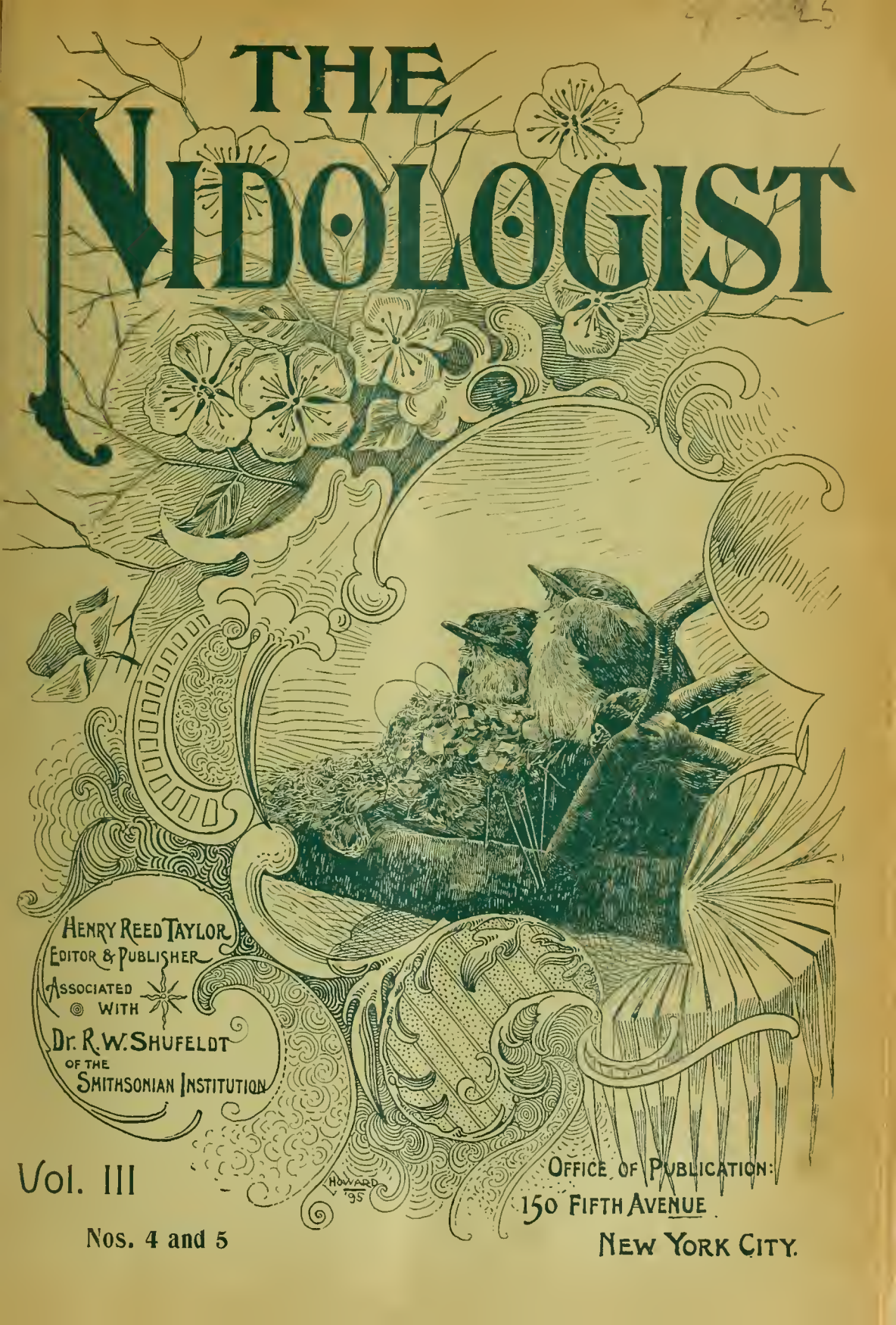
THE NIDOLOGIST



HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

VOL. III

NOS. 4 and 5

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY.

CONTENTS.

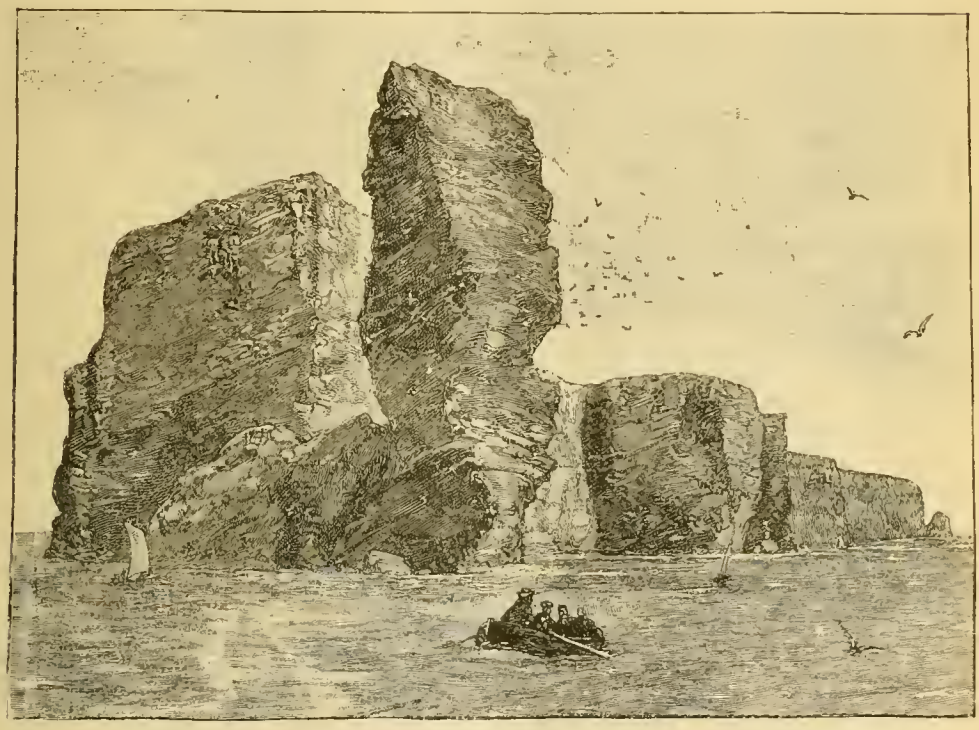
		PAGE
Page Illustration—"A View of Heligoland"		39
Meeting of the A. O. U. at Washington, D. C.		40
Page Illustration—Group "The Thirteenth Congress of the A. O. U."		41
On the Eggs of the California Vulture	H. R. Taylor	42
Nesting of the Duck Hawk in Trees	Robert Ridgway	42
Page Illustration, "Where the Duck Hawk Nested"	Drawn by J. L. Ridgway	43
Robin	L. Whitney Watkins	44
Song Seasons of Three Carolina Birds	Leverett M. Loomis	45
THE POUCH FROM COLORADO—Its Contents:		
Portrait from Life of Jenny Lind		47
Autobiography of Jenny Lind		47
A Diagnosis of Our Case	F. M. D.	47
Some Birds New to Colorado	Horace G. Smith	48
	Frederick M. Dille, Consignor	
Notes from Michigan	Dr. Morris Gibbs	49
NOTES FROM THE FIELD:		
On the Dickcissel in Michigan	L. Whitney Watkins	49
An Albino Junco	J. B. Neal	50
Hen Theory Applied to Thrashers	D. A. Cohen	50
COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB:		
Notes from the Colorado Desert	A. W. Anthony	50
Random Notes on the Birds of Alameda County, Cal.	D. A. Cohen	52
Birds Attracted by a Fire	Albert Lano	52
Recent Publications		53
Editorial Notes and News		56

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

Published Monthly, with Illustrations

VOL. III. NOS. 4 AND 5. NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1895. $1.00 PER YEAR.



A View of Heligoland.

THIS little rocky island in the North Sea has been described by Dr. ELLIOTT COUES as the "magnetic pole of the bird-world." Although only a little over a mile in length, and bare except for the green turf, it is the most wonderful Ornithological observatory known. Herr Gätke's publication of the results of his studies of bird migration at this favored spot during the last fifty years lend a renewed interest to Heligoland.

Meeting of the A. O. U. in Washington.

THE Thirteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union met in Washington, D. C., on November 12. An average of fifty Ornithologists attended the sessions, which were held in the lecture hall of the United States National Museum for three days, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M. A lunch was provided each day in the convenient café in the Museum building by the Union.

The following papers were read and discussed: "An Important Factor in the Study of Western Bird Life," Carl F. Baker; "The First Plumage of the Philadelphia Vireo," Jonathan Dwight, Jr.; "On Pallas Cormorant," F. A. Lucas; "Further Remarks on the Subgenus *Quiscalus*," Frank M. Chapman; "Midwinter Migration Southward in the North Temperate Zone to Breeding Grounds," Leverett M. Loomis; "The Terns of Muskeget Island, Part II," George H. Mackay; "Food of the Meadowlark," F. E. L. Beal; "An Instance of Individual Dichromatism in the Screech Owl," A. P. Chadbourne; "The Pine Grosbeak in Captivity," O. W. Knight; "What Constitutes Publication?" J. A. Allen; "Kingbirds and Sapsuckers of Southern California," A. J. Cook; "Methods in Economic Ornithology, With Special Reference to the Catbird," Sylvester D. Judd; "A Few Effects of the Winter of 1895 upon the Spring and Fall Migration in Canton, Mass.," J. H. Bowles; "Birds of Idaho," M. J. Elrod; "On the Standing of *Ardetta neocena*," Frank M. Chapman; "A Critique on Trinomial Inconsistencies," William Palmer; "Why Are There So Few Bluebirds?" Mrs. Louisa M. Stephenson; "On Gätke's Heligoland," George H. Mackay; "The Value of the Tongue in the Classification of Birds," F. A. Lucas.

Considerable interest was taken in the exhibition of unpublished water color paintings of birds, by Louis A. Fuertes, with remarks by Dr. Elliott Coues. The work of young Fuertes, who is a student at Cornell, shows undoubted marks of genius, and was compared to that of the Audubonian period. The exhibition of lantern slides of birds, by William Palmer, was very instructive and pleasing.

On Tuesday evening, November 12, a large audience listened to a memorial address on the late George N. Lawrence, by D. G. Elliot, and a memorial address on the late Thomas H. Huxley, by Elliott Coues.

The officers elected by the Union for the ensuing year were as follows: President, William Brewster; Vice Presidents, Robert Ridgway and C. Hart Merriam; Secretary, John H. Sage; Treasurer, William Dutcher.

A. W. Anthony, of San Diego, Cal., was elected to active membership. An amendment to the constitution was proposed, to be acted upon at the next Congress, increasing the maximum limit of active membership to seventy-five, with the proviso that not more than five new members be elected each year. The invitation of the Nuttall Ornithological Club to have the next Congress of the Union in Cambridge, Mass., was accepted, and the time set for the second Tuesday following the first Monday in November, 1896.

Pen-slips by the Way.

The Bluebird is not so nearly wiped out as was thought.

Mr. Loomis came from California to attend the Congress.

Mr. Sennett left early to proceed to the Atlanta Exposition.

The big United States National Museum should provide a better workshop for its chief taxidermist, William Palmer.

Those in attendance were photographed on the steps of the National Museum by Mr. Prince. This is the first group picture ever taken of the Union. It is reproduced on the opposite page.

Quite a number of ladies attended the Congress. Miss Florence Merriam and Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller hardly missed a paper. Miss Tessa Kelso, formerly of Los Angeles, Cal., was an interested listener.

A new museum is needed to accommodate the National collections. It is just as bad in the Smithsonian Institution. Space is at a premium in the Ornithological department. Over twenty thousand bird skins are stored in the basement, along with alcoholics.

Professor Lucas says that Pallas Cormorant, which got itself extinct because it had hardly any wings at all—or didn't use them—is really much rarer than the Great Auk, there being but four specimens in museums. It was of great size, being the largest of the Cormorants.

Major Bendire's rooms were the center of attraction for Oölogists. He kindly explained to me the intricate process of making the wonderfully faithful colored plates which give such value to his *Life Histories*. Most of the plates require *seventeen* separate printings to get the reproduction required.

Portland, Ore., has an ambitious society for the introduction of exotic song birds, such as the Skylark, Nightingale, etc. They have spent $3,000 on their undertaking. Dr. T. S. Palmer and Dr. C. Hart Merriam think there is some danger, in the thoughtless introduction of foreign species, of discovering another such pest as the English Sparrow.

1. Jewell D. Sornborger. 2. R. P. Currie. 3. G. H. Knight. 4. E. Arnold. 5. Edward A. Prehle. 6. Vernon Bailey. 7. H. C. Oberholser. 8. Dr. T. S. Palmer. 9. Henry Reed Taylor. 10. Outram Bangs. 11. C. W. Richmond. 12. F. E. L. Beal. 13. Dr. Louis B. Bishop. 14. Frank M. Chapman. 15. Sylvester D. Judd. 16. Olive Thorne Miller. 17. William Dutcher. 18. Major C. E. Bendire. 19. William Palmer. 20. Miss Florence Merriam. 21. W. F. Roberts. 22. W. E. Clyde Todd. 23. Joseph Barnard. 24. G. S. Miller. 25. Dr. F. H. Knowlton. 26. John Vandenburg. 27. Dr. Leonhard Stejneger. 28. Dr. Mearns. 29. D. G. Elliot. 30. Dr. C. Hart Merriam. 31. Dr. Theodore N. Gill. 32. Charles H. Townsend. 33. George B. Sennett. 34. Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. 35. John H. Sage. 36. Robert Ridgway. 37. William Brewster. 38. Dr. J. A. Allen. 39. Dr. Elliott Coues. 40. Witmer Stone. 41. Dr. A. K. Fisher. 42. Mrs. W. F. Roberts. 43. F. A. Lucas.

On the Eggs of the California Vulture.

AN exchange says of the California Vulture, that "the skin and eggs are of extraordinirus devideration and value to Ornithologists and Oölogists."

I am not privy to the meaning expressed in the sentence quoted, but the writer is in error when he says, that "Los Angeles boasts of the possession of two out of the three known eggs contained in all North American collections, public or private." The present writer has paid particular attention to gathering authentic information concerning this rare and rapidly decreasing species, and is in a better position than anyone to know how many eggs there are extant.

It will be a matter of news and of great interest to Ornithologists to know that there are *nine* eggs in collections, all in sets of one each. The existence of five of these rare eggs has not been previously made known to the public, and I feel that, while violating no confidence, I am doing Oölogists a service in publishing for the first time this bit of information. This count includes no "hypothetical list," but is of eggs whose authenticity is clearly proven.

One of the nine specimens was in the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences and vanished a number of years ago, nobody knows where, although it is thought to be in some one's safe keeping. The United States National Museum has a specimen, blown with two holes in one side, taken in early years. Mr. G. Frean Morcom, of Los Angeles, Cal., has two eggs, one being a perfect specimen which was collected this year for Mr. A. M. Shields, and afterward sold to Mr. Morcom at a good price. The other egg in Mr. Morcom's possession was bought by him recently from the writer, the consideration being $100. This egg is the one taken in 1889, a full account of which appeared in THE NIDOLOGIST for January and February (1895). The specimen had been unfortunately broken into three pieces, but was very neatly mended. It had been blown through a large, rough hole in the larger end. This disfigurement was almost entirely concealed by building up with plaster of Paris from the interior on a support of cotton.

Two eggs, one blown through rather small holes in the ends, and the other through two holes in one side, were taken in 1879, and are in the possession of a gentleman in California, who sets a very high valuation on them. It is his intention to hold the eggs for a big price, or later present them to some museum. The remaining three eggs which make up the nine are perfect specimens. Four eggs were taken in California the past season.

The present writer has no eggs of this Vulture, nor any interest in any, but expresses it as his conviction that none of these nine eggs are likely to be "put on the market;" at least any time soon.

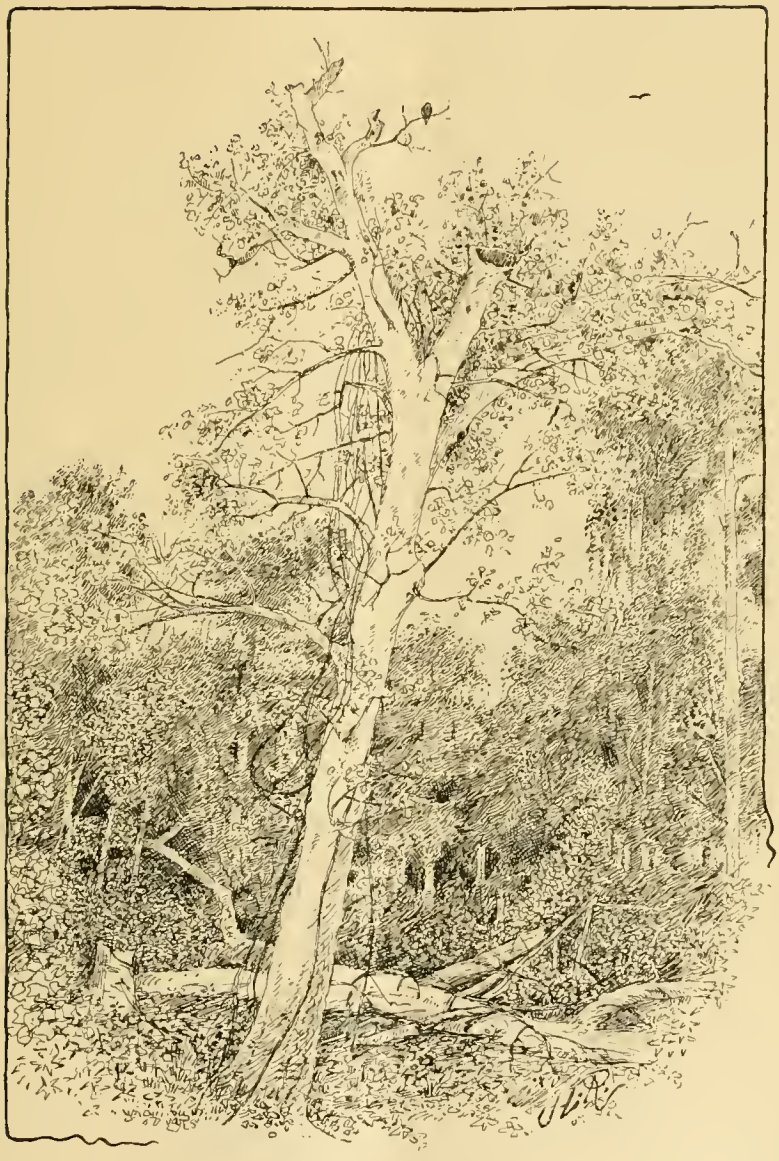
When interest in Oölogy in this country shall be very much more intense and widespread than it ever has been, including many men of liberal means among its votaries, the egg of the California Vulture, or Condor—which will then be extinct—will command a high price; but at the present day there is a very limited demand in America for such expensive luxuries. Even the big museums are some of them rather pinched for money (at least in comparison to the popular idea) and would hesitate before purchasing such an expensive eggshell. There are many more men of means in England who cultivate Oölogy, and the eggs of the Great Auk, which belonged to the list of British birds, consequently come high. An egg was recently sold in London, however, for only $700.

I have not been backward in saying that the egg of the California Vulture is a great rarity, which will some day bring a big price, and this I still believe, but those who expect to make a small fortune hunting for Condor's eggs will be sadly disappointed. I am informed that the cost of the expedition sent out by Mr. Shields was $188. H. R. TAYLOR.

Nesting of the Duck Hawk in Trees.

THE late Colonel N. S. Goss, of Topeka, Kan., was the first to discover and record the previously unknown and possibly unsuspected fact that the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) sometimes breeds in cavities of large trees. In the "Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club," Vol. III, pages 32–34 (January, 1878), Colonel Goss gives an interesting account of his discovering four nests of this species thus situated during the years 1875, 1876, and 1877 in the timber along the Neosho River, near Neosho Falls, Kansas. In May, 1878, I found three nests of the Duck Hawk in large sycamore trees in the bottom lands of the Wabash River, near Mt. Carmel, Ill., my experience thus closely coinciding with that of Colonel Goss, except that none of those found by me were accessible on account of the great size of the trees in which they were placed.

The accompanying illustration is from a sketch made by my brother, John L. Ridgway, of one of the three Duck Hawk trees found by me before it was felled (I was not the fortunate possessor of a camera at that time), and represents very faithfully the proportions of the tree



WHERE THE DUCK HAWK NESTED.

and the character of its surroundings. This tree was afterward felled by my father and myself—a matter easily accomplished on account of the fact that its base was a mere shell, while the tree itself leaned at an angle of some thirty degrees from the perpendicular; nevertheless, a considerable amount of chopping across the side of tension was necessary before it gave way and fell. The somewhat enlarged base of this tree was twenty-six feet in circumference, and the hollow within reaching through an arched opening on the side opposite to the one shown in the sketch, had been used by fishermen for a camping or cooking place. Some seven feet above the ground the girth was sixteen and a half feet. The cavity containing the nest was eighty-nine feet from the base, and was caused by the breaking off of a main branch (here four feet in diameter), the upper part of which projected over sufficiently to afford some protection from both sun and rain. The total length of the tree, although the whole top had been blasted by storms, was one hundred and fifteen feet. Four full-fledged young were found, only one of which had been killed outright by the fall, though two others were so badly injured that it was necessary to kill them. The fourth was entirely uninjured, and was kept for some time in captivity, eventually, however, making its escape.

Robert Ridgway.

Smithsonian Institute, Dec. 9, 1895.

Robin.

IT is only the Robin I am writing about; but why not an excellent subject after all?

The "dear bird" whose inborn, lovable nature prompted it to cover the babes in the wood with fallen leaves.

