue Grass, Philadelphia County, Philadelphia, and as incubation was highly advanced, the set was not preservable. It was partially abnormal set too, being elongated and extra long and another was immaculate.

Catbird—I have found four sets of five eggs of the Catbird and have examined six hundred and forty-five nests to find them. They were collected May 28, 1907, at Torresdale, Philadelphia County, Pa., incubation slight; June 1, 1913, at Bustleton, this county, Pa., incubation one-third; May 20, 1906, at Pensauken, Camden County, N. J., incubation fresh; and May 19, 1906, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa., incubation slight.

Wood Thrush—I have examined four hundred and thirty nests of this species in the vain quest of a set of five eggs.

Yellow-breasted Chat—But two nests containing five eggs or young of this moonlight songster has come under my observation in the one hundred and twenty-seven nests I have examined. The first of these was found on July 16, 1907, at Frankford, Philadelphia County, Pa., and held five naked young (no Cowbirds) and was certainly a large brood for a second setting; the other nest contained five eggs, one infertile and four containing large embryos and was found at Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia County, Pa.

Field Sparrow—Of the one hundred and sixty-four nests of the species which I have examined but three held over four eggs or young. They are as follows: (1) May 20, 1909, Delair, Camden County, N. J., five eggs, one infertile and four almost hatched; (2) June 3, 1912, Bustleton, Philadelphia County, Pa., four half-grown young and one infertile egg; (3) May 25, 1913, Walnut Hill, Montgomery County, Pa., five hatching eggs.

Indigo Bunting—I have found but one set of five eggs in the one hundred and twenty-nine nests of this species I have examined and this set was found on June 8, 1906, at Rowlandville, Philadelphia County, Pa., and incubation was highly advanced, pip-

ped in two and the eggs were extra large ones too.

Robin—c-f Oologist 1912, page 330 for my data on large sets of this species.

Phoebe—The only nest of this species holding more than five eggs I found on April 30, 1901, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa., in a spring house; it consisted of six fresh eggs and was one of the sixty nests that I have examined in hopes of finding over five eggs.

Cardinal—The books assert that this species commonly lays three and four eggs, but out of an examination of two hundred and ten nests I have found only three holding over three eggs. As follows: (1) May 6, 1906, Pensauken, Camden County, N. J., four piped eggs; (2) April 30, 1908, Torresdale, Philadelphia County, Pa., four fresh eggs; (3) June 2, 1912, Bustleton, Philadelphia County, Pa., four fresh eggs and a second set, the first consisted of three fresh eggs.

Song Sparrow—Some books state that this species lays from four to seven eggs, but five is the highest number of eggs or young I have ever seen in the four hundred and thirty nests I have examined.

Swamp Sparrow—Out of the Five hundred and sixteen nests of this species to come under my notice only one held over five eggs or young. This was found on June 1, 1905, at Bridesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa., and consisted of six eggs, two sets of two and four respectively; the couple was fresh and incubation in the four was two one-half and two infertile. They were laid by two females as the set of two were much smaller than the other clutch and different in markings.

We regard the foregoing as one of the very best of the oological articles of the year appearing anywhere, bar none.—Editor.

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

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WHOLE No. 318

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

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

BIRDS

WANTED—Live American Wild Trumpeter Swan. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

FOR SALE—Thoroughbred Muscovy Ducks; Glossy black, white winged birds, white head markings \$5.00 a pair. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill. (1-p)

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EGGS, Continued.

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129-167-178-252-260-301 - 310-352 - 375a - 375d-419-423-

457-474b-498e-616-652-674-701-733-755. Two sets

each of 7-145-148-154-160-161-180-243-289b-310c-335-

341-356-356-409-474e-477-505-608 - 639 - 657 - 726 - 736-

And three sets each of 5-21-55-115-136-153-162-

293a-300a-308-310a-310b-347-351-356a - 383-396-748b-

480-486-542b-562-636-727. Must be A.I. and for

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EXCHANGE.—Will exchange some money for Black Squirrels. How much do you want? DR. B. A. HAMILTON, Highland Park, Ill. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—A 5-ft. steel "Rainbow" casting rod, in good condition cost \$8.00. Will trade for most any sets of eggs with full data. EARL MOFFAT, Marshall, Texas. (1-p)