The "poor little Robin," as he sits in the apple tree on an early winter's morning and encourages in the cold blast with his hearty chirrup the sturdy farmer's boy, whose joints and cowhide boots both creak in the frosty air as he stubs his way over the hills to look to his traps on the neighboring slough or lake.

The "Robin Redbreast" of the household, where it matters not that his breast is not red at all, and that the "Redcoat" is the Briton's and not a Yankee epithet.

These various things we have heard of the Robin from our youth. We have vied with our companions in our anxiety to welcome the first Robin in spring, and the joyous news, "I saw a Robin this morning," ever and again will inspire us with thoughts of the grass and flowers, of shaded streams and woodlands, and of meadowed fields so peaceful—of a summer time to come.

Yet this is the so bitterly condemned little thief of the orchard and garden, that destroys so many cherries and other fruits as to make the farmers and horticulturists about equally divided in opinion as to which way the evidence, accurately known, would throw the balance in the case of this hardy "Robin Hood."

My Ornithological readers, I trust, love, if possible, all birds, so we will not bother ourselves with the comparative veracity of these good and bad statements.

Satisfied, as I am, that the subject of this rambling talk is of real economical importance, even where he is most roundly abused—I have so often seen him partaking of the largest and most perfectly ripened cherries upon the topmost branches of the ladened trees, while I, of necessity, was eating of the poorer fruit below—I cannot refrain from allowing my sister from Convent School, who has just invaded my "den," from abusing as she may, with nothing more harsh than the weapons of a poetic fancy, this bird of all birds so thoroughly a type of the true American. I am informed, for my own peace of mind, that the word "others," used below, refers to me.

Then, with this joke in verse, we leave the Robin to ply his independent way in peace:

The scene was the bank of a crystal brook
Where a saucy young Robin had paused to look,
As the morning sun had gilded the waves
Which sparkled and sang thro' the autumn days.
He glanced at the leaves, that had copied his breast,
The leaves that in springtime had shielded his nest;
Then turning his head with a bird-like grace,
He searched in the stream for his mirrored face.
Not his mottled coat of rusty brown
He saw in the brook-bed sloping down,
But a touch of gray with an amber dab—
The reflected form of a brooklet crab.
He gazed in surprise at the specter-like thing,
Then chirping aloud and raising each wing,
In terror he turned from the ghost-haunted place
And met on the bank the real crab face to face.
Young Robins, like "others," are inclined to be "gay,"
And our hero's misfortune occurred in this way:
He considered a moment; his foe seemed quite weak,
And he ventured a peck with his slim, shiny beak.
A flutter, a scream—up the bank Robin came;
He found two could play at the same little game,
And the waves as they fled, with a smile and a gleam,
Carried crab and brown feathers adown with the stream.

L. Whitney Watkins.

Our next number will contain a half-tone portrait of A. W. Anthony, the active Western Ornithologist.

Song Seasons of Three Carolina Birds.

BY LEVERETT M. LOOMIS.

Curator of the Department of Ornithology of the California Academy of Sciences.

"—the time of the singing of birds is come."

OF all the birds inhabiting upper South Carolina, the Carolina Wren is almost the only one that may be said to sing the whole year round. Other birds begin to sing as soon as the spring side of the year is reached. Usually this is in February. The song season in all lasts at least until after the nesting is over. Some, as the Field Sparrow, continue on into autumn. Others, as the Mockingbird, after an interval of silence have a second song period. So it is that the resident birds of the up country of South Carolina, as to the duration of their singing, fall into three classes: those that have but a single song season and are silent after the period of nesting, those that have a second one following this period, and those that sing all the year.

About the first of February there issues from the plum thickets and other lesser shrubbery of the open, a great clattering of Sparrows. As the days advance this babel of song takes form, resolving into the familiar notes of the Field Sparrow as usually heard in Northern climes. The variations of song so characteristic of this bird in the Southern country are not prominent until later. With the progress of spring Field Sparrows bear no inconspicuous part in the general chorus. Midsummer comes with its burning heat and most birds are silent, still the Field Sparrow sings with unabated persistency, and so variously, too, as would sound strangely to Northern ears. I have sometimes been puzzled to know whether some of their performances were not uttered by Prairie Warblers, so nearly were they like the quaint ditties of that bird. More than once, with the bird in plain sight, have I resorted to my gun so as to make sure that my eyes and ears had not deceived me. By the middle of September only occasional, half-hearted songs are heard, and the season is over, having lasted more than seven months. The remarkably mild weather of December, 1889, and January, 1890, had an interesting effect upon the Field Sparrows, arousing them to song nearly two months ahead of the ordinary time.

It is a rare thing to hear Mockingbirds sing in the upper country during December and January. It is only when the weather has been very mild for some time that they are awakened to song—but song without heart, without emphasis. Usually the first season opens about the beginning of February, sometimes a little earlier, and sometimes a little later, as the weather may be. As spring advances, and as others appear from farther south, they become more and more conspicuous as musicians. Before the end of April the whole open country is occupied. The first season continues unabated to July, even the serenades in moonless as well as moonlight nights. Long wet spells tend to lengthen out the season, singing continuing with variety and effect nearly to the close of the month. The habit of singing in the night is more common among birds than is generally supposed, occurring chiefly when the nuptial passion is at its height.

> "And smale foweles maken melodye
> That slepen al the nyght with open eye—
> So priketh hem nature in hir courages."

Often in the early morning hours when I have been camping out has the stillness been broken by the song of the Field Sparrow.

The second song period of the Mockingbird begins about the first week in September. In the interval between the first and second period there may sometimes be heard a curious musical performance. The first time it reached my ear I thought it came from a bird a long way off—at least a quarter of a mile away—it was so soft, so far away—suppressed I wrote it in my journal at the time, and no word better describes it. The singer was just over my head, concealed in the heart of the foliage of a great hickory. He sat there motionless, his song complete as at other times, but almost in a whisper. I thought of what Richard Grant White wrote of the *prima donna* who sang an operatic air in all its perfection, but which was heard only by the ear almost touched by the lips of the great singer. Every summer I hear this pianissimo singing, and always from the heart of thickly foliaged trees. How different is this quiet demeanor from that of the earlier season, when observation is challenged from the most exalted pinnacle of the neighborhood, when the musician sings as he flies, or bounds aloft from his perch in ecstasy of song. My ear has sometimes caught the sound of this subdued vocalization at the opening of the first season, at which time the Brown Thrasher and Cardinal are inclined to sing in the same manner.

One gray February afternoon I heard a Cardinal singing in this *sotto voce* style from the depth of a cedar bush. When I stopped to listen, he raised his notes, and after a moment came out upon an adjoining oak twig and whistled in a strong, clear voice, as I stood a few steps away. I left him thus, and returning a few minutes later found he was gone. It was

early in the season, and there was no appreciative audience to inspire him to further effort.

The second song season of the Mockingbird ordinarily ends about the middle of November. At the last they may be seen in the frosty mornings sitting solitary on the summit of some small tree, with their white breasts to the sun, giving utterance to a few notes of song. With the warmth of midday there is a return of spirit. In the second season they never attain the vigor of the first. At the close of the second they sing when the thermometer ranges among the forties. Later they are silent when it is temporarily above seventy degrees, the previous chill having stilled them. When the first season fully begins, cold, however, does not seem to have the power to suppress them, the impulse, once aroused with the approach of spring, being irrepressible.

The Carolina Wren, of all the songsters of the up country, is, as I have said, almost the only one that has a continuous song period, lasting the whole year round. At the close of the nesting season, when molting, they are least inclined to be musical, but even then their hearty song greets the ear at all hours of the day. At this time of the year the young are stirred to music, and their peculiar warbling notes singularly contrast with the finished productions of the adults.

Great Carolina Wrens were these little birds called when I first became acquainted with them years ago, and great still they are—as weather prophets. With senses so keen as to discern those subtle changes which to us are imperceptible, which find no response in our duller organisms, the end of those sharp, cold spells which come to us from the Northwest, and which change our land of sunshine and song into Northern winter, is unerringly foretold; their loud, ringing song heralding the coming change. During an unusually inclement season a few years back, the superior foresight of these sensitive little creatures was brought home with renewed force. I had been out all day searching for Northern birds, which I hoped would be driven southward by the severity of the weather, and was returning home on horseback with a companion, chilled and tired. There was nothing inviting in the scene. It was near nightfall, after a gray, cheerless afternoon. It had not been one of those days every field Ornithologist loves to recall, when so many incidents occurred that the hours passed unheeded and night came on before you were aware, when the old enthusiasm returned—that first enthusiasm, that knew neither hunger nor fatigue, that, unbreakfasted and undinnered, brought you home in the gathering twilight with quickened step, and which afterward carried you without sense of weariness into the small hours as you finished specimen after specimen, or recorded on the pages of your journal the experiences of the eventful day. My companion had just complained of the cold and had predicted a very hard night, and urged that we hasten our horses' steps homeward, as we had some distance to go. A moment later, almost at our feet, from a brush pile on the wood's edge, came the song of a Carolina Wren. So inspiring was it that my friend instantly cried out, "Hear the Spring Bird! It is going to be warmer!" Spring Birds are these Wrens locally called. For once, a proverb is broken, for this prophet is not without honor in his own country.* Before the remaining two miles of our ride were accomplished, the change in the weather had become marked, and by the following night the last vestige of snow had disappeared.

A year later, with a botanical friend, I made my first ascent of Mount Pinnacle—the highest ground in South Carolina. We started early in the morning at the foot. A dense fog shrouded the mountain, and the bushes and trees were dripping. A thousand feet took us above the vapor. A glorious sight now presented itself to our eyes. There below us lay a sea of silver, and above a vault of blue. We had bathed our faces in the clouds and passed above into sunshine. Before the second thousand feet were overcome the distant mutter of thunder admonished us of an approaching storm. A thunderstorm without shelter on an uninhabited mountain had not fallen to the lot of either. The vivid lightning and the sharp peals of thunder, reverberating through those everlasting hills until it seemed as if all the forces of nature were let loose, will never be forgotten by either of us. When we reached the summit the warring elements were at our feet, for the storm had passed below. Here in this remote spot, as the sun came from beneath the cloud, were we greeted with hearty welcome by a familiar acquaintance. It was the Carolina Wren—still the Spring Bird—the bird of sunshine. In that one moment the toil of the mountain was forgotten.

Of Educational Value.

THE NIDOLOGIST is a magazine devoted, as its name indicates, to the study of the nesting habits of different species of birds. Its contents are the results of actual observation by scientists of reputation, and in some cases, of eminence. It is good supplementary reading for grammar schools.—*Public School Journal.*

* In some sections, I have been informed, this Wren is called Spring Bird because it frequents the dense vegetation about springs.

Colorado.

(Department Edited by Frederick M. Dille, 406 McPhee Building, Denver, Colo.)

I AM the "Town Crier," and did fill that position to the top of my lungs for the little town of "Sunset Pass" until Professor Nestling fell onto our hard and rocky street from the top of the "Silver Plume" Coach.

Copyrighted.
THE COLLECTOR'S FRIEND.

The professor came to our town in order to better proceed on an expedition after some of the rare things which are to be found only around timber line. He calls me a "rare bird," but in spite of the various ways in which I am slandered it is gratifying to see them all bow to my supremacy when it comes to a scientific expedition with its paraphernalia to the timber line and over the range.

We (the professor and I) have now been out from Sunset Pass over a week, and nothing has occurred to jar the fraternal feeling between us until this morning. My companion was in the act of throwing his last "diamond hitch" when one of them pesky camp robbers (the professor called it a true *Capitalis*) appeared on the scene. He dropped his pack, picked up his gun, and took after it.

I improved the opportunity to stroll up to this clump and browse upon the leaves of the "William Henry," which leaves I find very good for "that tired feeling," and now the poor professor is "wasting much valuable time" looking for me. I can hear him now, thrashing around in the bushes down by the creek, where, had he but the instincts of a mule, he might know I could not conceal my whole frame from his "Eagle eye."

I can also hear his rambling talk, and he declares "that but for that set of Ptarmigan's eggs packed in the box on my 'off side' he would not feel so worried over my own precious skin."

This morning I eschewed a little pamphlet from the professor's luggage. It came from New York, and was printed by a man whose name is Taylor, and who proposed to exhibit from time to time in his journal "photographs of noted Ornithologists." I have half a mind to send him "one of mine" and see if he will publish it, for what does Taylor and his clique know about Ornithology until they have seen a picture of the Rocky Mountain Canary in full tone? (the photo, however, is only half-tone.)

Yours vociferously, JENNY LIND.

* * * *

FEW States possess the attractions for the Ornithologist and offer such a tempting array of Oölogical treasures as does Colorado, and yet the persons of such inclinations within the State are as scarce as "Owls' nests on the limbs of trees one hundred and fifty feet from the ground" (in the Illinois River bottom), and as scattered as our four boundaries. There are not one dozen persons within the State at present who are known to each other as "kindred spirits," and who would make fit material for the composition of an Ornithological club, or, in the event of the organization of such a club, would it be possible to convene more than four of them at one point and at one time without more outlay for traveling expenses than said possible members would feel like standing.

The Ornithology of the State, however, has received at various times much systematic study and research from the hands of competent observers, whose reports are scattered through the different journals of this nature. But the results which would occur from the work of a systematic organization can at this day only be anticipated.

To Mr. Charles F. Morrison is due wholly the credit of the only effort thus far to bring the "enthusiasts" of the State into close relations and to systematize their work. We refer to his efforts in this line in 1887 and 1888, and can but reflect what uphill, discouraging work to Mr. Morrison it must have been.

There are parties in the State who possess a mine of valuable information stored up from years of successful work in the field, and the mention of whose names gives guarantee as to the reliability of their notes and interest to the general reader. There are others, new in the field, but, having started in the correct way (blowing their eggs with but one hole in the side), who will prove of value to any future organization, and it is our hope, with the generosity of Brother Taylor and the use of his indispensable NIDOLOGIST, to bring our short dozen of "kindred spirits" into the habit of recording their various notes and experiences, and into closer relations with each other and the outside world.

* * * *

THE list of "Some Birds New to Colorado" contained in this issue will be found of especial interest and value, particularly in the range or

distribution of the species mentioned and their occurrence at this remote point, if only at rare intervals.

* * * *

If any reader of this journal is at present aware of the whereabouts or address of Mr. Charles F. Morrison they would confer a favor by sending us the same. In the preparation of a list of our State now being made, communication with Mr. Morrison would be most gratifying, but with the sudden termination in the March, 1890, issue of the "O. and O." all traces of him disappeared, to us at least.

* * * *

A list of the birds of Colorado, revised and unabridged, will soon be started in these columns. Most of the list is being compiled by Professor W. W. Cooke, now at Fort Collins, who concludes that Colorado has a larger list than any other State in the Union.

Fr. Dille

Some Birds New to Colorado.

With Notes on Others of Little Known Distribution in the State.

THE greater part of the following observations was made during frequent visits to the various taxidermists' shops in Denver. As most of the specimens were brought in for mounting by sportsmen and others, the reader will understand why greater details as to dates and other information could not be obtained.

Æchmophorus occidentalis, Western Grebe.—In October, 1888, I examined three skins of this species in possession of Mr. Hugo Todenwarth, a local taxidermist, one of which was shot about October 25; the others a few days earlier. They were taken on three different lakes—Sloan's, Marston's, and Tynon's—adjacent to the city.

Stercorarius parasiticus, Parasitic Jager.—A young bird in the dark phase was shot at Sloan's Lake during the fall migration of 1889. I believe it has been but once recorded for the State—by Drew, on authority of Ridgway (*Auk*, Vol. II, No. 1).

Larus atricilla, Laughing Gull.—One shot at Sloan's Lake (located in the western suburbs of Denver) in December, 1889. I believe the second recorded for the State.

Larus philadelphia, Bonaparte's Gull.—An immature specimen was shot on Marston's Lake about November 10, 1888. One shot on Sloan's Lake in the fall of 1889, and another at same place in October, 1890.

Xema sabinii, Sabine's Gull.—One shot about October 1, 1889, on one of the local lakes. One other was also sent in for mounting, but the date and locality were not preserved. It was, doubtless, a local specimen, however.

Sterna paradisæa, Arctic Tern.—A mounted specimen in the possession of Mr. Todenwarth was shot on Marston's Lake in the spring of 1887. Through the kindness of the owner I was permitted to send it for comparison to Mr. Ridgway, who pronounced it of this species.

Phalacorcorax dilophus, Double-crested Cormorant.—Since recording a specimen of this species in the *Auk* (Vol. III, No. 2), in 1886, I have had the pleasure of examining several others of this species. One was shot on Sloan's Lake (about October 1, 1891), from a flock of about twenty, the hunter mistaking them for Geese.

Another was shot on Marston's Lake in the fall of 1886, and a third came from Jones's Lake.

Aix sponsa, Wood Duck.—Occasionally taken at the lakes near Denver.

Oidemia deglandi, White-winged Scoter.—Examined a skin of this species which was shot at Marston's Lake in October, 1887. It was in the plumage of the female or young. Another mounted specimen is in the possession of Mr. C. A. Cooper, formerly of Denver.

The bird was shot on Lee's Lake, near Fort Collins, October 23, 1888. Mr. Cooper also informed me that he had seen another specimen in the possession of William G. Smith, a taxidermist and Ornithological writer of Loveland, Colo. On October 16, 1890, I examined a specimen which had just been shot at Sloan's Lake.

The general opinion of sportsmen is that "Surf Ducks" occur irregularly in small numbers nearly every year.

Oidemia perspecillata, Surf Scoter.—One shot in October, 1887, at Marston's Lake, in company with the specimen of *O. deglandi* abovementioned. It was in the plumage of the female or young. A mounted specimen is also in the possession of the "State Historical and Natural History Society." Mr. C. A. Cooper told me that Mr. William G. Smith, of Loveland, had another "Surf Duck" which was not *O. deglandi*. Possibly it was this species.

Olor columbianus, Whistling Swan.—Have examined some half a dozen specimens of this species, and have heard of others being taken, which were probably the same. One was shot near Berthoud, from a small flock, and mounted by Mr. A. T. Allen. One came from Rush Creek, one from Julesburg, and another from the northern part of the State.

Olor buccinator, Trumpeter Swan.—This species would seem to be the one we should expect

to find in this region, yet but two specimens have come to my notice.

One was shot about thirty miles south of Denver, some time prior to 1887 ; another from the southern part of the State at a much earlier date. HORACE G. SMITH.

Denver, Colo.

(*To be continued.*)

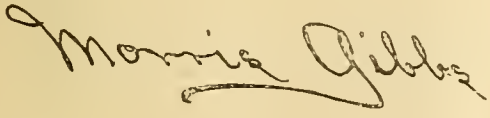
Notes From Michigan.

(Department Edited by Dr. Morris Gibbs, Kalamazoo, Mich.)

ON August 20, 1895, a Baird's Sandpiper, *Tringa bairdii*, Coues, was taken by Mr. Leon J. Cole in company with W. E. Mulliken at Spring Lake, Ottawa County, Mich. These collectors have shown that this is the first recorded capture in the State, for, although Cook, in his *Birds of Michigan*, p. 93, credits Cabot, 1850, with this bird, these gentlemen have pointed out that the only representative of the genus *Tringa* in Cabot's list is *T. schinzii*. The list does not give the English names, and Cook, mistaking the synonymy, gave the Baird's instead of Bonaparte's Sandpiper.

Notwithstanding the report that the Bluebirds were about all killed off by the severe weather of last January and February, there were found a goodly number in Michigan during the past autumn. The writer heard but a single Bluebird sing in southern Michigan in the spring of 1895, and in a fifty-nine mile carriage ride in June not a bird was seen, though the region traversed was a favorite one with these birds in former seasons In early October, 1895, a small flock was seen, and at various times I saw flocks of from six to a score of birds, old and immature, and a friend of mine noted a flock of forty birds in October. Where these birds came from can only be conjectured, but they probably reached us from the North, as they were evidently migrating when observed.

The *Chautauquan* for November contains an article upon the Passenger Pigeon by Simon Pokagon, Chief of the Pottawatomies in Michigan. Further reference will be given to this article.



BEING in its third year of successful publication, and now pretty thoroughly known, THE NIDOLOGIST has decided to discontinue its occasional distribution of free "sample" copies, except in exceptional cases.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: In answer to the inquiry of B. H. S. (THE NIDOLOGIST, Vol. III, No. 2, p. 19), I send these notes concerning *Spiza americana*.

It is possible that had Mr. Swales more carefully investigated the clover fields and upland meadows out from Detroit he might have found that this "Little Meadowlark," as it is sometimes called—and well so, too, for at a short distance the markings of the male bird appear very like those of *Sturnella magna*—had been breeding for some years past, and perhaps, locally, in some numbers. This he may have done, but from his note it cannot be known how far out and how general his meadow searches have been.

Yet at Lansing, in four years of careful observation, I failed to note a single specimen of this species, though my "tramping ground" took in the outlying country to Pine Lake, Park Lake, Williamston, Okemos, Trowbridge, and included the great Chandler's Marsh, north of the Michigan Agricultural College, where, by the way, I met Mr. Swales years ago in Abbot Hall. Collectors knowing the ground will appreciate the extent and varied conditions included within this territory. I am expecting each season, however, to learn that the bird is now found in that same locality.

It is scarcely ten years since the more observing farmers in this section began to notice this new bird in their meadows. Its cheery "CHIP, CHIP, CHEE, CHEE, CHEE, CHEE" (emphasized on the second and third notes), from the topmost bough of some lone tree, is in fact apt to attract the attention of one who happens near.

It has, during the past four years, been quite abundant here. Arriving rather late in spring, it builds its nest of grasses, collected near at hand, either upon the ground or fastened among the swaying clover stems a few inches above, where the four light blue, roundish oval eggs are placed. I have found the young ready to leave the nest by June 20, and on about the same date have taken only slightly incubated sets of eggs. We may conclude, therefore, that they nest from the latter half of May through June.

As is the case with many of our meadow nesters, great numbers of nests of the Dickcissel

are annually destroyed in haying time. I once saw a female bird of this species sitting upon a freshly raked windrow of hay, and upon approaching the spot happened to notice a dainty blue egg where she had been resting. The nest and incomplete set had undoubtedly been broken up and the poor mother forced to deposit her treasure, unprotected, upon the bunch of drying hay.

It is also the case, as with most species which are apparently extending their regular habitat, that the Dickcissel seems to be irregularly distributed and local in its abundance in our State. L. Whitney Watkins.

* * * *

An Albino Junco.

Editor Nidologist.

Dear Sir: On November 23, 1895, I shot a pure white Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), from a flock of twelve or fifteen birds. This is the first albino Snowbird I have ever seen. It was pure white; legs and feet were much lighter than usual. The bird was taken within our city limits. J. B. Neal.

Easton, Pa.

* * * *

Hen Theory Applied to Thrashers.

Editor Nidologist.

Dear Sir: I would like to answer, through your columns, Mr. William H. Fisher's query in August Nidologist. In his article, entitled "A Persistent Brown Thrasher," he states he took three eggs from a Brown Thrasher's nest, and while he was packing them the female returned and sat upon the nest, and, flushing her again, he found a fourth egg, all highly incubated.

Your explanation is good, that "there is no law laid down which permits a bird to lay an incubated egg," but when you say, "Mr. Fisher must be mistaken in the number of eggs he saw," I cannot agree with you on *that* solution of the problem, as a collector is supposed to count "four" correctly.

My theory is, that there *were* four eggs in the nest; and, when Mr. Fisher flushed the bird, one egg stuck to her feathers owing to the presence of some sticky substance (accidentally acquired by contact therewith), and when she returned and settled into the nest this egg became detached.

I think this explanation reasonable from the fact that Mr. Fisher says the bird hopped only six inches from the nest and stood watching him; consequently her actions were not violent enough to loosen the egg supposed to be hanging to her feathers; and again, I give you an almost parallel case, which ought to be the clincher to this case—namely, I have seen hens walking or running about with an egg fastened to their feathers, in several instances.

D. A. Cohen.

Alameda, Cal.

Cooper Ornithological Club.

The monthly meeting of the Club was held in San Francisco, November 2. Four new members were elected: P. K. Gilman, of Palo Alto, and the following, on recommendation of the Annex: W. S. Cobleigh and O. W. Howard, of Los Angeles, and Clifford H. Wood, of Pasadena. Mr. Claude Fyfe was present as a visitor.

The evening was given to the reading of a paper by A. W. Anthony, entitled

Notes from the Colorado Desert.

On the 21st of March of the present year Mr. Anthony, in company with Mr. F. Stephens, left Witch Creek for a short expedition through the southwestern part of the Colorado Desert. The season was an early one, vegetation being at least a week in advance of normal seasons. The range was crossed at Julian, and the first camp made in the lower end of San Felipe Valley, where the creosote bush and catclaw were the most common plants. Tricolored Blackbirds and Cassin's Kingbirds were migrating, and *Zonotrichia* and Lincoln's Finches were observed in the catclaw. A number of Cassin's Finches flew by in company with the common House Finch, coming from the lower regions to their breeding grounds in the pines. Several old nests of the Verdin were noted, but no birds were seen.

Leaving San Felipe Valley in the forenoon of the 22d, a drive was made to the Indian Wells, the altitude being 1,600 feet. Large flocks of White-bellied, Barn, Cliff, and Violet-green Swallows were flying in scattered flocks to the northwest, and every bend in the canyon was sought as a protection against the gale which was blowing. The flocks ranged from four to fifty, and the Cliff and White-bellied Swallows formed about eighty per cent of the whole number. In San Felipe Canyon the vegetation assumed a typical desert aspect. *Octillos*, *fouquiera*, agave, yucca, and the various species of cactus formed the chief growth. Scott's Oriole, Baird's Woodpecker, Cactus Wrens, and Verdins were all common. And here amid the barren rocks, miles from the nearest pines was found the Plumed Partridge in comparative abundance. A few Black-throated Sparrows sang from the *ocotillos*, but were scarce. The Sage Sparrow was not met, it being only a winter resident in this region. March 23 was spent

in investigating the country about the wells in San Felipe Canyon. Several Verdins and Phainopeplas were taken, and the females showed that incubation had begun. Three species of Gnatcatchers were shot—Plumbeous, Western Blue-gray, and the Black-tailed. The Plumbeous was evidently incubating.

A single Western Yellow-throat was met and Bullock's, Arizona Hooded, and Scott's Orioles lit for a short time in the ironwood trees near by. The latter were very shy. Other species met with were Least and Warbling Vireos and Wilson's Warbler. The 24th was spent in traveling to Borego Springs, Brewer's Sparrows being common along the way. Just at sunset the clear, soft call note of Leconte's Thrasher was heard from far across the plain, but a search the next morning failed to reveal the bird. A few Plumbeous Gnatcatchers were seen, and a nest of the Verdin containing four incubated eggs was found in a catclaw. In an arroyo east of Borego the perpendicular cliffs of hard clay offer nesting sites for Say's Phœbe. One or two White-throated Swifts were dashing about as if contemplating nesting in some of the ledges later on. It was in this arroyo that Mr. Stephens dug two Swifts out of a hole March 23, 1890, but was too early for eggs.

Travel was resumed to Salt Creek, a water hole, about fifteen miles south of the southern end of Salton Lake. The valley was a mile or more in width, covered with a scattered growth of chollas and creosote brush. A few mesquite trees of rather large size grew along the wash, and were carefully scanned for a possible nest of Leconte's Thrasher. About five miles east of Borego a Thrasher flew across the wash from a large mesquite and was secured, proving to be a fine adult male. A nest and four eggs of this Thrasher were found near by, which had evidently been abandoned for several days. Three of the eggs were pipped, and the nest was very large, just filling a large-sized water pail, in which it was packed. Its composition was almost entirely thorny mesquite twigs with a scant lining of grass, and was supported by a number of small branches about four feet from the ground. A nest and six badly incubated eggs of California Shrike were taken from a mesquite. Mockingbirds were very common all along the route, and among their many accomplishments they one and all had acquired the notes of the Pinon Jay. It seemed to be a favorite with them and was rendered with wonderful precision. As the Mockingbirds are hardly expected to reach the coniferous belt the theory is advanced that the note was learned by a few Mockingbirds from a wandering flock of Jays, and the others had picked up the call from them.

On the 26th birds were scarce, only a few *Zonotrichia tyrannus* and an occasional Mockingbird being noted. A few miles farther on a pair of Leconte's Thrashers flew from a thick mesquite, separating and running through the low, scrubby brush at a wonderful rate, only one bird being secured.

The next few days were given to collecting in what was once the bed of the Gulf of California. The country was very sandy, large sand dunes being the principal objects of attraction. A pair of Thrashers were flushed from a sand drift and secured, both proving to be young, though fully grown. Near by a female was shot, which contained a clutch of three eggs about to be deposited. In two days spent about Salt Creek the following species were noted: Turkey Vulture, Swainson's Hawk, Cinnamon Teal, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Mockingbird. A few *Zonotrichia* and Lincoln's Finches skulked along the edges of the mesquite thickets. Two or three Sora Rail, one Coot, and three Cranes were seen one morning. One Audubon's Warbler, a few Swallows, and perhaps a *Tyrannus* comprised the migrants. One Cormorant was seen, but not identified. A few Plumbeous Gnatcatchers and Phainopeplas were the only resident species; these were rare and nesting.

March 29 the journey was resumed toward Carriso Creek. A few Horned Larks were seen on the sandy waste, and one specimen secured was a very pale form, probably referable to *Arenicola*. At Carriso Creek migrants were abundant. In the creosote bushes and mesquite were many Audubon's, Wilson's, Lutescent, and Macgillivray's Warblers, Western Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Lincoln's Finches, and White-crowned Sparrows. Bullock's and Arizona Hooded Orioles, Titlarks, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were also noted. White-throated Swifts were rather common about the cliffs. Above Palm Springs a family of Leconte's Thrashers was found, and two immature birds secured. Another bird, an adult female, that had evidently laid a set of eggs, was taken within five miles and in plain sight of the pine belt, at an altitude of two thousand feet. Mr. Anthony's series of Thrashers for the trip was eight birds, five being immature. From a careful comparison of skins and study of the notes taken he thinks the nesting must begin in January and last nearly or quite four months. Dr. Merriam records young, half-grown, as late as June 27 (*Auk*, January, 1895). At least two broods are raised, and the nesting is very irregular.

Mr. F. W. Koch, of Berkeley, related his experience with Leconte's Thrashers on the desert, describing one instance of where he flushed a

Thrasher from its nest, and after chasing it through the mesquite for some time (as he supposed) returned to the nest only to find the old bird again on the eggs.

The Northern Division of the Club meets at San José, December 7. The Annex held its "outing" meeting October 26–27, which was largely attended.

Random Notes on the Birds of Alameda County, Cal.

BY DONALD A. COHEN.

(*Continued.*)

THE Crow is rare and local, but other counties adjoining are full of these black pirates. I never saw more than two near Alameda (city); one was flying overhead and cawing, two years ago this winter, and the other I shot last summer in a meadow near my house. Mr. Taylor informs me of one he saw on a lofty tree top taking a view of the town. The older inhabitants say that Alameda was full of Crows and Indians in the early sixties. As the country became more settled the Indians moved away for broader hunting grounds, and so did the Crows.

The California Jay is a bully and a thief and a great tormentor of cats. He is a high liver, often taking eggs and young birds for his dinner, but his humbler fare consists of insects and fruit and acorns. Owing to their mean traits I always shoot them on sight, but allowed a pair to raise a brood in my yard last summer so I could study their habits by watching them from my window. The male would carry choice morsels of food to his mate, such as grubs and cutworms, and they certainly do considerable good in ridding the land of them, but their bad qualities are far greater than their good ones. His depredations on chickens' and turkeys' nests are alarming, and I have seen him even in the poultry house in search of eggs. I tried putting a pinch of strychnine into eggs he had partly eaten, and always found a dead Jay within fifty feet the next day. I once shot one that had killed a young chicken larger than himself, and he was calmly making a meal on its brains. I witnessed a battle between one of these murderers and a hen turkey. The Jay attempted to take one of the little turkeys for a meal, and each time he swooped down he found the mother on guard, and with all his strategy found her more than a match for him. Quails' eggs are a luxury to him, and it takes a whole nestful to appease his voracious appetite. He is the curse of the sportsman in quest of game, for when he sees him coming he leaves his watchtower and flies across the canyon uttering his harsh, loud "chee-chee-chee" to warn everything that has ears that man, its enemy, is on the trail. I have often seen a few of these ruffians hold a small Hawk at bay or flush an Owl from his roost in the thick foliage, and keep up a loud screeching that attracted more and more of their clansmen. Last fall I was attracted to a large oak by their clamor, where I found them bullying a Lewis' Woodpecker. I turned the odds by blazing into them and killing four and scattering the others. They lack crests and are deep blue with grayish underparts. I have taken over one hundred nests, all in oaks except one, which was in a cypress tree. The nests are in thick-foliaged, medium-sized oaks, and from ten to twenty feet from the ground. With the exception of the one in the cypress tree, which was built of dead twigs of the tree and heavy stems of weeds, all the others were composed of dead twigs of the live oak and lined with coarse rootlets, and lastly with finer ones and soaproot fibers and hair from the tails and manes of horses and cattle. The twigs forming the foundation fall apart when the nest is lifted. Their eggs vary in color, shape, and size, and I have found sets with a reddish tinge, and have seen others collected here that look entirely unlike eggs of this bird. I do not see this mentioned in any books on the subject of eggs. There are about four sets of reddish eggs now in Alameda among members of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and I hope some time to give the coloring more fully and the measurements.

(*To be continued.*)

Birds Attracted by a Fire.

DURING the conflagration on the night of October 21 and 22 in this city, a number of flocks of Ducks (Sp. ?), American Golden Plover, and Greater Yellow-legs were seen circling over the town. They seemed to be dazed as they flew about uttering their plaintive cries.

It was a cloudy night, and the reflection on the clouds and the flocks of birds sailing overhead made it a wonderful and beautiful sight in spite of the great calamity.

It was thought by some at first that the Ducks were on fire, so bright was the light and the clouds so dark far above.

The season of 1895 was a very dry one on this prairie and shore birds were rare, only occurring near the larger bodies of water. I have not observed a single *Totanus* since early in the spring. The nearest locality where there is any water is Lacqui Park Lake, a distance of fifteen miles, from where the flocks of Yellow-legs must have been attracted on the night of the fire.

ALBERT LANO.

Madison, Minn.

OUR advertising pages are crowding a little and suggest a possible enlargement. It is a puzzling matter sometimes at present to make room for illustrations we have in hand.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

Publications Received.

Baker, Frank Collins. *A Naturalist in Mexico, being a Visit to Cuba, Northern Yucatan, and Mexico.* With maps and illustrations. Sm. 8vo, cloth. Pp. 1–145. Chicago, 1895. [From The Chicago Academy of Sciences.]

Leverkühn, Paul. *Vogelschutz in England.* Mit einer Tafel. (Sonderabdruck aus der "Ornithol. Monatsschrift des Deutschen Vereins zum Schutze der Vogelwelt." Jahrg. 1894. Nr. 1–11.) Halle, 1895. [From the author.]

Leverkühn, Paul. *Todesanzeigen.* VIII and IX. *Ibid.* Jahrg. 1895. Nr. 6, 9. [From the author.]

Townsend, C. H. *Birds from Cocos and Malpelo Islands, with Notes on Petrels obtained at Sea.* Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. Harvard Coll. Vol. XXVII, No. 3, Art. xvii. Pp. 121–126. Two colored plates. [Not numbered.] Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A., July, 1895. [From the author.]

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, No. XXIV, and *Chairman's Address on Opening the Fourth Session of the British Ornithologists' Club,* 1895. [Both from Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., Secretary of the Club.]

Elliot, Daniel Giraud, F.R.S.E., etc. *North American Shore Birds.* Francis P. Harper, New York, 1895. Illustrated by Edwin Sheppard. Pp. 1–287. Crown 8vo, cloth. [From the publisher.]

The A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds. Second and Revised Edition. Issued by the American Ornithologists' Union. L. S. Foster, New York, 1895. Pp. i–xi, 1–372. 8vo, cloth. [From the publisher.]

The Feather. Vol. I, No. 2. November, 1895.

The American Monthly Microscopical Journal. Vol. XVI, No. 11. November, 1895.

Popular Science News. December, 1895.

The American Field. November, 1895.

Forest and Stream. November, 1895.

Shooting and Fishing. November, 1895.

Baker: *A Naturalist in Mexico, being a Visit to Cuba, Northern Yucatan, and Mexico.* In this little volume we have presented us a popular account of a Mexican expedition, compiled from the notebook of the author and naturalist that accompanied it. We are left somewhat in doubt as to the year that this expedition was entered upon or completed, but nevertheless we are told in the preface that "the tour which forms its subject was undertaken under the auspices of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the author acting as Zoölogist. The expedition was under the leadership of Professor Angelo Heilprin, Curator-in-charge of the Philadelphia Academy, and its object was to collect data and specimens illustrating the fauna, flora, and geology of Yucatan and Southern Mexico, with a consideration of the high mountain peaks of the Mexican Plateau. For full accounts concerning the scientific portion of the expedition, the reader is respectfully referred to the Proceedings of the above academy from 1890 to 1895." From this it would appear that the expedition must have been made some time prior to 1890, and closed early in 1895. In his narrative Mr. Baker has attempted to link together matters of science, matters of history, and matters of descriptive detail, and in the majority of instances throughout the work he has very well succeeded in doing this, and in a style to fully interest the reader. Two or three sketchy outline maps serve to help out the text, and show the route taken by the exploring party. Furthermore, the volume is embellished by the addition of numerous half-tone plates, made from the photographs taken of cities visited, peoples seen, and various other subjects of interest. The pen and ink sketches made by the author had better, perhaps, been omitted in most cases, as they are greatly lacking in artistic beauty, and but illy compare with the really very creditable half-tone plates that are given.

The work especially interested the present reviewer, as a number of the places in Cuba, Yucatan, and Mexico had been visited by me in former years. Mr. Baker's notes on what he saw in the city of Havana, Cuba, are very good, and the same may be said for Vera Cruz. Very tempting sketches of the shores and forests that were visited along the line of the route are given; but unfortunately the descriptions of the birds seen, or even what they were, are altogether too vague. It is only occasionally, however, that we catch Mr. Baker in downright error in his book, as, for example, when describing the Mammal Hall of the Museo Nacional of the City of Mexico, he says of *Hyrax capensis*, that "this animal, from Australia, is exceedingly rare, but few museums possessing specimens of it (p. 95). Now, *Hyrax capensis* is an African animal, and not especially uncommon in the collections of the larger museums of the world.

Mr. Baker, on page 141, makes a remarkable statement about the Black Vultures of Vera Cruz (*Catharista atrata*), namely, "There is one mystery in regard to these birds which naturalists are trying to solve, namely, their breeding place. No one knows where they go to build their nests and rear their young." Of course, the breeding habits of these birds within the limits of the United States are well known, and doubtless the Black Vultures of Vera Cruz possess similar ones, that is, they nest on the ground in the forests beyond the city limits. R. W. S.

Leverkuhn: On *Vogelschutz in England.* The distinguished author of this work has devoted himself to several departments of Ornithology during past years, and very recently I have been favored with a large number of reprints of his works in these fields. Professor Leverkühn has proved himself especially active in the matter of bird protection and everything that pertains thereto. He has had his attention directed to this subject in many of the countries of Europe, and he has accomplished a great deal of good by agitating the entire question. In the present memoir the whole matter of bird protection and the killing of birds in England is taken up and handled in a more or less exhaustive manner. Various acts of the British Parliament from 1869 and on, passed with the view of protecting sea fowl and land birds, are discussed in their many bearings, and these acts include the Pease's Bill of 1880. His words bring the case directly home to ourselves, and it is very sure that in certain, and perhaps in all, quarters our birds can only be efficiently protected by acts of Congress, and these at all times most rigidly enforced. R. W. S.

Townsend: On *Birds from Cocos and Malpelo Islands, with Notes on Petrels obtained at Sea,* is a memoir well worthy of notice. It constitutes one of the "Reports on the Dredging Operations off the West Coast of

Central America to the Galapagos, to the West Coast of Mexico, and in the Gulf of California, in charge of Alexander Agassiz, carried on by the United States Fish Commission Steamer *Albatross*, during 1891, Lieutenant Commander Z. L. Tanner, U. S. N., Commanding." Ornithologically speaking, not a little interest attaches to Cocos Island, and previous to the time of the *Albatross* calling there on the 28th of February, 1891, nothing was known of its birds beyond the fact that the peculiar Cuckoo described as *Coccyzus ferrugineus*, by Gould, was a representative of probably its non-abundant Ornis. A specimen of this form in 1840 was obtained by one of the collectors on board of H. M. S. *Sulphur*, during her voyage in those seas. Mr. Townsend tells us that "Cocos Island is about 275 miles distant from Costa Rica, in latitude five degrees, thirty-two minutes, fifty-seven seconds N., longitude eighty-seven degrees, two minutes, ten seconds W. It occupies a position nearly midway between the mainland and the islands of the Galapagos group, and with the exception of Malpelo Island, an inaccessible barren rock off the Gulf of Panama, is the only connecting point of land. Like the Galapagos Islands, it is of volcanic origin, and has received its peculiar animal and vegetable forms from the mainland. The American origin of the forms of life upon the Galapagos Islands was demonstrated by Darwin, who made researches there more than half a century ago. It appears from a study of the birds alone that Cocos Island is similarly a satellite of America, with the added interest of being a stepping-stone to the group of islands beyond it, some of whose Ornithological features it bears." We all remember the interest Darwin took in the *avifauna* of the Galapagos Islands, and how well he pointed out the extraordinary variations existing among its bird forms It has been found difficult to separate them specifically, and in this matter the birds collected by the *Albatross* have only served to show that the intimacy is even closer than was at first supposed. Nowhere in the world is the gradual intergradation of bird forms more striking than it is upon the Galapagos Islands; and, as we all know, a great deal of decided interest has been written upon this important subject. A thorough search for birds on Cocos Island unfortunately could not be made by the *Albatross*, especially in the more elevated central part of the island, but the three additional genera (and species) of land birds collected convinced Mr. Townsend of the ornithological relationship between it and the Galapagos. "The island is about four miles long by three wide, its central part having an elevation of about 1,700 feet. It is everywhere covered with the densest forest. Cocoanut trees are found upon the higher slopes, and tree ferns abound in the ravines. No tropical forest could be more dense and tangled. The rainfall is, doubtless, great, as each ravine contains a dashing stream. It is a garden spot in comparison with the arid Galapagos Islands." Two specimens of *Dendroica aureola* were obtained, as well as the new genus *Cocornis*, represented by the new species *C. agassizi*. This bird is fully described and figured in colors on a plate. This has likewise been done in the case of *Nesotriccus ridgwayi*, still another new genus and species. Two specimens of *Coccyzus ferrugineus* were taken; and among the water birds, four specimens of *Anous stolidus*. A specimen of *Sula* was also found to be abundant, but was not identified. At Malpelo Island four specimens of *Creagrus furcatus* were taken, and Mr. Townsend briefly presents the history of this very rare Gull.

Upon this voyage quite a number of Petrels were obtained at sea; these are tersely described in this report, and are referred to *Oceanodroma cryptoleucuera*, *O. melania*, *Halocyptena microsoma*, *Procellaria tethys*, and *Puffinus tenebrosus*. R. W. S.