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I want back numbers of many amature Natural history magazines. Send me your list. I will pay the highest prices for those I want. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED.—For the best cash offer, "The Oologist," Jan. 1904 to Jan. 15, 1913. Total 108 numbers. EDW. S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

BIRD LORE TO EXCHANGE.—70 numbers, all different; for eggs in A.I. sets. Book on birds by John B. Grant to exchange for sets. R. LOZIER, Attica, O. (2-p)

EXCHANGE.—Back numbers Auk, Condor, Bird Lore, Oologist, some rare. Want certain numbers Museum, Museum News, Ottawa Naturalist, American Ornithology, Petrel, Iowa Ornithologist and many others. A. C. BENT, Taunton, Mass. (1-p)

WANTED.—Life history of North American Birds, Bendire; Bird Lore, volumes or single copies. Also Bird Books and Insect Book, report any you have. LAURA KEAN, Stockport, Ohio.

WANTED.—Audubon's Birds of America, First subscription, 8 vo. ed. Phila. & N. York, 1840-44. Five dollars (\$5.00) per part will be paid for numbers 10 and 80. FRANKLIN BOOKSHOP, 920 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

BIRD MAGAZINES.—I have about 500 old bird magazines for exchange, including complete volumes of Auk, Condor, Nidologist, Osprey, Oregon Naturalist, and odd numbers of all of these. W. LEE CHAMBERS, 1226 11th St., Santa Monica, Cal.

CASH FOR BOOKS.—Whole libraries or single volumes purchased. What have you? A. R. WOMRATH, 72-74 Madison Ave., New York.

The Oologist for 1914 will be the best it has ever been. Subscribe now only 50c.

THE OOLOGIST, Lacon, Ill.

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXXI. No. 2. ALBION, N. Y., FEB. 15, 1914. WHOLE No. 319

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 319 your subscription expires with this issue. 317 your subscription expired with December issue 1912. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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Birds, Animals, Game, Heads and Fish, mounted true to life. Animal skins tanned and made into rugs and robes. Will also relax and mount dried skins of birds and animals if desired. Stave mounted Hawks and Owls to exchange with skins of animals good for mounting. FRANK ESPLAN, Richmond, Minn. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Collection of twelve hundred and ninety North American birds. One hundred and fifteen of the birds are mounted, and the rest made up in skins. Over three hundred and fifty species are represented in the collection. For further information address: PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Penna. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—Two pairs Canada Geese \$10.00 a pair, one Hutchins Goose, \$5.00. One pair Golden Eagles, \$15.00. PORTAGE WILD ANIMAL CO., Box 223, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Can. (2-p)

WANTED.—Skins for mounting of female Wood Duck, Red-head Canvas-back Shoveler, Horn or Monkey-faced Owl, Great Grey Burrowing, Pigmy or Elf Owl. Also Trap-door Spider, Farantula, Copper Head Snake Skins, Mansanedo Wood (from California). State prices and measurements in first letter. SAMUEL HUNTINGER, Secor, Ill. (2-p)

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WILL EXCHANGE.—Birds, Eggs, Minerals, Coins and Curios for pieces of wood or I will buy. Write for particulars. S. V. WHARRAM, Austinburg, Ohio. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—Eggs of Texas birds, Owls, Hawks, Vultures, and many others with data. Send lists. RAMON GRAHAM, "Taxidermist," 401 W. Leuda St., Ft. Worth, Tex. (1-p)

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FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine skins of 273, 289a, 320, 477a, 501, 511a, 513, 549, 550, 575a, 703, 729, and others, for skins or eggs not in my collection. Send lists. C. W. CHAMBERLAIN, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass. (3-14)

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FOR EXCHANGE.—Birds, Skins and mounted; many varieties. Will exchange for desired specimens. Send stamp with your list for mine. A. RUSSELL SMITH, Edge Hill, Penna., Mount Carmel Ave. (1-p)

EXCHANGE—Live Wild Canada, Hutchins, White-fronted, and Snow Geese, Wild Ducks, and Pheasants for Egyptian Geese, Black, Brant, Mandarin and Wood Ducks, Quail and Hungarian Partridges. H. J. JAGER, Owatonia, Minn. (5-p)

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I want sets of Hawks, Owls, Water Birds and many land species. What have you? Send your list. All correspondence answered. GUS CROSSA, Suite 1, Purvis Bldg., Edmonton, Alta.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Sets of Turkey and Black Vultures, Barn and Screech Owls and Red-tailed Hawk. Prefer a pair of good climbing Irons or will take eggs. WOODRUFF YEATES, 1416 Cooper St., Fort Worth, Tex.

EGGS.—Bulwer's Petrel, Curlew, Whimbrel, Divers (3 species) Iceland and Greenland Falcons, Skuas, Plovers various. Clearance prices. Catalogue free. H. T. BOOTH, 8 Cranbury Road, Frelham, Eng. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Data Blanks, Printing, Eggs, Nests and Oologist papers for sets of 128, 182, 218, 229, 558, 275, 285, 364, 368, 375, 542a, 546, 611 and others. EDWARD S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass. 1-p

FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine sets Common Tern, Showy North and South American Butterflies in insect proof cases. Atlantic coast shells and curios. Wanted eggs in sets. Lists exchanged. KARL SQUIRES, 70 Moorland Ave., Edgewood, R. I. (1-p)

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FOR SALE.—1 7 ft. steel "Bristol" fly rod, with nickel plated pivot reel. Practically new, used twice. Cost \$5.00, price \$4.00. F. A. HEMPHILL, 326 Union Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.

Zoological and Museum Specimens Collected. H. AITKEN, Leesburg, Fla. (3-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Preserved Specimens of Reptiles with all collectors. C. A. CLARK, 60 Lynnfield St., East Lynn Station, Mass. (1-p)

QUICK.—First check for \$10.00 takes Marbels 12, game Getter used 10 Shots, with extra Shells and Cartridges. In fine shape, or will take Dwarf Screech Owl's Skins or Elf Owls. H. W. AITKEN, Leesburg, Fla. (1-p)

Bird Books

WANTED.—Nos. 233, 236, 270, 300, of The Oologist, for which \$.25 each will be paid. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED.—For cash or exchange, Vol. XV, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, of the Condor. Vol. XXX Nos. 1 to 7 of the Oologist. DELOACH MARTIN, Marshall, Texas. (1-p)

I WILL PAY CASH for Vol. 1-2-3-4-5 Bird Lore Vol. 1-2-3-4 1897-98 Bird and Nature. EARL HAMILTON, 400 Walnut St., Versailles, via McKeesport P. O., Pa.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Colored plates from Studer's "Birds of America," for back numbers of the Auk or other bird magazines. H. O. GREEN, 3 Marble St., Stoneham, Mass.

BIRD LORES WANTED.—What shall I pay you for yours? Vols 1-2-3-10 complete or odd numbers. Also Vol. 7 No. 1, Vol. 9 Nos. 3-5-6, Vol. 14 No. 2, Vol. 15 No. 2. J. N. SWIFT, Stockport, Ohio. (1-p)

WANTED.—Life history of North American Birds, Bendire; Bird Lore, volumes or single copies. Also Bird Books and Insect Book, report any you have. LAURA KEAN, Stockport, Ohio.

WANTED.—Bird Lore, Vol. I Nos. 4 and 6 with index, Vol. II No. 2, Vol. III Nos. 1, 2, Vol. IX Index. Reply stating price, to DR. W. M. TYLER, Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, Mass. (1-p)

WANTED.—Century Magazines for 1912 and 1913. Will pay cash, name price. Can offer 335- $\frac{1}{2}$ and balance cash. Address, DR. W. M. MARTIN, Masonic Temple, Wellington, Kan. (3-14)

MAGAZINES WANTED.—Will pay cash for many bird magazines. Whole volumes of singles, what have you? Send your list. All correspondence answered. GUS CROSSA, Suite 1, Purvis Bldg., Edmonton, Alta.