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. Through the courtesy of Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., I have received Bulletin No. XXIX of this very active organization, as well as a copy of the Chairman's Address on Opening the Fourth Session of the Club in 1895. The issue of the *Bulletin* now under consideration appeared October 31, 1895, or eight days after the Club's twenty-eighth meeting, which took place at Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, London. Dr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., was chairman on the occasion, and a number of distinguished members and visitors were present, including Sir William Flower, Sir Henry Howorth, Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe (Editor of the Club), Mr. Henry Seebohm, Mr. Howard Saunders (Treasurer of the Club), Messrs. W. B. Tegetmeier, W. R. Ogilvie Grant, Captain Shelley, and others. The financial condition of the society is in a very satisfactory state, and Dr. Sclater gave his annual address, which is separately printed, and will be noticed further on. Some very interesting Ornithological papers were discussed at this meeting, and Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant exhibited specimens of some new species of birds sent by Mr. John Whitehead from the Philippines, and also described a new *Proparus* from Manipur and the Naga Hills, which he proposed to call *P. austeni*. Captain Shelley described three new species of African Barbets, and Mr Henry Seebohm a new species of Eagle-Owl from Sidemi, in the Ussuri Country, East Siberia. This species he proposed to call *Bubo doerriesi*. Interesting remarks were made by Dr. Sharpe on the type specimen of *Bradyornis woodwardi* from Natal, which he was convinced was only an example of *Sylvia simplex* in greenish plumage. An important paper was read by Mr. H. J. Pearson on the Ornithological results of his 1895 expedition to Kolgnev and Novaya Zemlya, and this account will be continued at the next meet of the Club, which will be on the 20th of November, 1895, at the same place. On that occasion, too, Mr. Howard Saunders, one of the Delegates to the International Congress held in Paris for the Protection of Birds useful to Agriculture, will give some account of the proceedings; and his colleague, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M. P., will be present as a visitor. Dr. Sclater, in his address as Chairman, first invited attention to the losses Ornithology has sustained by death of British workers. Chief among these stood Henry Thorton Wharton, who was the active and efficient Secretary of the Committee for the preparation of the B. O. U. List of British Birds, published in 1883, and he was General Editor of that work. Attention was also called to the deaths of Lieutenant Henry E. Barnes, F.Z.S.; and to Ernst Baumann. "Baumann was a young and energetic collector, who had worked hard at the birds of the German Colony of Togoland, on the West Coast of Africa, and had added upward of one hundred species to its *avifauna*." Continuing, Dr. Sclater said that he thought the year 1896 would see the completion of the British Museum catalogue of birds; he also pointed out the great works that were soon to appear, referring to Count Salvadori's volume on the *Anseres*, *Tinami*, and other lower avian orders; to the joint volume of Mr. Saunders (on the *Laridæ*) and Mr. Salvin (on the *Tubinares*); to Dr. Sharps's work on the Waders, which is nearly completed; and to the catalogue on the Divers, Pelicans, Cormorants, and Herons, by the same distinguished Ornithologist. Mention was also made of Captain Shelley's magnificent and complete *Catalogue of African Birds* now passing through the press, and "I may

also express a hope, which I am sure will be joined in by all Ornithologists, that Captain Bendire's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, of which the first part was published in 1892, will be continued and completed. Such a work is just what we require for a better understanding of the Nearctic Ornis." In the body of his address Dr. Sclater invited attention to the lands as yet but little explored by the scientific Ornithologist, and the truly remarkable birds that still remained in them unknown to science. This part of the address was extremely interesting.

"In concluding my remarks I will again urge upon you the great want of a convenient handbook on the anatomy of birds," and after commenting to some extent upon this subject the hope was held out that Mr. Beddard and Mr. Chalmers Mitchell will undertake and complete such a formidable task. R. W. S.

THE second issue of *The Feather* has come to hand, and its pages are stamped with an excellence of a high order. Some of the cuts and figures are brilliantly reproduced, and it contains a mass of interesting items and short articles. Among these is a good one on the "American Turkey," illustrated by three figures; others are devoted to the Goldfinch, the Blue Jay, the Song Thrush of Europe, and several minor contributions. It will be of interest to Ornithologists to learn that Dr. F. H. Knowlton, of the United States National Museum, and an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union, "has accepted a chair on the editorial staff of *The Feather*, and, beginning with the December number, will have exclusive charge of the bird department." Certainly a better man could not have been selected.

THE December (1895) issue of *Popular Science News* comes to us very much enlarged and improved. It is brimful of scientific items, presented in a popular style, calculated to interest the general reader and extend the boundaries of common knowledge and information. Now, this is an extremely important field to occupy, and the journal that can successfully fill the place of a medium between strict technical science on the one hand, and the popular mind on the other, is performing a work of the greatest usefulness possible. Indeed, it is chiefly through such media that we can hope for general enlightenment of the people, and a universal circulation of knowledge among men. But such a calling is full of danger, and it ought to be well appreciated, especially the responsibility assumed by the organ that stands guard over the conduit that passes the popularized material garnered from the coffers of science, to the minds of the masses, where it is intended to further the ends of education. It devolves upon that organ to see well to it that none but the strictest facts slip through, none but what will bear truth's most brilliant illumination, and these couched in language so simple that even the most ordinary mind will be capable of receiving and assimilating them. We sometimes fear that our worthy contemporary is a little derelict in such matters, and when I say this, I refer to the issue of the *Popular Science News* for December. Here, in the column entitled "Science Gossip," on page 192, we meet with no less than eighteen statements made, and that with the intention of conveying scientific information to the people To bear out what I have just said permit me to give an example of one or two of these. It is there said, for instance, that "the only quadruped that lays eggs is the *Ornithorhynchus*, of Australia." This is *not* true, for *Echidna* does the same thing. Again it is there said, that "the smallest bird is a species of Hummingbird common in Mexico and Central America. It is not quite so large as a blue-bottle fly." The smallest Hummingbird known to science has a total length of two inches and three eighths of an inch. There may be "bluebottle flies" as big as this, but—we've never seen them! It is one of the most pernicious things that we can do, is to start a *wrong idea* about *anything*, for a wrong idea once started may deceive its thousands before it can again be eradicated from the minds of the people, and this is very bad from every educational point of view that we know anything about.

There is a very excellent article in this number of the *News*, by Professor Charles H. Coe, entitled "The Great Vulture of the Andes," and what Professor Coe says in it about the propriety of securing a live Condor for the National Zoological Gardens, and better specimens for the United States National Museum, is only too true and should be acted upon.

R. W. S.

ELLIOT: *North American Shore Birds* is the title of a charming work, which the author describes as "a reference book for the naturalist, sportsman, and lover of birds." Elliot's valuable monographs of the Grouse, Pheasants, Birds of Paradise, etc., are familiar to all Ornithologists, and this, his first work of a more popular character, on a subject so happily chosen, cannot fail to be welcomed most heartily. The book is embellished richly with over seventy full-page plates, drawn by Mr. Edwin Sheppard, of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. The author has made a special study of the *Limicolæ*, and writes very pleasingly of their habits, as he has observed them in extensive travels, extending from Alaska to Rio Janeiro. Technical terms are avoided as far as possible, and the glossary, a "map" of a bird, with the terms used in describing it clearly indicated, and a key to the families and genera will prove valuable aids to the sportsman or amateur student of birds. The letterpress is in the best style. We predict for this work the large sale which it undoubtedly merits. H. R. T.

THE new and a long-looked-for *A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds* has just been issued. This second and revised edition of the *Check-List* represents the results of the careful labors of the committee appointed by the Union, consisting of Elliott Coues, J. A. Allen, Robert Ridgway, William Brewster, and H. W. Henshaw. *The Code of Nomenclature*, published separately in 1892, has been omitted, but the new edition includes all the additions and changes in nomenclature made in the several supplements since the publication of the original edition. The "habitats" of the species and subspecies have been carefully revised. Following the "Hypothetical List" a list of the fossil birds of North America has been appended. Twenty-six pages are covered in the comprehensive index, including both the scientific and common names. The new *Check-List* will be practically invaluable to all working Ornithologists. It is supposed that it will stand, without another edition, for fully ten years to come. H. R. T

READY FOR MAILING.—We will send copies of this number of THE NIDOLOGIST, postpaid, to any address for ten cents each; six for fifty cents; or will supply any quantity desired in envelopes ready for mailing. One dollar, sent for a new subscription, will pay for six extra copies of this issue and the magazine for a year, besides the two premium plates free of all charge.

I CONGRATULATE you on the excellent magazine you are giving us. It is a thing of beauty, consequently a joy forever. E. E. BREWSTER.

THE NIDOLOGIST.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE
DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF
ORNITHOLOGY,
With Special Reference to the
NIDIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

H. R. TAYLOR, Editor and Publisher,
Associated with DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS.

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast.

Subscription (in advance), ... $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage.)
Single Copies. . . . . 15 cents
Remit bills, money order, draft, or check.
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired.

OUR AGENTS.

SWANN & Co., 1 & 2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E. C.

CALIFORNIA—C. BARLOW, of Santa Clara, is our agent, and can receive subscriptions, advertisements, furnish terms, papers, etc.

COLORADO—FREDERICK M. DILLE, 406 McPhee Building, Denver, is our accredited agent for the middle West.

CANADA—HENRY O. TROUNCE, 14 Collier Street, Toronto, is our Canadian agent.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION,
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

Entered at the New York Post Office as mail matter of the second class.

THE NIDOLOGIST has had its *i* knocked out, but recovers with a smiling face from the effects of the blow.

YOUR paper is a beauty, and your premium offers very generous. CLIFFORD E. WHITE.
Springfield, Ill.

THE NIDOLOGIST deserves the support of every bird-loving naturalist of this country.
Madison, Minn. ALBERT LANO.

I AM astonished at the wonderful improvement you have made in your journal during the past six months, and shall be more than pleased to be one of its readers for 1896. FREDERICK HILL.
Lyme, Conn.

THE excellent photographs we published in the September number of young Killdeer, Burrowing Owl, and Barred Owl with their nests and eggs, were taken by Mr. E. S. Cheney, of South Dakota, and not by Otto Emerson, from whom, however, we secured them for THE NIDOLOGIST.

THE publishers of the *Naturalist and Collector*, of Abington, Ill., request us to announce their suspension, caused by lack of sufficient support. Publishing a natural history paper is an alluring but difficult task, requiring a boundless amount of money, faith, and good humor, together with some ability. Because a paper is a good thing it does not follow that it will grow and succeed. The good often die young.

REGARDING a recent shipment of handsome eggs of the Terns, Shearwaters, Yellow-billed Tropic Birds, and others, which we have received for our premium department, Captain D. P. Ingraham writes: "I think you will be pleased with my selection, as I never have before sent out as fine a lot of eggs."

MR. ALBERT LANO'S address is Madison, Minn., not *Wisconsin*, as we erroneously published it.

YOU publish an excellent magazine. It was worth the $1.50. J. Y. STANTON.

PLATE of Water Ouzel's nest just received. It is an interesting picture and a fine premium.
Mingen, O. L. B. GILMORE.

YOUR paper is worth the amount without any premium. ALFRED MIERS.
Walkerville, Ontario.

I HAVE been much pleased with your magazine during the year. E. G. ELLIOT.
Bradford, Mass.

D. D. STONE, of Lansingburg, N. Y., left early in December for Florida, where he will spend several months in collecting.

A SALE has recently been made of Mr. William Dutcher's specimen of the Labrador Duck, we are informed, to Rothschild, the price being $1,000.

I AM sure you would have no difficulty in holding your present subscribers at the price you ask without any premium. F. L. BURNS.
Berwyn, Pa.

MR. RICHARD C. MCGREGOR has gone to Panama on a collecting trip with Dr. Gilbert and several students of Stanford University. The party will be gone three months.

DR. A. G. PRILL, of Sodaville, Ore., has presented his collections of birds, nests, and eggs to the Park Museum, of San Francisco, of which Mr. C. P. Wilcomb is Curator.

J. WARREN JACOBS, of Waynesburg, Pa., writes of THE NIDOLOGIST: "Each number is received and read with pleasure, keeping up my enthusiasm and desire to study Nature's free lessons."

W. W. PRICE'S collection of 2,740 bird skins has been sold to the California Academy of Sciences, supplying very much needed material from the southern border of Arizona and New Mexico.

TO get a dollar from me is the easiest thing in the world. All you have to do is to drop me a postal that my subscription has expired and you will get one every time E. HOUSEMAN.
Calgary, Canada.

GEORGE W. FARGO, JR., of Kaukauna, Wis., writes us that he has noticed the decrease in the number of Bluebirds in his vicinity during several years past. No nests had been discovered in the last four years. A pair of Bluebirds were seen in the spring of 1893, but none in 1895.

"THREE BIRDS, ONE STONE."—Introduce THE NIDOLOGIST to some friend and you accomplish three things: first, you do him a favor; second, you help yourself as a reader in assisting us to increase the support of the magazine and improve it; third, you do us a favor, and thereby show that you appreciate our efforts in the interests of Ornithology and Oölogy.

OFFER EXTRAORDINARY.

A Book of over **400** pages, highly illustrated with over **100** half-tones and photo-engravings, all for a mere trifle. This is all **The Museum** cost for '95. The **second volume,** commencing with the November number, starts off as usual with 21 illustrations, and the December number will contain fully 25. The year's number will contain **over double** the number of illustrations in Volume I, and the text will increase in interest as sure as the age of the journal increases.

While we are not wholly "Ornithological," still the tastes of the editor run in that channel and subscribers can be assured of a good big dollar's worth of "Ornithological News."

We offer you **The Museum** for '96, commencing with the November, '95, number, for **$1.00,** and give you as premium a leather bound copy of my **Ornithologists' and Oologists' Manual,** the **standard** list used by collectors in exchanging. Some of its contents are as follows:

A complete list of all North American Birds, giving prices of their eggs and skins, which are the standard prices used by over four-fifths of the collectors throughout the country. The arrangement is according to the A. O. U. list, and after each name is Ridgway's number. Both Common and Scientific Names are given, in different size type.

A large list of Mammal Skins, with both common and scientific names, and prices of specimens; also of Reptiles.

Then follows a table, giving the approximate number of eggs considered a full set of every family of birds in the U. S. This is of special value to those beginning the study of Oölogy.

Complete and exhaustive directions for making Scientific Bird and Mammal Skins, and preparing specimens for the cabinet. Instructions for collecting, preparing, and preserving birds' eggs and nests, tools needed, various recipes recommended and valuable information about making cabinets for specimens.

Complete list of Taxidermists' Instruments, Supplies, and Requisites. Our noted convex glasses with plush backs, oil paintings and frames to go with same, animal heads, etc.

Oölogists' Instruments and Supplies. Standard prices adopted by most of the well-known Taxidermists throughout the country for mounting birds, making bird skins, mounting mammals, mammal heads, fishes, making rugs, etc. A large and complete list of books, making in all a neat little Manual, 4¾x6¾ inches.

Just the right size to carry in the pocket.

Wrap $1.00 bill up with your order, say you saw it in the "NID" and enclose to

WALTER F. WEBB,

Albion, N. Y., - or, - Keokuk, Iowa,

And "We'll do the rest."

TO WESTERN COLLECTORS.

I have opened an office at 917 Main Street, Keokuk, Iowa, where a complete line of Naturalists' Supplies, books, etc., will be kept in stock at all times. Before sending halfway across the continent write me, addressing simply Keokuk, Iowa, and the matter will have prompt attention. We also shall have in stock at our Western Branch the largest stock of shells, minerals, and fossils ever seen in that section of the country. Give us a trial.

THE NIDOLOGIST

HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

VOL. III

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY.

No. 6 February

CONTENTS.

		PAGE
More about Animal Photography (Illustrated)	Dr. R. W. Shufeldt	57
Whip-poor-will Notes	J. C. Galloway	58
Welcome News of Bluebirds	James P. Stabler	58
Our Grouse Picture—Photograph from Life of Ruffed Grouse		59
Amphibious Experiences	P. M. Silloway	59
NOTES FROM THE FIELD:		
Brünnich's Murre in Oneida County, N. Y.	W. S. Johnson	60
Two Bird Curios	Edmund Heller	60
Abnormal Nest and Eggs	Frank L. Burns	60
A Bluebird Note	C. M. Case	61
Double-crested Cormorant in Indiana	C. C. Bassett	61
A Cat Slays a Kingfisher	H. R. Taylor	61
Duck Hawks of Mt. Tom (Illustrated)	J. Hobart Egbert, M.D.	61
Curious Notes on the Water Ouzel in Montana	A. H. Wheatley	62
The Spirit of the Magazine	E. S. Rolfe	62
Notes and Comments		63
A Thrush's Nest (Poem)	Emma Carleton	63
Dangerous Game to Stalk (Illustrated)		63
THE POUCH FROM COLORADO:		
The Fortunate Possessor of a Set of Grouse Eggs	Will Burnett	64
Where the Killdeer Article Left Us	F. M. D.	64
Our Exchange and Want Department	F. M. D.	64
Some Birds New to Colorado	H. G. Smith	65
Notes From Michigan	Dr. Morris Gibbs	65
Cooper Ornithological Club		66
Tribute to William L. Kells	J. B. P.	66
Recent Publications		67
Editorialettes		68

THE NIDOLOGIST

First of all, the Birds.

A Magazine Devoted to a Popular Knowledge of Animated Nature

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. III. No. 6. NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1896. $1.00 PER YEAR.

More about Animal Photography.

BY DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, M. A. O. U.

IT was last year, I think, that I had something to say in the NIDOLOGIST about the photography of birds, and the great use that first-class photographs of living wild and domestic birds were to the scientific taxidermist and to the zoölogical artist. The progress along such lines is now truly wonderful, and some pictures are being obtained that only a short time ago would have been thought impossible. One of the best things I have seen for some time, and although not an Ornithological subject, is too good to keep, so I place it before the many readers of the NIDOLOGIST, in order that they may enjoy it as much as I have. It is the photograph of a young "jack rabbit" about two thirds the size of life, and was obtained by Mr. H. W. Nash, of Pueblo, Colo., who kindly furnished me with a print from his negative. From this print the accompanying "half-tone" was made—and it is surely a beauty. A recent writer in the *American Journal of Photography* has given us some interesting remarks upon this subject lately. He points to the fact that "naturalists have been doing some clever things by the aid of photography. A Western sportsman has been for years making a collection of photographs of all kinds of wild animals in their native haunts, and many of these pictures, especially of animals about to spring at their intended prey, have been taken under conditions that made the skillful handling of the rifle highly necessary the instant after the camera was snapped. Another enthusiast has devoted himself to photographing the animals of the forest in their nightly wanderings. He would set a wire in the path of the animal he wished to photograph, and adjust the camera so that as the animal came along and made contact with the wire blitz-pulver was ignited, and in the flash which resulted the picture was taken.

YOUNG JACK RABBIT.

"In this way some beautiful specimens of deer in all sorts of attitudes, of mountain lions, badgers, opossums, etc., have been secured, and many new features have been developed of great interest to the naturalist. M. Bontan, the European naturalist, who studies the wild life of the Mediterranean in the garb of a diver, has succeeded in taking some photographs of

the sea bottom. He uses a flash light obtained from a spirit lamp and magnesium powder, which is covered by a water-tight bell jar. The lamp stands on a barrel containing oxygen gas, which he employs to work the lamp and the pneumatic shutter of the camera. He breathes through the supply pipe of the diving dress. The camera is water-tight and stands on a tripod near the barrel, so that the shutter and the flash light can be worked together."

In the future we hope to present not a few results of this character, that will exhibit the work of American and foreign naturalists elsewhere.

Whip=poor=will Notes.

WHILE sitting on a stump, before daylight on May 1, 1895, I listened to the bird voices that came to me from the hillsides and ravines that surrounded me. Silent within myself, and soothed by the twilight and the breath of the night wind that swept softly through the trees; breathing the fragrance of the forest, those subtle odors of budding and blooming life, of wild plum blossoms and the pink-tinted blooms of the wild crab, that pearl among our wild fruit trees; the spicy perfume of the ferns that grew in rank profusion on the steep slopes beside me; the scented breath from herb and shrub and tree, breaking forth into *riant* growth at the call of April's sun and showers—it seemed the little forest glen was almost a paradise. High overhead could be heard the voices of Martins as they circled through the darkness, while from every direction, trembling through the "dim aisles of the woods," came the songs of the Whip-poor-wills. In the midst of these beautiful surroundings, the prosaic notebook and pencil were busy.

At first all songs heard were the usual ones of the Whip-poor-wills; soon after, from a neighboring ravine, came a song so remarkable that my attention was instantly directed toward it. It resembled the ordinary song in all respects, except in having between each "whip-poor-will" a "cluck," sounding as though a dry log was struck by a tack hammer. I soon found that the "cluck" followed the phrase, but was nearest the following, thus: "Whip-poor-will—cluck; whip-poor-will—cluck; whip-poor-will," etc.

This was about four o'clock. Soon after, a Whip-poor-will lit just opposite me, in the top of a dead tree which spanned the ravine. A moment's silence, and then began the song above described. Searching the place as carefully as I could with an opera glass, I could see no trace of the singer, though the gray outlines of the log and the dead branches were fairly distinct. After singing for some time, he suddenly ceased. Then came what was to me a most extraordinary performance. There came a continuous stream of low guttural notes, resembling "kaw-kaw-kaw-kaw-kaw-kaw," etc., with occasional harsh notes, "kuk-uk-uk-uk," almost "kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk," interspersed without interfering with the regular utterance of the "kaw" notes. Then with a few "quirts," the bird flew over the hill and disappeared in the next ravine.

It was a curious performance, one I have never seen described, and have never heard before nor since. Was it a love song of general occurrence in the mating season, or was this the performance of some erratic individual whose abilities led him out of the usual line?

The alarm note, "quirt," above mentioned, is commonly heard both from the ground and as the bird flies in easy curves through the trees and underbrush.

The flight of the Whip-poor-will is strikingly like that of its near relative, the Nighthawk; and though performed in a maze of trees and underbrush, it is remarkably easy and graceful.