WANTED.—Books, Magazines and Pamphlets about Birds and Natural History Subjects. In all cases state what you have and the lowest cash prices. No other prices considered. Address, FRANK BENDER, 128 Fourth Ave., New York City. (3-14)

THE CONDOR

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Published Bi-monthly by the

Cooper Ornithological Club of California

Edited by J. Grinnell and Harry S. Swarth

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Edited by J. Grinnell and Harry S. Swarth

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WANTED.—Skins for mounting of female Wood Duck, Red-head Canvas-back Shoveler, Born or Monkey-faced Owl, Great Grey Burrowing, Pigny or Elf Owl. Also Trap-door Spider, Farantula, Copper Head Snake Skins, Mansanedo Wood (from California). State prices and measurements in first letter. SAMUEL HUN LINGER, Secor, Ill. (2-p)

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WANTED TO EXCHANGE.—Broken sets with data for sets of eggs in good condition. Send list. Address, E. M. KENWORTHY, 1125 West St., Wilmington, Del. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—Sets of the following: 289, 406, 461, 617, 719, 731, 597, and others. Want 331, 360, 365, 429, 507, 601. WILLIAM PLANK, Decatur, Ark.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Sets of Turkey and Black Vultures, Barn and Screech Owls and Red-tailed Hawk. Prefer a pair of good climbing irons or will take eggs. WOODRUFF, YEATES, 1416 Cooper St., Fort Worth, Tex.

EGGS.—Bulwer's Petrel, Curlew, Whimbrel, Divers (3 species) Iceland and Greenland Falcons, Skuas, Plovers various. Clearance prices. Catalogue free. H. T. BOOTH, 8 Cranbury Road, Frelham, Eng. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Data Blanks, Printing, Eggs, Nests and Oologist papers for sets of 128, 182, 218, 229, 558, 275, 285, 364, 368, 375, 542a, 546, 611 and others. EDWARD S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass. (1-p)

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WANTED.—For exchange specially fine sets of Bartram Sandpiper, Cedar Bird, Osprey, all Longspurs and from Nos. 540-592 and Nos. 598-605. No. rubbish, throw-outs, made-up clutches, soiled or ink-marked sets wanted. OFFERED.—Best material only. European Snipe, Dunlin, Ring Plover, Golden Plover and from Labrador, Mandts Guillemot, Redpoll, Red Phalarope, etc. E. R. SKINNER, 73 Primrose Mansions, Battersea Park, London, England. (1-p)

WANTED.—The set of 390 Belted Kingfisher, 1-7, seven eggs, fresh, collected May 12, 1899, at Frankford, Philadelphia County, Penn'a., by the undersigned. Who has it? Will give two first class sets of seven Belted Kingfisher's eggs, personally collected, in exchange for that particular set. For particulars address, RICHARD MILLER, 2069 East Tioga St., Philadelphia, Penn'a.

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100 two cent Jamestown Exposition 1907, 100 one cent and 50 two cent St. Louis Exposition stamps 1904 unused, for best cash offer. H. P. ATTWATER, 2120 Genesee St., Houston, Texas. (1-p)

Bird Books

WANTED.—Nidologist, Vol. 1, No. 6, for cash. EARL FORREST, 261 Locust Ave., Washington, Penn'a. (1-p)

WANTED.—Nos. 233, 236, 270, 300, of The Oologist, for which \$.25 each will be paid. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED.—For cash or exchange, Vol. XV, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, of the Condor. Vol. XXX Nos. 1 to 7 of the Oologist. DELOACH MARTIN, Marshall, Texas. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—List of back Numbers, Oologist, Vol. 7, 7-8-9; Vol. 8, Nos. 1-9; Vol. 9, No. 10. No. 103, 113, 134, 141, 143, two copies, 145-147-148, two copies, 181-196-197-205-223-224-230-237-242-244-245-247-248-250-251-252-253-257-261-268-282. W. E. SURFACE, Decatur, Ill. (1-p)

NOTICE.—Is your library going to be the only one without a copy of "The Birds of Virginia?" Of the one thousand edition only about one hundred remain, and no more will be printed. Price \$3.00. Address the author, HAROLD H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXI. No. 6. ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 15, 1914. WHOLE No. 323

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

BIRDS

WANTED—Live American Wild Trumpet-necked Swan. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

FOR SALE.—Thoroughbred Muscovy Ducks; Glossy black, white winged birds, white head markings \$5.00 a pair. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill. (1-p)

WANTED.—To exchange nests, skins, eggs, with data; also reptile eggs. Send list. J. P. BALL, 5001 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. (2-p)

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TRADE.—Is A. farm. Will take \$175 cash and \$150 in bird skins or eggs or both. If interested write me. W. G. SAVAGE, Delight, Ark. (1-p)

Birds, mostly mounted; some skins. Will exchange for desired specimens, if first class. Send stamp and exchange lists promptly. A. RUSSELL SMITH, Edge Hill, Pa.