After all Whip-poor-wills had ceased singing, I spent a couple of hours studying Warbler songs; and then, tired, hungry, and a trifle sleepy, walked up the ravine into which my singer had disappeared. A pair of Whip-poor-wills flew up and alighted on an old log. They were male and female, and, so far as I could see, did not differ in the least from the general run of Whip-poor-wills. J. C. GALLOWAY.

Montgomery, O.

Welcome News of Bluebirds.

THE following letter has been received by Mr. Ridgway, Curator of the Department of Birds in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, who kindly places it in our hands as an interesting and welcome piece of news:

SANDY SPRING, Montgomery County, Md., December 14, 1895.

ROBERT RIDGWAY, ESQ., Smithsonian Institution.

DEAR SIR: While driving a few days ago, some miles north of Washington, my son, who was with me, exclaimed: "Look *at* the Bluebirds!" There were, perched on telegraph wires and flying about, at least twenty-five birds; and a few miles farther on we saw another smaller flock of perhaps half a dozen. My son suggested that they might be visitors from Florida; he has been observing them with increasing frequency for months past. It was a

very welcome sight to see so many of our gentle, large-eyed little friends, and gives promise of a more speedy restocking of this region than we thought possible after the havoc of the blizzard of last winter. Very truly,

JAMES P. STABLER.

Our Grouse Picture.

ISN'T this a "snap?" From a photographic point of view a remarkable one, certainly, and for the naturalist one could hardly find a photograph of greater interest—portraying so

RUFFED GROUSE ON NEST.
(Photographed from life.)

beautifully this living Ruffed Grouse in the woods, faithfully covering her eggs, which she would not leave, although the camera was placed within *four feet* of her beak!

Dr. J. B. Cook took this fine picture by gradually accustoming the bird to his presence day after day. Note how closely the tail resembles the bark of the tree, as if an instance of protective coloration. Dr. Cook is to be congratulated on this picture, which it gives us pleasure here to present to the public.

W. S. COBLEIGH, of Los Angeles, Cal., writes, regarding the brief *Avifauna:* "The Eagles' eggs due me from *Avifauna* have undoubtedly hatched ere this—think I saw them fly over last week."

Amphibious Experiences.

BY P. M. SILLOWAY.

WE all remember with interest the plays and amusements of our early childhood days, and perhaps most of the readers of the NIDOLOGIST have played propounding conundrums; therefore if I should ask any of you to spell "land and water with three letters," you would immediately say, "O, that's easy: M-u-d." Though mud was an element of wide and deep proportions encountered in the experiences vaguely outlined in the following paragraphs, I have chosen to use the more euphonious and dignified term written in the title; trusting that the memory of early days will enable the reader to fathom my meaning. Truly the mud is a great drawback to the pleasures of a day in the swamps, but the discouragements in the way of the earnest collector can usually be shaken off, and even though we should happen to carry home a shoe full of the amphibious material along with the basket of treasured specimens gathered from under the drooping flags and among the scented lilies, we can empty it out at our leisure, remembering the time-honored adage, "All things come to those who wade."

In my limited experience as a student of bird ways nothing has given me more pleasure than to visit the swamps and find the homes of birds which are little known in the districts not forming parts of the bottom lands of rivers or bordering the larger lakes. The upland collector in his native range has little opportunity to acquaint himself with the forms and sounds which render the swamps so alluring to his eyes and ears on his first visits to the haunts of the water birds. It is no wonder that the novice tramps over the same soft, yielding ground day after day, or forces his way laboriously among the flags which terminate his horizon a few feet from his head, and whose tangled stems often cause him to execute a semblance to the Highland Fling in his efforts to preserve his balance and his fragile specimens. Who can blame the enthusiastic amateur for collecting a basket of eggs of a recently known species, even though they are only Coots and Grebes, and quite worthless either in his cabinet or on the market? In the eyes of us egg cranks each newly found nest has new features of attraction, though we have found dozens of the same in the course of the day. Isn't it strange how much nicer a set of eggs in a newly found nest looks than the eggs of the same species we have just gathered and placed carefully in our baskets? And of course we are tempted to take the last set because it looks so tempting and the eggs appear so fine and fresh. Isn't it worth

the while of a landsman to wade thigh deep in water above six inches of mud, and with yards of moss trailing after his tripping feet, if he can add a coveted set of eggs to his collection of a species he never sees except when he visits the swamps? I should feel myself unworthy the name of egg crank were I to complain of having to stand in water up to my middle while I ate my lunch (always too small on such occasions), knowing that just beyond among the reed stems was a fine set of Least Bittern awaiting my progress.

I suppose that most of the readers of the NIDOLOGIST have enjoyed the pleasurable experience of parting the intervening flags as quietly as possible in order to surprise the tenant of a nest seen in hazy outline among the stems in advance. It is no unusual thing to find the King Rail in her canopied home sitting contentedly in the shadow of the reedy walls of her nest, and the first view of her brown outline will amply repay the enthusiastic Ornithologist for the labor necessary to reach her at home. If he is not overimpatient, she will give him ample time to impress on his mind a picture which he will afterward recall with continued interest. She does not care for the fact that he is only three feet away and bending over her with mouth open wide enough to engulf her, and eyes standing out far enough to warrant his being classified with the stalk-eyed animals for the time. She is not frightened, but interested, and the look of inquiry plainly manifested in her frank countenance tells us that she wonders what sort of creature we can be. But those eggs under her are a magnet which draws us irresistibly nearer, and now suspecting danger she glides forward and downward and disappears among the flag stems. And now we count the extent of the prize, carefully marking each egg on the side least richly colored. We are not allowed to make our capture without protestation, however, for Mrs. King (it should certainly be Queen) Rail has not gone far from the scene and now manifests her presence quite openly, frequently stepping out from behind a tuft of flags to angrily utter her cry, and then slinking behind another tuft, through whose separated stems we can trace her excited movements. I have said her title should be the Queen Rail, for she is without doubt the head of the family, and without her the name King would be rather inappropriate. It is she who takes forcible possession of the homes of her meek neighbors, the Gallinules, and it is she who defends her home so spiritedly when it is invaded, so I respectfully submit that the King Rail is more a king by marriage than in his own right.

(*To be continued.*)

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: A female Brünnich's Murre was killed at White Lake, Oneida County, N. Y., December 13, 1895. These birds seem to have become quite common in the northern part of this State the past few years.

W. S. JOHNSON.

Boonville, N. Y.

* * * *

Two Bird Curios.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: Last week I secured two Ornithological abnormities, of the existence of one of which I know of no parallel instance. On the sixth instant I secured a female Western Yellow-throat which had the upper mandible curved to the side and downward, as in the genus *Loxia*. Notwithstanding the deformity in bill, the bird was in excellent condition, and its stomach contained several larvæ and a few small beetles. On the following day I took a Californian Towhee that exhibited two distinct bars on its tail. The first bar is about fifteen hundredths of an inch in width, and crosses the tail obliquely just beyond the tips of the under tail coverts. Its color is whitish, and is more distinct than the other, which crosses the tail an inch below the first—its color is tawny, and it is not exhibited on the under side of the tail. Last month we were visited by some stragglers from southern Arizona. On the second of November two male Vermilion Flycatchers were observed along the Santa Ana River, near here, one of which was taken.

EDMUND HELLER.

Riverside, Cal., December 9, 1895.

* * * *

Abnormal Nest and Eggs.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: On June 10, 1895, I collected a nest and four eggs of the Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) near the edge of an open grove, the eggs of which are notable, being equal in size to many eggs of the Brown Thrasher. They measure 1.04x.77, 1.05x.78, 1.04x.78, and 1.04x .77. The markings are not unlike those found on the typical egg of the latter bird, being free from the usual gray and lilac shell markings,

but retaining that fresh and beautiful blush characteristic of the Towhee, and which, in this case, is the chief differentiation. The nest is also of an extraordinary diameter, 5.75, in contrast to 3.00 inches, outside measurements of another nest collected the same season.

Berwyn, Pa. FRANK L. BURNS.

* * * *

A Bluebird Note.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: I recorded a Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) to-day here in the city. Weather clear and warm. More Bluebirds were heard flying North.

C. M. CASE.

Hartford, Conn., December 22, 1895.

* * * *

Double-crested Cormorant in Indiana.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: On Thanksgiving Day last a Double-crested Cormorant was collected by Mr. F. E. Earle, of this city, on the banks of Walnut Creek, two miles from Greencastle. The bird was full size, winter plumage, and was alone. It is the second one that has been reported from this State. Yours respectfully,

C. C. BASSETT.

Greencastle, Ind.

LEAST SANDPIPERS and various Sparrows that frequent small marshy sloughs on the shore of Alameda, Cal., have a singular enemy in a domestic cat, which hunts for them successfully with an utter disregard for ooze and salt water. We have seen this stealthy hunter returning from a foray covered with black mud. A Belted Kingfisher which frequented the rafters under the Bayfarm Island bridge, in that vicinity, was caught and killed one day in the presence of the writer by a cat whose ordinary diet was fish. The bird was motionless, eyeing the water for its prey, when it fell under the cat's eye and got scooped.

MOST people know what a "dead" advertisement is. It is dead because it no longer pays, having become "flat, stale, and unprofitable," yet is continued to be published by an editor to "fill up." None of that sort are carried in this magazine—we haven't the space. Our advertising solicitor clipped an "ad" from a sportsman's magazine the other day, and, scenting a contract, went on a hunt for the advertiser. He didn't find him. The man had been dead two years. Unnecessary to state that the "ad" was very dead.

"BABBITT" has got up a new drill. It will be as popular as his wonderful auxiliary barrel when fully introduced. Like all great things, it's a wonder no one ever thought of it before.

I RECEIVED the NIDOLOGIST to-day and was very much pleased with it, and it will be worth to me $5 a year. R. W. MATHEWS.

St. Paul, Minn.

Duck Hawks of Mount Tom.

IN an article in *Popular Science News* (to whose courtesy we are indebted for the accompanying illustration) Dr. J. Hobart Egbert says:

Mount Tom, in Hampshire County, Mass., has been the birthplace of many broods of

DUCK HAWK.

young Duck Hawks. Indeed, it is the opinion of the writer that at least one pair of this species of Falcon has nested on the rocky ledges of this picturesque mountain each year for many decades. This opinion is founded upon personal observation and the knowledge of sets of eggs which have been taken from the shelves that now exist and have long existed on its almost perpendicular sides. In recent years the writer has never failed to locate a nest when exploring this mountain during the nesting period; and others, in still earlier years, have demonstrated the preference of the Duck Hawk for this mountain as a nesting site.

The nest of the Duck Hawk is not easily located by one unaccustomed to the work. Missiles may be hurled from the summit of the cliff, and may even strike the rocks in close proximity to the ledge which shelters the nesting bird, but ordinarily she cannot be driven from her retreat until some approaching body warns her of imminent danger. Her courage is almost invincible. When driven from the eyrie,

both birds may quickly rise in the air and pass rapidly beyond the limit of human vision; and then, with almost incredible velocity, swoop down in close proximity to the invading party.

The portion of Mount Tom usually chosen as the nesting site is on the western exposure of the mountain, about one third the distance from the abrupt southern extremity of the mountain to where the Connecticut River cuts its way through the range at the foot of Mount Nonotuck. Here the side of the mountain is rocky and precipitous, extending almost perpendicularly downward for about three hundred and fifty feet, and then making a more sloping descent to the plain below. Only those whose heads are clear and limbs steady may venture to stand with safety on the edge of this cliff and gaze upon the rocks and trees at the foot of the mountain.

Curious Notes on the Water Ouzel in Montana.

IN sending to the NIDOLOGIST the following interesting observations, Mr. A. H. Wheatley writes: That beautiful Ouzel's nest, figured in your September number, has moved me to send an extract from my note-book:

MIDDLE STILLWATER LAKE, Mont., January 10, 1895.

Yesterday spent some time watching a Water Ouzel who frequents the rapid, shallow water at the outlet of the lake just opposite our camp. He was sitting on a point of ice projecting from the shore; feathers all fluffy, and every minute or so, with a flirt of his wings, down he would go, head first, to the bottom, where he would run along a short way on the rocks and then bob up like a piece of cork. If he had found something tender, he would swallow it on the swim and then dive again with another wing flirt, but once every little while he would get hold of a water snail, or something with a shell, in which case the instant his head came to the surface, he would flap his wings, rise from the water and reach the ice in a few flaps, where he would drop his prey, peck the shell to pieces, eat the contents, maybe take a drink and then dart in again. Sometimes instead of diving in head first, he would jump in breast first and swim around awhile before diving. Some time ago I saw him on a small, semisubmerged rock in the riffles, going over the same performances, but in this case he invariably came up facing and close to the rock as though he had turned round in the water and climbed up the submerged portion to the surface. Some days he seems restless and flies along the river shore, drops into the water with a splash at short intervals, swims around and dives for a while, possibly wades a little close inshore or near shelving rocks, and then rises from the water or rock for another short flight. Often, on fine, clear days, and sometimes even cloudy days, he will sit on a rock or ice floe and pour forth his rich, gurgling notes, though I notice some of them seem a trifle harsh or guttural. The majority of the notes are clear and melodious, however, and the harshness may not be there in the spring. The bird is very tame and unsuspicious.

While fishing for trout this fall from a large, rounded bowlder, surrounded by water, below the rapids—I had been watching an otter and was standing very still, fish pole in hand—an Ouzel came to the bowlders and proceeded to dive, swim, wade, and sing; so when the otter disappeared I watched the Ouzel.

He came close to me, not five feet away, and after eyeing me inquisitively a little while, flew on to my fish pole, and getting bolder, seeing I stood perfectly still, preened his feathers a little, then hopped along the pole toward my hand, stopping sidewise every hop or two to eye me, until finally he was within a foot of my hand. He stayed there a little while, then flew off, did some more diving, singing, etc., and finally coming round to me again, concluded to investigate once more. He flew on my fish pole again and repeated his previous performance, coming even closer this time, and then flew off and hunted some more dinner, while I proceeded to try and get a fish for mine, otherwise he might have come again.

A. H. WHEATLEY.

The Spirit of the Magazine.

MR. EUGENE S. ROLFE, in a recent letter, so tersely defines the sort of magazine we have tried to publish, with our readers' generous help, that we here print it in full:

"I like the NIDOLOGIST thoroughly. Aside from its wealth of illustrations, its good, honest paper, and its typographical appearance, I like its kindly, genial tone—its *gentlemanly* tone—and feel thankful that the matter furnished covers that distinctly great field midway between that which appeals to the merest tyro bent on a 'collection,' and that which is prodigiously heavy or insufferably dull."

So They All Say.

TO-DAY I received the premiums, and must say they are excellent, especially the photos. Accept my thanks for the same. H. W. BEERS.
Bridgeport, Conn.

THE NIDOLOGIST is indeed a fine paper, and every word it contains is of interest to the Oölogist.
New Vineland, Me. W. A. LEE.

Notes and Comments.

DAVID STARR JORDAN, President of Stanford University, was elected President of the California Academy of Sciences January 6. Dr. H. H. Harkness had been the incumbent of the office for many years.

AT SPIERS' nursery, in the western suburbs of Visalia, Cal., a Valley Quail has taken up with a flock of guinea hens, and has been making itself at home with them ever since last spring. The Quail roams over the orchard with the guinea hens all day, and at night roosts in a tree with them.

WHEN does the nesting season close and when begin? Bald Eagles nest in December in Florida, and we have just received the information that a nest and two fresh eggs of Anna's Hummingbird were taken by A. I. McCormick at Los Angeles, Cal., on December 21, 1895. This is the earliest (or latest?) record of this bird's breeding.

WE read in a late number of *Field Sports* San Francisco, that the fishermen on the bay catch many Ducks in their fishing nets. It is claimed that in shallow water, where the Ducks go to the bottom to feed, they are caught and entangled in the drift nets of the fishermen, only to be taken out when the net has been landed. These drowned Ducks are quite plentiful in the markets.

A Thrush's Nest.

(WRITTEN FOR THE NIDOLOGIST.)

FAR from this clay-built cup the soul is gone—
Here broken twig and ragged fiber lie;
But with dear fancy's wing my thought flits on
Through arch of woodland green and sunny sky.

There—though in rigid boughs chill winter grieves,
And barren every shrine of joy may be,
Still broods a golden bird among the leaves—
Still floats a hymn of lover's ecstasy.

EMMA CARLETON.

New Albany, Ind.

A. W. ANTHONY writes: "I congratulate you on the improved cover for the NIDOLOGIST, also on the other improvements. I was pleased to meet the A. O. U. members, also the editor of the Colorado Department. I'd know him by that smile anywhere. But what is the matter with that port ear? He looks as if he were listening to a Burrowing Owl down a deep hole."

Dangerous Game to Stalk.

NOT a pleasant fellow to meet on a lonely road of a dark night. This rhinoceros was seen by a native hunter employed by Fekete (Dr. Emil Holub's companion on an African journey), fast asleep under a tree. Noiselessly approaching, he climbed into another tree, and put several bullets into him before he could rise. When cut up, the great ungulate required eight strong men to bring him into camp.

TWO-HORNED BLACK RHINOCEROS.

In South Africa, in 1866 (at which place and time the editor of this magazine first saw the light, and soon thereafter held the important official position in Cape Town of town *crier*), the soggy, swampy woodlands were punctured with the tracks, nearly a foot deep, of the rhinoceros. M. S. Taylor, then a youth of nineteen, started out one fine day with a shotgun and bird shot to slay one of these big two-horned terrors. The intrepid youth found following rhinoceros tracks hard work, and fortunately did not come up with one.

Colorado.

(Department Edited by Frederick M. Dille, 406 McPhee Building, Denver, Colo.)

The Fortunate Possessor of a Set of Grouse Eggs.—Will Burnett.
Where the Killdeer Article Left Us.
Our Exchange and Want Department.
More of Smith's List. F. M. DILLE, responsible.

FORTUNATE indeed is the person who stumbles on to a nest of the Dusky Grouse. Such a find is more the result of accident than of any methodical search.

During the summer months young Grouse and older birds are readily found throughout the mountains at our higher altitudes, but when it comes to finding the various nests from which all these broods came, that is another matter.

From my own experience in looking for these nests I have concluded that most of the broods are hatched back from the valleys, on the tops of the ridges and higher levels, the old hen taking her brood to the low valley and vicinity of the creek as soon as they are able to travel.

This gathering of the birds along the valleys gives one an impression that they are very plentiful, but one must allow for each brood thus seen a part of the large number of square miles of terrritory adjacent to the valley, with its many timbered ridges, shaded spring holes, and smaller water courses (as well as a vertical range of from one thousand to two thousand feet to overcome); and would you not rather take the chance of stumbling on the nest accidently than to undertake this contract?

* * * *

DURING the past summer Mr. Will Burnett, of Fort Collins, had the good luck to find a nest with nine eggs of the Dusky Grouse, the circumstances of which he has sent me for the NIDOLOGIST. He writes as follows: "I was taking a rest from business and 'doing time' on a ranch near Manhattan, Larimer County, the latter part of May, and had resolved that if there was a Grouse's nest in that vicinity I would have it. I was making particular search along the north slope of a heavily timbered mountain, where my ranch friend had seen several of the birds at different times during the spring. After a few days I thought there was no place of concealment on that mountain which I had not peered into, and I changed my base of operations to another mountain farther away.

"Commencing May 29, and continuing for over a week, we had a severe spell of cold weather and a considerable fall of snow, which was not entirely gone from the north slopes until the middle of June. Shortly after this I was passing along the side of my first mountain, where I had been several times before, and in a dark nook under two logs my eye caught the outlines of several light-colored eggs; had the bird been on the nest I could imagine it possible not to see her, for the contrast between her plumage and the dull bark on the logs would not have been so great as that then apparent between the deserted eggs and their surroundings.

"The nest was but a hollow in the end of dry pine needles that covered the ground, lined with a few dry aspen leaves, and well secreted under two logs lying crosswise, all under the branches of a small pine. The locality was well grown up to dwarf pines and aspen trees. The eggs were all addled except two, which were slightly incubated. In color I should call them a creamy buff, some of the eggs being lighter than others, and all finely dotted from end to end with a rich brown. The spots are larger on some than on others, but the distribution is quite even. The eggs have an ovate form, and one is a decided short ovate, like the eggs of the Quail. The measurements of the nine eggs in inches are as follows: 1.88x1.35, 1.82x1.34, 1.86x1.32, 1.89x1.33, 1.88x1.35, 1.85x1.31, 1.89x1.34, 1.87x1.32, and 1.85x1.38.

"WILL L. BURNETT."

* * * *

ONE of the most impressive articles that has been in the recent issues of this journal was that of H. R. T.'s, in the September number, on the Killdeer. It was as true to life as the illustration which appeared with it. And yet in one way the article must be condemned. We all follow the writer as he leads us through "every stage of the game." His experiences are just like ours! The most exasperating birds "that ever lived!" and now, is he really going to tell us how at last he did outwit the bird and find the eggs? But no! our sympathies have been trifled with, and we are left on the verge of some secret revelation, with nothing but the bitter memory of some hot, dusty afternoon in our past, a fruitless search over a dazzling stretch of sand, and that rasping "kill-dee," "kill-dee" still piercing our brain.

We have secreted ourselves behind a barb-wire fence and oggled the lenses out of our opera glasses. We have gone on about our business and accidentally returned to the spot later. But will some one, please, who has had the pleasure of inducing Mrs. Vocifera to reveal her collection of eggs, let us know how it was done, so we can "score one" more on our list of triumphs? F. M. D.

* * * *

I WOULD like to book a few orders for some skins of the Ute Indian (*Anti soapæ*) in fall plumage. These Rocky Mountain Vultures are fast becoming extinct, and you should fill your cabinet while the opportunity is open. Address TOM A. HAWK,
Lodge Pole, Bates's Hole.

Some Birds New to Colorado.

With Notes on Others of Little Known Distribution in the State.

by horace g. smith.

(*Continued.*)

Ajaja ajaja, Roseate Spoonbill.—A specimen in very worn plumage was brought in for mounting about August 8, 1890, said to have been taken near Pueblo.

Guara alba, White Ibis.—In 1890 one was shot at Barr Lake, on the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, east of Denver. I believe it has not been previously recorded.

Plegadis guarauna, White-faced Glossy Ibis.—Occasionally reported by sportsmen. I have examined at least four specimens, three of which came from Marston's Lake, the other from the vicinity of Pueblo. Other specimens have been purchased in the market.

Ardea candidissima, Snowy Heron.—One shot at Marston's Lake in the fall of 1887 has been examined, and several others are reported as having been shot at same place.

Nycticorax nycticorax nævius, Black-crowned Night Heron.—An additional specimen was shot on the Platte River, about three miles below Denver, May 15, 1889.

Philohela minor, American Woodcock.—Two further records of this species have come under my notice.

The first was seen during the fall of 1887 by Mr. John Bentley, crouching by a pool of water by the railroad track, near Boulder. Mr. Bentley is well acquainted with the bird, and assures me there could be no mistake in the identity. A more recent one was shot near Fort Lupton, and mounted by Mr. Todenwarth.

Micropalama himantopus, Stilt Sandpiper.—An additional record is one shot by Mr. Dean W. Park, in the fall of 1888, at a small lake in South Denver.

Calidris arenaria, Sanderling.—May 16, 1888, I examined a recently mounted specimen shot at Sloan's Lake but a few days before.

Charadrius squatarola, Black-bellied Plover.—Saw a specimen at the curio store of E. P. Fortune in this city. It was also a young bird, like the original one recorded (*Auk*, Vol. III, No. 2), and was said to have been taken in Colorado some time prior to 1887.

Arenaria interpres, Turnstone.—An adult was shot at Sloan's Lake April 26, 1890, and mounted by Mr. Todenwarth. I believe it has not been previously recorded.

Columba faciata, Bandtailed Pigeon.—In the fall of 1887 Mr. John Bentley, who is something of a naturalist sportsman, told me of his experiences with some Pigeons at Dome Rock, on the Denver and Southern Pacific Railroad, in Platte Canyon. He said that the birds used to roost near his camp, but as he had a rifle only he did not shoot any of them. The following summer he promised to look out for them, and his search was rewarded with the capture of several specimens, some of which were young birds evidently reared in the vicinity. The locality abounds in scrub oak, and the birds may have been attracted by the acorns.

(*To be continued.*)

Notes From Michigan.

(Department Edited by Dr. Morris Gibbs, Kalamazoo, Mich.)

IN issuing monthly notes from Michigan, the editor of the Nidologist has fully considered the requirements of his readers. The Great Lake Region, as a whole, is well summed up in this centrally located State, and observations will be of interest to all. It is hoped that notes of worth to the readers will be sent in.

A recent issue of the *American Field* contains an article on an outing on the St. Mary's River, and refers to the Bay-breasted and Blue Warblers in that region, and to the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, as if these rare summer birds were common in northern Michigan. Notes from the pens of angling outers are rarely to be relied upon, as it will be found that everything, good and bad, goes in to fill space.

An article on the Passenger Pigeon in the November number of the *Chautauquan* is remarkably well written. It is from the pen of Simon Pokagon, an educated full-blooded Indian, Chief of the Pottawatomies. Many interesting points are touched upon, and the nesting habits are described with the clearness which could not result from an attempt by an unobservant writer. Among other points he describes the clutch as a single egg, which agrees with the observation of all reliable collectors in the Great Lake Region. Chief Pokagon denounces the exterminators of the Wild Pigeon and other game, and especially does he speak severely of the netters. The article is the best that I have ever read from an Indian, and the style, though simple, but the better expresses the research and observation of a reliable, thoughtful child of the forest. Every Ornithologist should read it. It could not be improved upon.

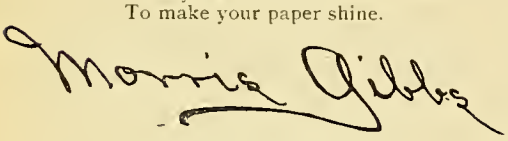
The second annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Sciences was held at Lansing, December 26–27, 1895. Fifteen papers were read, of which two were upon the subject of birds. Mr. L. Whitney Watkins presented "Michigan

Birds that Nest in Open Meadows," and Professor Walter B. Barrows gave a paper upon "Food Habits of Michigan Birds." A new section of Conchology was formed. It is to be hoped that this science will receive the support which was denied the section of Ornithology. No compiled report was made upon our birds, and the selected subject for the past season, the Warblers, was utterly neglected. Whether the subject was too little understood, or that the observers had no time to devote to the season's specialty, will not be known.

To the writer of this little rhyme
The pleasing honor fell
Of naming NID(I)OLOGIST;
Yet critics now will tell
Of scratching out one of my (I's),
Perhaps it's just as well.

They say the words are hybrid, and
Poke fun at my name,
But that's no matter when we think
That critics' views are tame;
It "cuts no ice" with most of us,
If our science is the same.

NIDOLOGIST or Nid(i)ol—
The magazine is fine,
Long may success attend your work
In our selected line;
And may we strive with one accord
To make your paper shine.



Cooper Ornithological Club.

DECEMBER MEETING.

THE Club convened at San José, Cal., December 7. The following publications were reported as having been received from the Department of Agriculture and added to the Club library: *The Crow Blackbirds and Their Food* and *The Common Crow of the U. S.* Proposed amendments to the constitution were read and ordered submitted to a Club vote. The evening was given to the discussion of plans for systematic Club work.

The Annex met at Pasadena, November 25, at the residence of Joseph Grinnell. The following were elected to membership in the Club: M. L. Wicks, Jr., R. L. Garnier, and Otto J. Zahn, of Los Angeles. Club work was the subject of the evening's discussion.

JANUARY MEETING.

The Northern Division of the Club met at San José, January 4, in regular session. The amendments submitted to vote were carried, the result being that two coördinate divisions of the Cooper Ornithological Club are established for the better facilitation of study, to be known as the Northern and Southern Divisions respectively. The Club in its entirety is to be known as the Club-at-Large. The following members were elected at the meeting of the Northern Division: Miss Hattie E. Wilson and Claude Fyfe, of San Francisco. The annual election of officers for 1896 resulted as follows: President, Walter E. Bryant, Oakland, Cal.; Vice President, W. H. Osgood, San José, Cal.; Secretary, C. Barlow, Santa Clara, Cal., and Treasurer, R. S. Wheeler, Alameda, Cal. A paper from Henry B. Kaeding, of Amador County, on the Water Ouzel was read. In Eldorado County in December, 1893, an Ouzel was noted on the river, and Mr. Kaeding describes its performance as follows: "The river at this point was quite narrow—barely seventy-five feet wide—deep, and swift, but the bird easily breasted the current, and occasionally would swim quite rapidly up stream. From time to time it would dive, going down head foremost. The water was clear as crystal and we could follow the Ouzel quite plainly under water, although we were not near enough to see whether or not it used its wings when diving. It did not dive deeper than four or five feet, making the dive by a series of 'jumps' or spurts of apparently six or eight inches each. It would then turn and come up like a cork, apparently without effort. A shot from the rifle scared the bird, and it made off up stream leaving no doubt as to its identity. Notes from others on this subject would be appreciated." The Northern Division meets at Berkeley, February 1.

The Southern Division met at Los Angeles, December 30, a good representation being present. A motion was carried providing for the collection of a scientific library for this division. The annual election of officers of the Southern Division resulted as follows: President, W. B. Judson; Vice President, M. L. Wicks, Jr., and Secretary-Treasurer, Horace A. Gaylord. Mr. A. I. McCormick, of Los Angeles, was elected to membership in the Club. The Southern Division will meet at the residence of Mr. W. B. Judson, Highland Park, January 27.

Tribute to William L. Kells.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: I was pleased to see the face of William L. Kells adorning one of the pages of the NIDOLOGIST. He was an old contributor to the *O. and O.* I wish I could be with "that old straw hat" in the woods for a stroll.

Long may he live to scatter his notes and observations among us, from field and forest, like the fragrance of sweet-scented flowers, or the beautiful songs of the birds, which he so dearly loves. J. B. P.

Plymouth, Mich.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to Dr R. W. Shufeldt, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

Publications Received.

Rotzell, W. E. *Birds of Narberth, Pa., and Vicinity.* 8vo. Pp. 1–8. 1895. [From the author.]

Kirkwood, F. C. *A List of The Birds of Maryland.* Reprint from the Trans. Maryland Acad. Sciences. 8vo. 1895. Pp. 241–382. [From the author.]

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. No. XXX, November 30, 1895. [From the secretary.]

Rotzell: *Birds of Narberth, Pa., and Vicinity*, is a list of the species recorded by the author for the whole of Montgomery County, Pa. It appeared first, in part, in a paper of Narberth, in June, 1895, and eventually was put forth by Dr. Rotzell in its present form. It is a neatly printed little pamphlet of eight pages, on good paper, and in clear type. Both the land and water birds are given; there being one hundred and eight species in all recorded, representing observations extending over three years of time. Apparently the nomenclature of the *A. O. U. Check-List* has been adopted, and brief notes upon the less abundant species are given, the more extensive ones being drawn from the work done on Pennsylvania birds by Stone and by Warren. Published lists of birds, such as the one here being noticed, always have a certain use and value, even if the area explored be only a limited one. They become decidedly more so, however, if the authors of them will take the pains to preface the list in any case with a few highly important facts that are absolutely essential for the reader to have before him. For example, the exact limits of the area explored should be given; the latitude and longitude of its center; its physical characteristics; its climate; and how thickly settled it may be by people. Dr. Rotzell has omitted all of these considerations in his list, and consequently greatly restricted the use it would otherwise have had for Ornithologists at large.

R. W. S.

Kirkwood: *A List of the Birds of Maryland* is a very excellent piece of work, and one greatly needed. This list was published in Baltimore (1895), being extracted from the Transactions of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, and its author is particular to say that in it will be found the dates of arrival and departure of the birds regularly occurring within the State of Maryland, as well as their periods of nesting; stragglers and such others as no doubt occur, but are not recorded, are also fully referred to. The list is compiled from the author's field work (January 1, 1881–95), taken in connection with much material assistance, which he duly acknowledges.

The situation of Maryland, as well as its physical features, climate, etc., are all dwelt upon in the introduction with sufficient fullness to render the list of value to the student of Ornithology in any part of the world. Both the nomenclature and classification adopted is that put forth by the American Ornithologists' Union, while under each and every species recorded are given notes of greater or less extent, ranging from a line or two to nearly a page. At the close of the paper we find *addenda* and *errata* added, as well as an "Index" to the scientific, popular, and local Maryland names for the birds, and a list of the books used by the author in his work. I find no summing up in this paper, as, for example, (1) the total number of birds *known* to occur in Maryland as compared with the number known to occur in the United States; (2) the total number of "stragglers," and (3) the total number of those that no doubt occur, but are not recorded. A "synoptical table" should have been made arranging all such data for the reader's use and convenience of the student. What would also have given the work still greater value would have been a good map of the State, and a few outline sectional maps passing through the highest mountains and deepest valleys. Upon these maps should be given the areas occupied by certain characteristic species, and elevations at which others have been captured, or at which they are known to occur or breed. On the State map could also be shown such areas of the State as stand most in need of further exploration and examination; and the areas most thoroughly gone over by the Ornithologist. Apart from such omissions as are here pointed out, this list of *The Birds of Maryland*, which Mr. Kirkwood has given us, is an extremely useful one, and doubtless will long remain the standard upon which future lists will be built and compiled, and so is a contribution to American Ornithology of decided value.

R. W. S.

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. About thirty members and visitors were present at the twenty-ninth meeting of this Club, which was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, London, on the 20th of November, 1895. President Sclater was in the chair, and opened the meeting with some interesting remarks upon a fine specimen of the Spotted Redshank (*Totanus fuscus*) now living at the London Zoölogical Garden, it being the first individual they had ever had in captivity there. Dr. Sclater likewise announced that in view of the large amount of work the distinguished Italian Ornithologist, Dr. E. H. Giglioli, "had done in American Ornithology, the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution had kindly agreed to publish, in the *Bulletin of the United States National Museum*, a complete bibliography of his published writings from 1844 to 1894, inclusive. The MS of this volume, which was already in type, had been prepared under his superintendence by Mr. G. A. Doubleday. The list contained the titles of 1,239 publications, many of which, however, were short notes and notices." Following this announcemen Mr. Howard Saunders gave a brief sketch of the proceedings at the International Congress recently held at Paris to consider the legislation necessary for the protection of birds useful to agriculture, to which he had been accredited as the delegate of the British government, with Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P. Sir Herbert also gave an interesting account of the diplomatic work of the Congress. Several other interesting papers were read, as the one by Professor Menzbier, describing a new Goose; one by Dr. J. von Madarosz, of the Hungarian National Museum, from whom some photographs were received of a nest of the Chimney Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) built in a curious position among the hanging branches of a vine. Dr. Blanford showed that the two Sarus Cranes of the Indian Region were distinct species, and Mr. Pearson exhibited specimens of the downy nestlings of Bewick's Swan, Bean Goose, Common Eider, Gray Plover, Turnstone, Dunlin, and Temminck's Stint. He also brought for exhibition a beautiful series of the eggs of Brünnich's Guillemot. R W. S.

THE NIDOLOGIST.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE
DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF
ORNITHOLOGY,
With Special Reference to the
NIDIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

H. R. TAYLOR, Editor and Publisher,
Associated with DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS.

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast.

Subscription (in advance), ... $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage.)
Single Copies, ... 15 cents
Remit bills, money order, draft, or check.
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired.

OUR AGENTS.

SWANN & Co., 1 & 2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E. C.

CALIFORNIA—C. BARLOW, of Santa Clara, is our agent, and can receive subscriptions, advertisements, furnish terms, papers, etc.

COLORADO—FREDERICK M. DILLE, 406 McPhee Building, Denver, is our accredited agent for the middle West.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION,
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

Entered at the New York Post Office as mail matter of the second class

MORE pages and pictures? Why, yes, and more than ever about our birds. That is the road we are traveling.

So many compliments on our new cover, etc., fairly overcome us. The paper belongs to the subscribers, anyway, and is, and will be, what they make it.

THE NIDOLOGIST had no forerunner, has no prototype, and will not have a peer for many a long day. Watch events and see!

IN writing advertisers do us the favor of mentioning this magazine. And we trust those interested in its future will mention it on other occasions.

THE December NIDOLOGIST is just received. It is *irresistible* to me, and I therefore inclose a dollar.

G. F. DIPPIE.

Toronto, Canada.

THE NIDOLOGIST has received some flattering notices from *The Overland Monthly*, *Sports Afield*, *Gameland*, and other publications, in acknowledgment of which we make our best salam.

WE are at all times glad to obtain interesting unpublished photographs and drawings from nature suitable for illustrations. Notes from the world's museums, jottings, and news for working naturalists earnestly desired.

ENGLISH SPARROWS were nest-building in a cranny among the timbers of the Sixth Avenue elevated road in New York on the last day of the year. Nothing seems to phase these hardy little pests.

CORYDON CHAMBERLIN, of Los Gatos, Cal., has enlisted in the Navy for three years, expecting the sea life to improve his health. His first voyage is to Japan.

THE "sanctum" has been favored with visits recently from the following among our subscribers: Benjamin Hoag, C. Y. Semple, A. H. Frost, D. D. Stone, C. C. Young, George B Badger, Dr. A. H. Helme, and others. Ornithologists visiting New York should call in and see us.

IT is with the regret one feels at the loss of a true lover of birds that we record the recent death at Philadelphia of Dr. William L. Maris, a young man of ability and great promise. One of the best of his bird papers was "An Acre of Birds' Nests."

A BEAUTIFUL illustration of Snowbirds will accompany an article by Dr. Shufeldt in our next number, which will also contain a valuable contribution on "Unusual Nesting Sites" in Dakota, by E. S. Rolfe, a portrait of Mr. A. W. Anthony, and other attractive features.

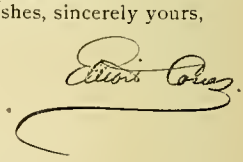
SEND us in new subscriptions! We will turn the money into half-tone illustrations such as you have never seen, and be enabled to improve in every way at once. Mr. W. E. Saunders has sent us *nine* new subscribers. Mr. Oliver Davie says, in sending in a new subscription, "I think I will be able to scare up at least five, perhaps double that number." Other good friends are doing likewise—won't *you* do a little in this good work?

DR. ELLIOTT COUES, then President of the American Ornithologists' Union, suggested that in order to make the name of this magazine (a coined word) perfectly correct, we should knock out an "i." It was no great privation, of course, to perform this small piece of orthographical surgery, and now our learned and esteemed friend, writing under date January 6, 1896, writes us:

DEAR MR. TAYLOR:

I acknowledge the reception of the January NIDOLOGIST, and can compliment you sincerely on its marked improvement in many respects, especially on the new cover-title. You have happily survived your own "black eye," and are quite handsome now.

With regards and good wishes, sincerely yours,



English Correspondence.

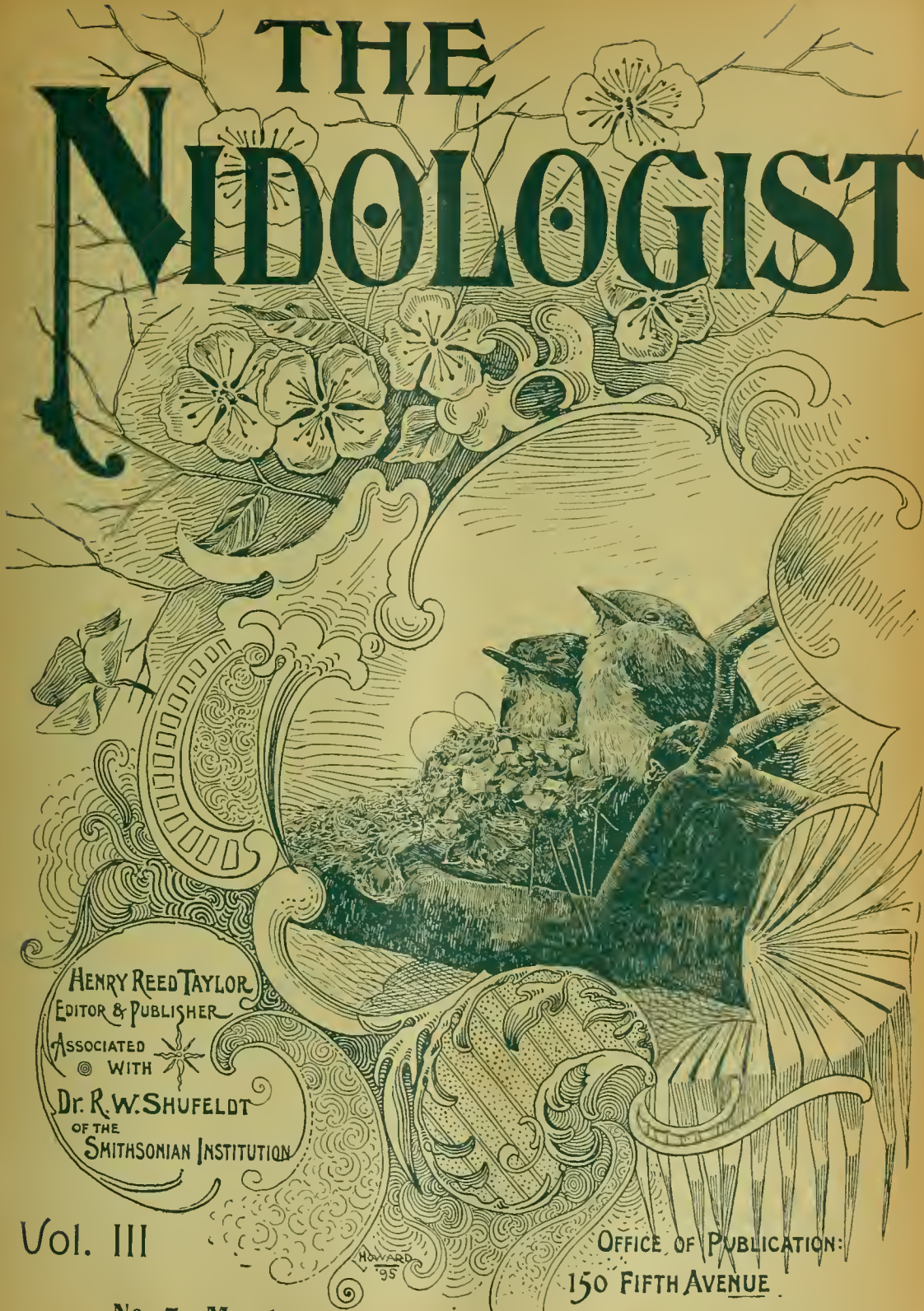
CONGRATULATION, BIRDS, ANTI-WAR SENTIMENT.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: Thank you for introducing to us forty-two members of the American Ornithologists' Union, including yourself, modestly vignetted in the background. The expressions of all come out well. We shall now read any papers signed by them with greater interest. The NIDOLOGIST appears less wild and desolate, and more warm and rustic in its new garb, and, like most other individuals, looks more natural and proper with but two i's. To-day, in this mid-January, the thermometer stands at 38° Fahrenheit—rather a contrast to last January in England. With kind regards and best wishes for peace and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. Believe me, faithfully yours, WM. C. BLAKE.

Ross, Hereford, England, January 15, 1896.

THE NIDOLOGIST



HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

VOL. III

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY.

No. 7 March

THE NIDOLOGIST

First of all, the Birds.