FOR SALE.—One pair climbers. Address E. M. KENWORTHY, 1125 West St., Wilmington, Del. (1-p)

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NOTICE.—\$3 offered to anyone who can show me a nest of the Bob-white or Hummingbird containing eggs within a reasonable distance of Pittsburg, Pa. Address, THOS. D. BURLEIGH, 825 N. Negley, Ave. Pittsburg, Pa.

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WANTED.—To exchange sets of eggs for No. 493 Starling, for any eggs not in my cabinet. NELSON E. WILMOT, 24 New St., West Haven, Conn.

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(3-14)

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Published Bi-monthly by the

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Edited by J. Grinnell and Harry S. Swarth

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Announcement is made of a plan for the cooperative study of bird migration.

The birds figured in color are the Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, Purple Finch and Wood Thrush.

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310	310c	310a
352	335	310b
375a	341	311
416	356	347
419	356a	351
423	409	356a
457	474e	383
474b	505	396
498e	608	478b
616	639	480
652	657	486
701	726	542b
733	730	562
7	5	636
	21	727

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BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXXII. No. 7. ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 15, 1914. WHOLE No. 324

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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FOR SALE—Thoroughbred Muscovy Ducks; Glossy black, white winged birds, white head markings \$5.00 a pair. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill. (1-p)

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Birds, mostly mounted; some skins. Will exchange for desired specimens, if first class. Send stamp and exchange lists promptly. A. RUSSELL SMITH, Edge Hill, Pa.

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WANTED.—Bird skins, American or Foreign. Offer in exchange mounted bird skins and eggs in sets. Send lists. JESSE T. CRAVEN, 511 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit, Mich. (1-p)

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TAXIDERMISTRY

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BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FOR SALE.—One pair climbers. Address E. M. KENWORTHY, 1125 West St., Wilmington, Del. (1-p)

WANTED.—Skins or mounted specimen of Trumpeter Swan, Olor buccinator or notes and records of this species, or the location of specimens in museums or collections. HENRY K. COALE, Highland Park, Lake Co., Ill.

Birds, mostly mounted; some skins. Will exchange for desired specimens, if first class. Send stamp and exchange lists promptly. A. RUSSELL SMITH, Edge Hill, Pa.

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Anyone with a set of Mexico Jacana to exchange. Address, ERNEST A. BUTLER, 3857 N. 7th Street, Phila., Penn.

Choice Cabinet Sets with full and accurate data. Satisfaction guaranteed. DR. M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga.

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New York City

Egg Collectors Take Notice

I desire at once the following first class specimens, and for these I offer a very desirable assortment of oological specimens in exchange. Send me your lists at once.

1 set A. O. U.	2 sets A. O. U.	3 sets A. O. U.
25	145	55
43	148	115
129	154	136
167	160	153
178	161	162
252	180	593a
260	243	300a
301	289b	308
310	310c	310a
352	335	310b
375a	341	311
416	356	347
419	356a	351
423	409	356a
457	474e	383
474b	505	396
498e	608	478b
616	639	480
652	657	486
701	726	542b
733	730	562
7	5	636
	21	727

R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXXI. No. 10. ALBION, N. Y., OCT. 15, 1914. WHOLE No. 330

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Anyone with a set of Mexico Jacana to exchange. Address, ERNEST A. BUTLER, 3857 N. 7th Street, Phila., Penn.

Will exchange for desirables of similar rarity, sets of A. O. U. 95, 141, 81, 134, 295, 301, 302, 310, 327, 330, 354, 356, 389, 416, 417, 419, 639, 641, 654, 666, 677. THOMAS H. JACKSON, 304 N. Franklin St., West Chester, Pa.

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FOR EXCHANGE About two hundred varieties of eggs in sets, A. 1. with good data, which I desire to exchange for bird skins suitable for mounting. FRANKLIN J. SMITH, Eureka, Cal. P. O. Box 98. (1-p)

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FOR EXCHANGE.—White Pelican, Cal. Gull, Baird's Cormorant, Avocet, Stilt, and many others, all first class with data. Send lists. J. LABARTHE, Thompson, Nevada. (3-p)

NEW CATALOGUE of Exotic Birds' Eggs containing about 112 families and 1350 species and exact localities can be had at 25c (stamps) by Cosmos Institute, Berlin W. 30. (Germany) Speyerer, 8.