A Magazine Devoted to a Popular Knowledge of Animated Nature

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. III. No. 7. NEW YORK, MARCH, 1896. $1.00 PER YEAR

Invading the Home of the Elf Owl.

THE Elf Owl, the smallest of the Owl species inhabiting the United States, makes its home in the giant cacti of Arizona. It extends its range into Mexico, and a specimen has been secured as far north as the Mojave Desert in California. Mr. Herbert Brown has taken many of their eggs near Tucson, but they are still rare in collections. In a deserted Woodpecker's hole in a giant cactus they lay their three (and more rarely four or five) pygmy eggs. Mr. Brown carries a jointed ladder when seeking their eggs. The type specimen of these birds, taken by Dr. Cooper, remained unique for eleven years, when Major Bendire found them in Arizona. The eggs were first taken by Mr. F. Stephens.

Two Days with the Mississippi Kite.

IN May, 1892, while camped on Pease River, near the foot of the plains (Llano Estacado), I secured my first sets of Mississippi Kite.

I had just taken a fresh set of Red-headed Woodpecker, and was admiring their rich, pink tint, and wondering if I could not reproduce it with red ink, when a rush of wings quite near my head diverted my attention; on looking behind me, I saw that the noise had been caused by a small Hawk (then known to me only as the "Blue Darter)," and that she had wheeled and was again coming at my head. After a few minutes' search I located the nest in a wild china tree, and only about seven or eight feet from the ground. Catching the branch I pulled it down and secured two plain, white eggs, one of them being stained from contact with some green leaves, which had either fallen or been placed in the nest. They measured as follows: 1.52x1.27 and 1.53x1.28; on blowing them I found that they had been slightly incubated.

The nest was about sixteen or eighteen inches across (I measured it by my hand only), and a very slight depression was made for the reception of the eggs.

About two hundred or two hundred and fifty yards away I came upon a second nest, placed in a small oak; as the nest was only a little higher than my head, I had no difficulty in examining its contents; these were a very young bird and an egg already picked. Very much disgusted I turned away, and, to vent my displeasure, picked up a stone and threw it at the parent, who had settled on a cottonwood about fifty feet away; but on rising I noticed that she had quitted her perch and was making a "bee line" for my head. When about ten feet away she swerved to one side, and I left her in possession of the ranch.

Going on toward the camp, I went nearly a mile without finding anything but a Mourning Dove's nest, and had given up the hunt for eggs, and was shooting a few Quail for supper, when my gun frightened another Blue Darter off her nest, only a few feet away from me; this time the nest was placed in a pecan sapling and was about ten or eleven feet up, so I was compelled to climb for it. The nest was little more than a platform, about the same size as the first, and contained only one egg; this egg was badly incubated, and like the others was plain white, a little nest stained; it measured 1.62x1.34.

All three of these nests were found on the evening of May 27, 1892, and though I searched diligently and made several inquiries, I failed to find any more until the next year.

In the harvesting season my business (repairing harvesters) frequently takes me all over this (Haskell) county. On June 15, 1893, after having repaired a harvester about fifteen miles from town, I and a friend who was with me decided to put in the balance of the day on the Double Mountain fork of the Brazos River, which was about five or six miles farther. After driving about four miles we came to the bottom and began looking for eggs. Our first find was a Mockingbird, with four fresh eggs; next I found a nest of a Woodpecker, and while digging out the hole I scared some bird out of a tree near by. My friend went to investigate, and began shouting and hallooing at me to come on, assuring me that he certainly had found a nest.

I hastened to him, and found that he had gone up the tree and was starting out on the limb on which the nest was located; the nest I found to be composed entirely of sticks, the largest being about as large around as a man's forefinger; it was about nine feet from the ground, in an oak tree, and when my friend held the two eggs in sight I saw at once that they were Mississippi Kite's. They were nearly fresh, and measured 1.75x1.41 and 1.72x1.35.

After packing them safely we started on and went nearly half a mile before finding anything more; then my friend shouted, "Whoa!" just as I noticed another Kite leaving her nest in the top of a wild china tree. I jumped out of the buggy on one side and he on the other, and as I ran to my tree he remained (as I supposed) to tie the horse; but before I had reached my tree he remarked, "Here are two more of them; where are you going?"

Looking back I found that he had discovered a nest just above the horse, and pulling the limb down secured two more eggs. When I reached my nest I found it contained only one egg, which I immediately secured, and sliding down the tree returned to the buggy. My egg measured 1.59x1.36, and, contrary to my expectation, was far advanced; the other two measured 1.57x1.28 and 1 56x1.28; incubation was advanced.

Packing these away we again climbed into the buggy and drove on, but had only gone a short distance when we came to another nest in a wild china. Driving under the nest we could easily reach into it, as it was not over eight feet from the ground. We took from it two eggs which measured 1.58x1.37 and 1.62x1.36; these were nearly fresh.

Securing these eggs we turned our horse toward home, and were congratulating each other on our success, when just ahead of us a

Kite sailed quietly away from her nest, which was placed in a pecan tree, about fifteen feet from the ground. I climbed up and easily secured the two eggs, which measured 1.61x1.32 and 1.66x1.34. Incubation had begun in these, but I managed to get them cleaned out all right.

In conclusion, I will say that though Mr. Davie describes the Mississippi Kite's egg as bluish-white, the eggs I have found are so nearly white that I can hardly detect any bluish tinge about them.

One of them was near the color of skimmed milk, the balance being plain white.

Haskell, Tex. W. E. SHERRILL.

Grebe Notes.

BY A. W. ANTHONY.

THE last week in June, 1895, found the writer, in company with one companion, camped on the margin of a small inland lake in southern California, collecting birds and eggs by day and spending the hours of darkness in fighting a villainous breed of mosquitoes that made life a burden and death by torture only a matter of time.

The season was advanced for most of the birds, large flocks of young Ducks—Ruddies, Cinnamon Teal, and Redheads—skirted the tule beds, into which they scurried at the least alarm, leaving their parents to divert attention by the time-honored deception of a broken wing; and Black-necked Stilts often flew to meet us with loud, complaining cries, while their young, almost as large as their parents, squatted in the wet grass and trusted to their silence to escape notice.

Many species, however, had not yet finished nesting, and among them was the American Eared Grebe. Beginning at the northeast end of the lake, where the tules were the thickest and most promising, we thoroughly explored the most likely places the first two days, taking quite a series of Coots' eggs, selecting only those that were likely to prove moderately fresh. Only three sets of Grebes were found, all in rather isolated, small clusters of tules—a floating bunch of wet, decaying tule stalks and moss, with the eggs in a depression in the center, half submerged and covered by a handful of wet, muddy moss. No Grebes were seen about the nests, and it is not improbable that they trusted partly to the heat of the sun and decaying vegetation to carry on incubation, as the eggs were quite warm.

On the third day we discovered an old boat and started on an exploring expedition three or four miles from camp. Halfway down the lake the marsh grass was found to extend in a broad band entirely across from shore to shore, and the water was of a uniform depth of about eighteen inches. Forcing the boat into the grass, which reached a foot or more above the water, we found a number of small circular openings one hundred feet or more in diameter, each fairly covered with nests of the Eared Grebe. As we came upon the first colony, dozens of Grebes, all in beautiful nesting plumage, were seen on their rafts of floating grass, each frantically endeavoring to reach enough moss to cover her eggs before diving out of sight to appear again out in the open water. And numerous chicks just from the egg dove hastily out of sight and escaped in the thick grass. So close together were the nests that often three or four sets could be taken without moving the boat. Most of the eggs were so far advanced in incubation that they were not taken, but by selecting the cleanest sets and testing them by putting them in the water—the freshest floating—we secured about seventy-five sets, about sixty of which were saved in fair condition.

A SCENE IN NORTHERN SOUTH DAKOTA.
(Courtesy of *Sports Afield.*)

The sets ranged from one to five (mostly three) while those found at the other end of the lake were from six to ten. The nests exhibited sur-

prising regularity and not a little ability on the part of the architects. The rafts all consisted of a number of stems of the long marsh grass, laid in the form of a triangle, with the ends crossed to keep them from floating apart. A second triangle was laid across the first so as to make a six, or often a five, pointed star, between the points of which several stems of grass were left growing, acting as a mooring, and so preventing the nest from floating away. In the center an open space was left, in and over which was built the nest itself, which was a mass of mud and moss brought up from the bottom (apparently). A hollow in the center which contained the eggs usually also contained half an inch of water, as the nests were almost submerged.

Out in the open water, half a mile from the nests, swam the Grebe colony. As we turned toward camp, and in the middle of the pond, several hundred feet from the boat was a wee mite of a Grebe, probably but a few hours old, cut off from the shelter of the grass by our boat and deserted by all of its kindred.

The poor little fellow was, for once in its short career, in trouble, and raising up its voice in an appeal for help it swam away toward the opposite shore.

Several times I had tried to secure specimens of downy Grebes, but so far they had all escaped, but here was a chance, possibly, to capture one.

Before making any hostile demonstrations, however, an idea occurred to me which I immediately put into effect. The chick had again turned and was regarding the boat in timid wonder. Behind us the flock of old birds were piping their high-pitched notes, and after one or two attempts I produced a fair imitation. At first the effect was to start the chick away from us, but after one or two stops it turned and came toward us, stopping at intervals, as if in doubt, and at times taxing my powers to the uttermost to restore confidence. At about two hundred feet distant it stopped, and I thought it would not venture nearer; all of my most endearing Grebe phrases were for a time in vain, but they at last prevailed, and with an answering *peep* it dashed toward the boat and did not stop until it had climbed into my hand, which I held down to the water toward it.

Nestling down in my palm as contentedly as if it considered that naturalists were the natural guardians of small Grebes, it looked up at me with its bright little eyes, peeped in a questioning way, and then, perhaps seeing that I failed to comprehend, pecked at a fly on my finger. The suggestion was a good one, and I fell to catching flies, which were eagerly taken by the downy bunch of awkwardness until half a dozen had been eaten—all in the most matter-of-fact way imaginable.

Make a specimen of a downy Grebe? I would have instantly resented any intimation that such idea had ever been entertained, and at last I reluctantly returned the willing captive to the water, expecting to see it swim away or, at most, watch us with indifference as we departed; but to my surprise it declined to be abandoned, and followed along by the side of the boat, "peeping" and trying to climb up the sides, until it was actually necessary to use more than the ordinary speed in order to leave our waif behind.

The last we saw of our baby Grebe it was floating, away behind, a mere speck on the water, from which came doleful peeps of despair at being thus cruelly abandoned.

Whip-poor-will's Love Note.

MAJOR CHARLES E. BENDIRE writes us under date, February 5, 1896:

"I was much interested in Mr. J. C. Galloway's article on Whip-poor-wills. I have no doubt whatever that the peculiar notes he mentions therein are uttered only during the mating season, and are the love notes of one of the pair. I describe such a performance witnessed by me (in my second volume of *Life Histories*, on page 149) while within a few feet of the performers. I have as yet been unable to learn how soon this volume will be out, but it has already been in type since July 1, 1895, and is still lying in the Government Printing Office."

Unusual Nesting of American Merganser.

MAY 26, 1895, I collected a set of ten American Merganser's eggs from a hole in the rocks about one hundred feet above the Umpqua River. The nest was about fifteen feet from the top of a nearly perpendicular cliff about fifty feet in height, and was found by watching the bird. In going to the nest the bird would fly up and down the river in an oval course several times, and finally, coming close to the water as if to light, would rise to the nest.

The entrance to the hole was six inches by twelve, and the inside dimensions four feet long, two feet deep, and eighteen inches high. The nest was about one foot in diameter, of down mixed with moss, one half inch thick in the center and thicker around the edges.

The eggs were incubated about one half. On the same day four young Mergansers were seen swimming in the river. There are hollow trees which could be, and sometimes are, used

for nesting purposes, but in this vicinity the Mergansers appear to prefer the cliffs.

Although this is the only nest found in 1895, I am reasonably certain that three pairs nested in the cliffs within half a mile of each other. In 1894 I found a nest, also in the rocks, but was unable to get to it. FRED H. ANDRUS.

Elkton, Ore.

Breeding Habits of the Broad-winged Hawk.

BY FRANK L. BURNS.

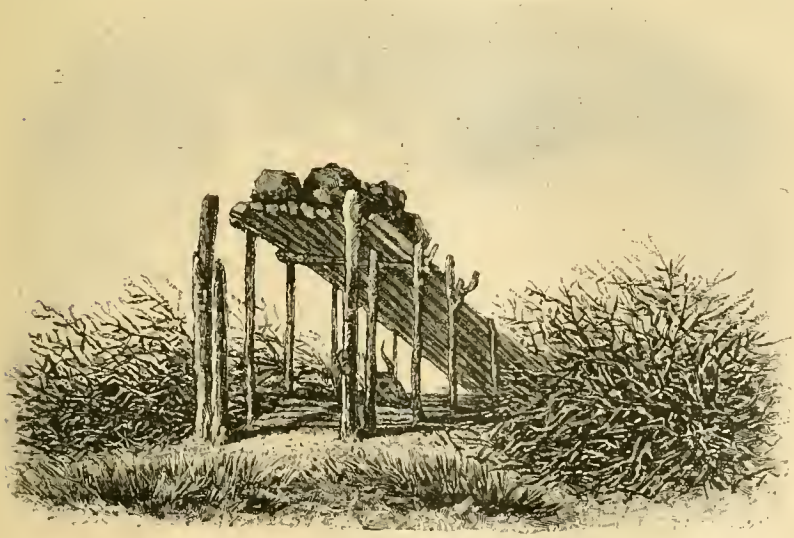
EVER since Alexander Wilson shot the type specimen on the banks of the Schuylkill, *Buteo latissimus* has received more or less attention from American Ornithologists, and yet of the Hawks of general distribution in northeastern United States, this species may be classed with those whose nesting habits are the least understood. In these days of numerous clever and persistent collectors, and the excellent opportunities afforded them of recording their notes, it is surprising that so little has appeared in relation to this the most interesting of all our local Hawks.

At this place they usually appear early in April, and soon after begin search for their summer quarters, which, as it is with all the family, is confined to the section formerly occupied by them, unless repeatedly disturbed. At this time they are somewhat noisy, flying about from tree to tree, or lazily skimming through the air just above the tree tops, uttering a frequent metallic "chu-e-e chu-e-e." When the location has been decided upon this gives way to absolute silence, save now and then, at long intervals, a plaintive and metallic whistling-scream of "che-wee," or "che-wee-e-e," so subdued that the average person would attribute it to the Wood Pewee, if indeed he noticed it at all. It has been intimated that this note resembles that of the latter bird, but this is not strictly accurate, as I have had ample opportunities to compare them. The first syllable of the Wood Pewee is different, although the last syllable is the same and often uttered with the falling inflection peculiar to the Broad-wing, yet it lacks the penetration of the latter. As I said, this note is uttered only occasionally, so that one unfamiliar with their habits would conclude that they had deserted their usual haunts.

A medium-sized chestnut tree in close proximity to an abandoned or rarely used cart road appears to be the favorite location, and invariably an old nest, usually that of a Crow, and the older and more disreputable the better it seems to suit them, is selected. This goes through a slight remodeling process; a few oak and chestnut twigs gathered from the ground are placed on top with little attempt at art, and this, with a handful of bits of rough chestnut bark by the way of lining, completes the nest, with the exception of a few green leaves, which are added after the eggs are deposited and incubation has begun. Possibly this is intended to cover the eggs, or at least render them inconspicuous at such times as the parent takes her airing. The late Harry K. Jamison once informed me that I was the only collector he had met who, besides himself, had noticed the fragments of rough chestnut bark in the nest of this species, although it is a well-known trait of *Accipiter cooperi*.

An invariable sign of incubation is the down feathers sticking about the nest, and I have found quill feathers on the ground under the nest before the set was completed.

Complete sets may be reasonably looked for during the first week in May. In one instance where three eggs constituted the set, I found that the second and third eggs were deposited on the third days after the previous ones had been



A HYENA TRAP. (See page 77.)

laid; in other words, two days intervening between deposition.

On the morning of April 27, 1895, I was agreeably surprised to hear the notes of a pair of these Hawks in their old haunts, not more than five hundred yards back of my home. I found them perched about an old Crow's nest, forty-five feet up in a chestnut tree, which stood close to a much frequented cart road. They were evidently having an animated consultation regarding the merits of the place; at any rate, they protested vigorously when a party of four came within easy gunshot.

A pair of Cooper's Hawks had remodeled this nest the previous year, but owing to the publicity of the place and constant danger of disturbance, they deserted it before any eggs had been deposited. Probably the same conditions influenced this pair to reject this site, for they did not tarry long. Feeling positive that they had nested in the immediate vicinity, I made ineffectual searches for them until May 19, when I observed one of the birds perched on a tree in close proximity to a rather favorable looking nest, but subsequently I found it unoccupied.

Later visits to all the old nests in the neighborhood resulted in my complete failure to locate the occupied nest. The trees were in full leaf; my perfect familiarity with this portion of the long ridge of chestnut timber, and my knowledge of the location and history of every large nest, alone enabled me to inspect them all in turn. On occasions I had heard the well-known whistling notes, and so on the afternoon of the 5th of June, as a sort of forlorn hope, I sallied out for one more effort before giving it up entirely. My steps wandered toward a likely looking nest not one hundred feet from where I had secured a set of three eggs in 1888, and but four times that distance from the tree which I had climbed to find a set of two eggs in 1891. Now I had pounded the base of this tree on two occasions previously (May 23 and 29), and yet looked upon it with suspicion. Again I rapped and rapped, hard and continuously, without response. Pondering upon the uncertainty of everything, and the nesting habits of this little ample-winged Hawk in particular, I continued to pound, and felt gratified, not surprised (for anticipation seldom fails of being much greater than realization in the life of an Oölogist), when the little Hawk silently and leisurely sailed off with a few sluggish flaps of her wings, disappearing in the leafy tree tops.

I returned toward evening with climbers and field glass. When yet some distance off I could see her standing upright, preening herself, but as I advanced she settled in the nest until only her head appeared above the rim as she watched me attentively. She must have left while I was strapping on my climbers, but so quietly that I did not know she had gone until I reached the nest. From first to last no sound was uttered by the birds, nor where they afterward located in the neighboring tree tops. Two undersized plainly marked eggs were my reward for an easy climb of forty-seven feet. They measure 1.74x1.42, 1.76x1.45. I think they can justly claim the title of "runts" of their kind, if that peculiar term be not confined to infertile eggs alone.

With my experience with this, my last clutch, I do not find it hard to account for the apparent rarity of the species, and why so few of our local Oölogists have found their nests; yet with plenty of time and persistence an interesting series of sets might be taken within a radius of ten miles of this place. I have always felt a reluctance toward harrying this species on account of their perfect harmlessness and quiet unobtrusiveness; my three sets having been taken from the nearest woods and collecting ground, much frequented by me in odd moments, where the fascination of searching for and the temptation to collect a rare nest could hardly be resisted.

Berwyn, Pa., December, 1895.

Amphibious Experiences.

BY P. M. SILLOWAY.

ONE does not always find as interesting an occupant of a nest as a King Rail, and in peering among the flags one frequently undergoes an experience altogether unpleasant. I had been anticipating the finding of a nest of the Mallard or other species of Duck (I am still anticipating this coveted experience), and as I slopped among the scattered tufts of flags I once caught a glimpse of a brown body occupying a structure partly hidden by intervening stems. I stepped high to avoid splashing the water and stealthily drew near the nest, congratulating myself that at last I had found the dream of my Oölogical life. When I had stepped around the last intervening tuft and was within eight feet of the nest, to my horror I saw a large (not too large) snake coiled upon the pile, awaiting my arrival with glittering eye and vibrating tongue. The sight of a snake near at hand always unnerves me, if I ever had any nerve, and though I had my egg basket on my right arm and a good stout staff in my left hand, it is no exaggeration for me to say that I leaped clear out of the water as I retreated, while to my further demoralization the reptile glided down on the side near me and straitened his form out in the

water directly toward me. Ideas raced to and fro in my excited brain. My stick was in my left hand, and I knew that I could not hit the ophidian with my left if I tried, while if I took time to change the basket and the stick I might be attacked and bitten. Retreat was out of the question, for I was firmly anchored in three distinct layers of resisting material, mud, moss, and water. Happily for me the snake turned aside abruptly and wriggled among the stems, but you who are "scary" will appreciate my feelings for the next half hour.

Another nerve-testing experience of the swamps is to have a great big dog-fish bump against your legs as he darts after a school of minnows, and then while you are backing away or hurrying forward to escape the presence of this unknown subterranean demon, he kicks up a diminutive shower of drops and spray in your face, and you realize that it is only a harmless prowler of the mossy water forests that has momentarily crowded your throat with the contents of your thorax. However, fearing that some of the inexperienced readers of the NIDOLOGIST may be fearful of the terrors of the swamps, and thus be deterred from invading the homes of the water birds, I take pleasure in stating that all these things are perfectly harmless, and one may wade the swamps from day to day with no danger from snakes, fishes, or other amphibious creatures. All these denizens of the water will be more startled than you at your approach, and the snakes will always be found at the surface of the water, thus making it impossible to tread upon them. Just leave them alone and they will be only too glad to treat you in the same manner.

A. W. ANTHONY, MEMBER A. O. U.

One of the pleasant experiences of my visit to the swamps last summer was an introduction to the Yellow-headed Blackbird. I had waded far out into the deepest portion of an extensive swamp lake, and was in the tall flags which immediately bordered the area of open water, when I heard a strange yet familiar note. The attempted song was ludicrous in its failure to exhibit any musical qualities, yet the note was so unmistakably like the Grackle's that I knew I had found the Yellow-headed Blackbird before I discovered the owner of the voice. The bird was grasping the bending stem of one of a group of flags, and now and then he perpetrated that harsh, squeaking song, which sounded as though it were uttered with utmost effort, and rasped through the windpipe of the performer like the screaking of a hinge long rusting, yet the ending was not so unmusical as the beginning. As I cautiously approached the performer, he gently loosened his grip on the stem where he was perching and slowly slid down the stem until he had disappeared below the horizon of the flags about me, and then he soon flew from the spot to another point farther away, there to screech out his cadenza as before.