I have for exchange many fine sets, personally taken, finely prepared, among which are: 6 1-8, 194b 1-5 1-6, 199 1-4, 218 1-8, 219 1-9, 228 1-4, 289b 1-14, 293 1-2, 295 1-13, 300b 1-14, 307 1-9, 310 1-14, 310c 1-15, 331 1-5, 333 1-4, 334a 1-3, 335 1-4, 1-5, 337a 1-3, Texas Red-shoulder 1-3, 1-4, 339 1-3, 340 1-2, 341 1-2, 3-3, 342 1-3, 345 1-2, 347a 1-3, 368b 1-2, 373b 1-4. Send your lists and get my full list. E. F. POPE, Colmesneil, Texas.

MISCELLANEOUS.

To exchange for stone relics several copies of Harpers Illustrated Weekly from 1860 to 1873. L. A. PARRE, Batavia, Ill.

WANTED.—Indian Relics for cash or exchange. Also finely mounted specimen birds. DR. A. E. PAYNE, Riverhead, N. Y. (1-p)

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Over 400 mounted birds, mammals and reptiles. Eggs in sets. Foreign and United States coins. Columbia stamps, a few sets of St. Louis Exposition unused. Book on raising skunks, 50c. Tanning process, Guinea Pigs. Oologist from about 1888. What can you offer? ALMON KIBBE, Mayville, N. Y. (1-p)

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EXCHANGE.—Auto Strop Safety Razor (new). Can use many common sets. What have you to offer? PAHRMAN BROS., 1011 Fourth St., La Porte, Ind.

EXCHANGE—A few sets of Red-shouldered and Cooper Hawks. Wanted, sets of 132, 136, 140, 141, 143, 146, 160; also 30, 30a, 32. C. G. HART, East Berlin, Conn. (1-p)

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FOR EXCHANGE. About two hundred varieties of eggs in sets, A. 1, with good data, which I desire to exchange for bird skins suitable for mounting. FRANKLIN J. SMITH, Eureka, Cal. P. O. Box 98. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—207 14 1-5 1-6; 343 2-2 2-4; 348 2-3 4-4; 349 1-1; 352 2-1; 355 3-4 3-5; 364 1-3 1-3; 416 1-2; 419 1-2; 533 1-4; 539a 1-4; 715 1-6. E. J. DARLINGTON, Wilmington, Del.

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EGGS, Continued.

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I should like to hear from collectors who will exchange bird skins for first class sets of eggs such as 273, 329, 343, 393, 394c, 423, 461, 587, 598, 608, 617, 627, 659, 674, 676, 677, 725, 751. I want mostly common species, e. g., 3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 30, 32, 40, 51, 58, 69, 70, 74, 77, 104, 106, 129, 131, 132, 133, 139, 214, 263, 273, 316, 333, 337, 360, 375, 388, 390, 423, 428, 456, 465, 495, 506, 511b, 546, 598, and many others. S. S. DICKEY, Waynesburg, Pa. (1-p)

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Dr. W. S. Strode.

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Edward E. Armstrong.

May 7, 1912.

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Norman A. Wood.

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May 21, 1912.

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The Oologist is always on time and very interesting.

H. J. Rust.

May 29, 1912.

Your paper is a welcome guest at my office, and I must congratulate you upon the quantity and quality of the illustrations you are now giving us.

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June 20, 1912.

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- BOSTON ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
QUARTERLY JOURNAL, Vol. 1
No. 3; Vol. 2 No. 2.
- BROOKLYN ENTOMOLOGICAL SO-
CIETY, Vol. 1 No. 6, Oct. 1878.
- BULLETIN MICHIGAN ORNITHO-
LOGICAL CLUB, Vol. 1 No. 3-4;
Vol. 4 No. 1.
- BULLETIN NUTTALL ORNITHOLOG-
ICAL CLUB, Vol. 2 No. 1.
- CANADA NATURALIST SCIENCE
NEWS, Vol. 1 No. 1.
- COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY, (London,
England), Jan. 1894, No. 1.
- COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY, Vol. 2
No. 4-5.
- STORMY PETREL, Vol. 1 No. 5.
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Announcement is made of a plan for the cooperative study of bird migration.

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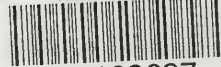
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