In the notes on the distribution of this species in Illinois, given in *Ornithologist and Oölogist* for August, 1893, Dr. W. S. Strode reports his not having observed it. Yet I found them sparingly in Flag Lake, Fulton Co., near the home of Mr. Strode, from May 15 to June 5, and found several nests which I felt morally certain were of their architecture, though it was too early for the eggs, and I was unable positively to distinguish their work from that of the Red-winged Blackbirds. I believe that they nest in this swamp, however, and I shall take the opportunity another year to develop the fact, yet this must be

near the southern limit of their summer residence.

And now I realize that I have written a great deal and have said a very little. I have not added greatly to the knowledge of the readers of the NIDOLOGIST, I have not described any rare birds or eggs, yet if I have caused any of my friends to think more highly of the birds and their ways, I am content. My lot is not cast where I am likely to meet any of the rarer species, but I love the common birds, even the Coots, the Gallinules, the Rails, and the Grebes, and bespeak for them a wider acquaintance even among the lovers of the NIDOLOGIST.

Roodhouse, Ill.

Some Birds New to Colorado.

WITH NOTES ON OTHERS OF LITTLE KNOWN DISTRIBUTION IN THE STATE.

(*Concluded.*)

Strix pratincola, American Barn Owl.—One was caught in the Town Hall of South Denver and mounted by Mr. Todenwarth.

Asio accipitrinus, Short-eared Owl.—Rather common about Denver in migration. Also found in winter. Sometimes parties of half a dozen seen together. I have seen many preserved specimens.

Nyctala acadica, Saw-whet Owl.—On April 25, 1888, an adult was killed with a pitchfork four or five miles from Denver, on Clear Creek. Another shot by Mr. John Bentley at Dome Rock, Colo., June 16, 1888, and a third shot near Fort Lupton, February 2, 1890. Mr. Denis Gale, of Gold Hill, not only reports it as occurring, but breeding.

Nyctea nyctea, Snowy Owl.—During the winter of 1886–87 many of these Owls appeared in the State, and many competitive dealers who could not get the genuine article imported skins from other points and had them "set up," thus making matters confusing to the Ornithologist. However, I succeeded in locating a number of genuine Colorado captures, several of which were taken by Mr. William G. Smith, of Loveland, Colo. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Smith wrote under date of January 19, 1888, that he had killed four specimens and seen one other. They came during a heavy snowstorm and were very shy. Three were taken in traps set on posts over ice on a lake. Others which I have seen are two from near Greeley—one in 1888, the other about January 1, 1890—one from Barr Lake in January, 1890, with several others reported from same place.

I have also received reliable information of its presence through many others.

Glaucidium gnoma, Pygmy Owl.—One was caught alive February 18, 1888, in the heart of the city, but died a few days later. Another was mounted by Mr. A. T. Allen during the winter of 1888–89. It was sent from Durango, Colo.

Empidonax pusillus traillii, Traill's Flycatcher.—Not uncommon at Denver in migration together with *true pusillus*. Specimens of the two, as well as of *E. minimus*, were sent to Mr. Ridgway for verification.

Zonotrichia albicollis, White-throated Sparrow.—On October 5, 1892, while hunting on Coal Creek, about eight miles east of Denver, I saw a specimen of this species in company with Intermediate Sparrows. As they were among some weeds standing in water, I did not shoot, hoping that a change of position might give me a better opportunity, but unfortunately the birds flew still farther into the marsh, and could not be dislodged. Though positive in my own mind of the identity, it is, perhaps, best to give the reader the benefit of a doubt. I believe it has been but once recorded in the State.

Vireo solitarius cassinii, Cassin's Vireo.—A female was shot by the writer May 13, 1888, on Coal Creek, east of Denver. Sent to Mr. Ridgway for verification.

Helminthophila celata lutescens, Lutescent Warbler.—Quite common in migrations, together with *true H. celata*. Specimens were verified by Mr. Ridgway. It has been recorded from Colorado Springs by Mr. Brewster (Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. VIII, No. 3, p. 156).

Dendroica cærulescens, Black-throated Blue Warbler.—A female was shot by the writer May 24, 1888, on the Platte River, near Denver, and verified by Mr. Ridgway. The second recorded for the State.

Troglodytes hiemalis, Winter Wren.—A female was caught by the cat at the writer's home October 13, 1891.

Turdus aonalaschkæ, Dwarf Hermit Thrush.—Quite common in migration at Denver. A small series was sent, with other Thrushes, to Mr. Ridgway for comparison, of which he wrote: "The former are not quite typical, being a little larger than the average, but are much too small for *auduboni*, and altogether too gray and too slender billed for *pallasi*," with the further remark that he thought it had been recorded for the State, but I can learn of no record. Mr. Brewster found *auduboni* quite abundant at Colorado Springs in 1882 (B. N. O. C., Vol. III, No. 3, p. 152), but made no mention of this species.

Sialia sialis, Bluebird.—One seen in company with *S. arctica* at the writer's home, September 6, 1884. Though not captured, there is no doubt of its identity, as it was rather tame and permitted close observation with a field glass.

HORACE G. SMITH.

Denver, Colo.

EARLY RECORD.—Jan. 22.—A flock of fifty Geese, going West. CARL FRITZ HENNING.
"Birds' Home," Boone, Ia.

* *

A Few Michigan Notes.

ON July 1, 1895, R. R. Newton found a Wood Pewee's nest near this city, saddled onto a horizontal branch, fifteen feet above the ground and three or four feet out from the trunk. It contained young, partially feathered, and a Cuckoo's egg, which was badly incubated. This looks a trifle as though our American bird has taken upon himself one of the traits of his European cousin.

I notice that the Dickcissel has been up for discussion in the NIDOLOGIST. I have never seen the bird myself, but Mr. A. B. Durfee says that he has found it fairly common in the meadows near this city.

R. R. Newton took a fine male Pine Grosbeak from a flock January 6, 1896. It was in the height of the red plumage.

Horned Larks have been with us in large flocks for the past month.

W. E. MULLIKEN.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 28, 1896.

* *

Notes from Connecticut.

Kingfishers, Downy and Red-headed Woodpeckers have been quite plenty since December 8. I noticed four Kingfishers asleep in an old shed near our pond during a snowstorm. They seemed quite startled by my presence. A large flock of Redwings were seen January 3, but none have been seen since. L. M. CLARK.

Suffield, Conn., Feb. 4, 1896.

* *

Bluebirds in West Virginia.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST.

DEAR SIR: There are quite a few birds wintering here, among others the Bluebird. I was quite surprised, when I first came here (about November 25), to see a good many Bluebirds; saw several flocks of thirty. The first week of January, was very cold and they disappeared, but since then it has been quite warm, and a few have again come back.

Other birds wintering are a few Cardinals; Juncos; Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied, and Pileated Woodpeckers; lots of Tufted Titmice, Chickadees, White-bellied Nuthatches, Tree Sparrows; a few Brown Creepers and Horned Owls.

R. B. SIMPSON.

Arches, W. Va., Jan. 29, 1896.

Mining by Taxidermy.

MR. JOHN A. BRYANT, of Kansas City, Mo., writes us:

"It may be that this will be of some interest to the readers of the NIDOLOGIST. I had an occasion a few days since to drop in on one of our prominent taxidermists and found him much excited over the peculiar condition of a pair of jaws he had taken from the heads of two deer sent to him for mounting. The jaws in question were those of the ordinary deer of Colorado, but the molars were incrusted with a brownish-yellow substance, which, on being scraped off and assayed, proved to be gold. Of course the professor was worked up over the find. He claimed that he knew the locality where the deer were killed, and that he thought he would be able to locate a placer mine from this leader, as these deer (according to his ideas) no doubt incrusted their teeth with the gold from licking at some sandy salt lick, or by the teeth grinding the grass with gold amid the soil that the roots were imbedded in. He says that the animals were killed within a radius of one hundred miles of Cripple Creek, but will not give the exact location, as he is going to sell out his business and prospect for this, which he considers, will prove an extremely rich gold field."

Trapping Hyenas.

THIS is the way they catch hyenas in Africa. The trap is built on the simple "deadfall" principle, and it is needless to say the animal is not taken alive. Just what crushed hyena is useful for we do not know, but at any rate the tables are turned, and, instead of the "laughing hyena," the native has the laugh on the hyena.

WE take pleasure in this number in presenting to our readers a good portrait of Mr. A. W. Anthony, of San Diego, Cal. His active work in Western Ornithology is too well known to need comment here. We regard his recent election to active membership in the American Ornithologists' Union as simply a fair exchange of honors.

THE NIDOLOGIST appears with a beautiful new cover. Among the contributors are many eminent Ornithologists; but stories of collecting adventures and "Notes from the Field" present nature and bird-life in their most charming aspects.—*Sports Afield.*

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

Publications Received.

Parker, T. Jeffery, D.Sc., F.R.S. *On the Cranial Osteology, Classification, and Phylogeny of the Dinornithidæ.* Trans. Zoöl. Soc., London. Vol. XIII, Pt. xi. Oct., 1895. Pls. LVI–LXII. Wwc. in text. Pp. 373–428. 4to. [From the author.]

Fürbringer, Max. *Rep. Com. für den.* II–*ten Internat. Ornitho. Congress.* 3. Sect. *Anatomie der Vögel.* [From the author.]

Fürbringer, Max. *Ueber die mit dem Visceralskelet verbundenen spinalen Muskeln bei Selachiern.* Abdruck aus der Jenaischen Zeitschrift für Naturwissenschaft. Bd. XXX. N. F. XXIII. Pp. 127–135. [From the author.]

Mobius, K. *Die æsthetische Betrachtung der Thiere.* Sitzungsberichte der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin. XLV. 1895. Pp. 1–11. [From the author.]

Zoölogical Society of London. [Min. of meetings.] 19th Nov. and 3d Dec., 1895. [From the secretary.]

Parker: *On the Cranial Osteology, Classification, and Phylogeny of the Dinornithidæ.* This is a superb piece of work, from one of the most distinguished contributors to scientific Ornithology now living. Covering, as it does, over fifty quarto pages, it is gotten out in the usual sumptuous style of the T. Z. S. publications, and the figures on the plates stand among the finest for fossil birds that the present writer knows anything about. The skulls were photographed by J. Thompson and lithographed by M. P. Parker (a brother of the author), and finally printed by West Newman. The outlined skulls were drawn by Professor Parker, and chromo-lithographed by his brother also. They are extremely useful, and admirable pieces of work. A number of life-size views of the skulls of *Emeus* are given, as well as those of *Anomalopteryx didiformis, Mesopteryx, Pachyornis,* with a great many outlines of the crania of other *Dinornithidæ.* This family, last named, includes the "Moas" of New Zealand, which were great Ostrich-like forms, now all extinct. Professor Parker being connected with the museum of the University of Otago, at Dunedin, New Zealand, it has given him especial opportunities to enter upon the labors that he has now brought to so successful a termination. Sir Richard Owen did some grand work upon the osteology of the *Dinornithidæ,* but he by no means exhausted the subject; nor was this accomplished by the appearance of the recent volumes of Lydekker and Hutton. Indeed, these three authorities left much of our dinornithine literature in a state of dire confusion. The nature of this confusion is fully set forth by the author of the present monograph, following which he prints, *in extenso,* the magnificent list of material he has been permitted to study at his leisure. This illustrates the genera *Dinornis, Pachyornis, Mesopteryx, Anomalopteryx,* and *Emeus.* The third section of the work is given over to a complete account of the comparative anatomy of the skull of the *Dinornithidæ;* and section four to "A Comparison of the Skulls of the Dinornithidæ with those of the other Ratitæ." An excellent section (5) is devoted to the "Measurements of the Skulls of the Ratitæ;" and another (6) to a "Summary of the Cranial Characters of the Ratitæ." This latter is accompanied by exhaustive tables on the subject, being far ahead, in that direction, of anything done yet with *Apteryx, Dromæus, Casuarius, Struthio,* and *Rhea.* In the section devoted to "The Classification of the Dinornithidæ," the several classifications of Reichenbach (1850), Von Haast (1873), Lydekker (1891), Hutton (1891), and Parker (1892), are clearly set forth in a tabulated form. A study of this monograph up to this point is surely a lesson for any thinking Ornithologist we may have among us, and I only wish I commanded the space here to dwell upon it.

By arranging the groups as nearly as possible according to their affinities as determined by cranial characters, Professor Parker proposes the following scheme:

Family. DINORNITHIDÆ.
- Subfamily *a.* Dinornithinæ.
  - Genus 1. Dinornis.
- Subfamily *b.* Anomalopterygin.æ.
  - Genus 2. Pachyornis.
  - " 3. Mesopteryx.
  - " 4. Anomalopteryx.
- Subfamily *c.* Emeinæ.
  - Genus 6. Emeus.

Then attacking next, in an equally masterly manner, and by similar methods, the subfamilies and genera of the Dinornithidæ (Sect. 8), he is prepared to present "The Phylogeny of the Ratitæ" as a whole (Sect. 9). This last part is illustrated by phylogenetic diagrams, after the fashion of Fürbringer. In conclusion, Professor Parker classifies the subclass RATITÆ by primarily dividing it into the three Newtonian Orders, to wit, the Struthiones, the Rheæ, and the Megistanes. The first of these contains the Family Struthionidæ, created for the single genus *Struthio;* the second, the Family Rheidæ, with the genus *Rhea;* while the third and last order is divided into two suborders, namely, Casuariformes and Apterygiformes, as was done by Fürbringer. The first of these has two families, Casuariidæ (with the genus *Casuarius*) and Dromæidæ (with the genus *Dromæus*). The second suborder has also two families, namely, the Dinornithidæ (the classification of which is already given above) and the Family Apterygidæ, containing the single genus *Apteryx.* A list of works referred to (twenty-eight in number) completes this luminous contribution to our knowledge of that highly important group of living and extinct birds—the Ostriches and their allies. R. W. S.

Fürbringer: *Anatomy of Birds* (Address before the second International Ornithological Congress). Space will by no means admit of my reviewing here, as it amply deserves to be reviewed, this splendid effort on the part of one of the greatest workers in Ornithology the science has ever known In upward of fifty quarto pages, printed in the last refinements of the art, Professor Fürbringer sweeps over the field of what has been accomplished in the study of the structure of birds. Beginning briefly with the days of the dawn of the science at the time of Aristotle, he quickly carries the subject down to the period of modern laborers, and into those fields where his own pen has made such far-reaching and brilliant achievements. Once there, his generous hand omits no name that has added anything worthy of especial mention to Ornithological science, representing whatsoever country they may. With similar pride and enthusiasm he calls attention to the many splendid monographs published both in Europe and America upon Avian On-

togeny, as well as those upon Palæornithology, or where the remains of many extinct birds have been studied. *Goethe*, *Lamark*, *Darwin*, *Wallace*, and *Haeckel* added much to the elucidation of systematic or taxonomical Ornithology through the demonstration of certain general biological laws, while this science of classificatory Ornithology received light from another direction, namely, the morphological one, through the labors of *Nitzsch*, *Huxley*, *Milne-Edwards*, *W. K. Parker*, *Garrod*, and others. Histology and its allied branches, with Physiology and its kindred departments, both as applied to birds, have been ably advanced by not a few minds and hands, and in addition to this all the anatomical systems of many species and groups of avian forms have been worked out in detail. As in all other natural divisions of animals, it is found that the facts of morphology, physiology, palæontology, and geographical distribution as applied to AVES, all rest upon and mutually explain each other, and all tend to demonstrate the origin of birds in time, their relations to each other, and to other vertebrate groups, and all else that goes to make up the special and general biological history of the class.

Professor Fürbringer's address brings the history of avian anatomy down to about the latter part of 1890, and for the ten years prior to that time he, with great thoroughness, points out the wonderful amount of work that has been accomplished in the Osteology of Birds, and how, in some quarters, this acquired knowledge has been utilized by those systematic taxonomers capable of appreciating it. Many have devoted themselves to the embryology of birds; to studies of the flight of birds; and to their pterylography. One author neglects to notice not a thing, and with marked lucidity and a keen philosophy he handles the literature of every possible department of Ornithological science that has in any way had its literature augmented during the period of which he treats. Ten quarto pages of Ornithological bibliography complete this masterly paper, the closing words of which latter echo we back to its very eminent author—"Gehen auch wir Viribus unitus zur Arbeit—so gehen wir zum Siege!" R. W. S.

Ornis of a City Yard.

NEXT door to me, in this city, is a house in a yard of about half an acre, in which are some seven or eight good-sized trees.

Below I give a list of the birds noted in there by me during the last three years.

Screech Owl.—December 24, 1892, just before dark, I saw one perched on the rainspout under the eaves of the house.

Chimney Swift.—While not *in* the yard I have seen them flying *above* it, and on one occasion saw one pluck a twig from a locust tree.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—I have frequently seen a single individual, and on one warm day in May, 1893, I saw at least one hundred birds flying about a large horse chestnut tree that was in full blossom at the time.

Crow.—Only once have I seen one stop in the yard. March 14, 1892, two flew over, then circled about and perched in the top of one of the maples.

Goldfinch.—September 8, 1894, one ♂ and two ♀ were seen eating the seed from a bed of sunflowers.

Cedarbird.—May 20, 1894, while eating breakfast I heard their note, and looking out my back window I saw a flock of eight or ten in the locust tree.

Red-eyed Vireo.—July 20, 1893, one was seen feeding in the maples; another was seen May 20, 1894.

Black-and-white Warbler.—In May, 1892, I saw one in a maple tree in the street in front of my house. It soon flew to the next yard, where it remained the balance of the day.

Yellow Warbler.—I do not know the date of their arrival, but during the latter part of May, and all through June, 1892, I could hear a pair in the next yard. They would begin singing about 4 o'clock A. M.

On November 13 I discovered the nest. It was in a gincko tree, about forty feet up, and out on a long limb, about twenty feet from the trunk.

May 4, 1893, my little friends made their appearance again, as usual singing every morning soon after daybreak. June 7, while seated on my back porch, I caught sight of their nest.

Next spring I shall look for them about May 1. (They did not appear in 1895.)

Black-throated Blue Warbler.—October 17, 1895, I shot a ♂.

Blackpoll Warbler.—Killed an immature bird September 28, 1895; another October 2, 1895.

Brown Creeper.—October 26, 1895, I saw one working in and out of the crevices of an old stone wall.

Golden-crowned Kinglet.—Several seen in the maples October 26, 1895.

Robin.—Frequently seen during the fall migrations.

English Sparrow.—My list would not be complete unless I included this pest. They are there all the time, and many a one meets its death by my rifle. Their nests are in the vines on the side of my house, but are out of reach.

I have also noted the following from time to time: Sparrow Hawk, House Wren, Blue Jay, Nighthawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-bellied Nuthatch; also several small Warblers, species unknown.

The following were seen and reported to me:

Bob White.—In the latter part of September, 1892, the colored janitor of a club near my house was passing the front gate early in the morning and saw a covey of nineteen birds on the lawn.

Ruffed Grouse.—In company with the Bob Whites was a single individual of this species.

WILLIAM H. FISHER.

Baltimore, Md.

THE NIDOLOGIST.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE
DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF
ORNITHOLOGY,
With Special Reference to the
NIDIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

H. R. TAYLOR, Editor and Publisher,
Associated with DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS.

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast.

Subscription (in advance), ... $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage.)
Single Copies. . . . . 15 cents
Remit bills, money order, draft, or check.
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired.

OUR AGENTS.

SWANN & Co., 1 & 2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E. C.

CALIFORNIA—C. BARLOW, of Santa Clara, is our agent, and can receive subscriptions, advertisements, furnish terms, papers, etc.

COLORADO—FREDERICK M. DILLE, 406 McPhee Building, Denver, is our accredited agent for the middle West.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION,
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

Entered at the New York Post Office as mail matter of the second class.

THE New York papers have recently published long accounts of the theft of $10,000 worth of specimens from Yale's museum by A. H. Verrill, of New Haven, Conn., whom, it will be remembered, the NIDIOLOGIST was obliged to expose, in its October (1893) number, as a *hand painter* of birds' eggs. Among Verrill's achievements at that time was the sale of seven *turtles' eggs* for Carolina Paroquets, for which he received $10 each. Verrill was literally an artistic cheat, and the notorious Dr. Smith, of Malden, of Ivory-billed Woodpecker fame, wasn't "in it" with him. His recent peculations consisted chiefly of archæological specimens. Many have been recovered from dealers to whom he sold them. In some cases he substituted cheap imitations in the museum for the stolen originals. It is said that his father, a highly respected professor in Yale College, has made good the loss, and that the young man will not be prosecuted. Verrill is said to be a good taxidermist, and it is a pity he has gone wrong.

A Standard Egg Catalogue.

OUR "Standard American Egg Catalogue" will be all the name implies. Carefully prepared with the assistance of representative *active collectors*, and those who handle large quantities of eggs in exchanging, it cannot fail to be a fair basis, and as such will be adopted and continued in use by collectors for some time to come, conforming as it does to the nomenclature of the new "A. O. U. Check List." We have fixed the price to meet the convenience of every collector. It will be out on time. We have no "ax to grind" or instruments to sell. Cool judgment and all available information alone influence us in fixing prices. There will be only one "standard," and that one indispensable.

WE are informed on good authority that *Avifauna* is dead. Two numbers did it, the last being November. Espousing a dishonest cause may have been partly the cause of this brilliant failure. The birds sing long over untold graves of ambitious but short-lived "bird papers."

I HAVE received the December number of the NIDOLOGIST, a magazine which is the exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy. Among the contents are a report of the thirteenth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union held in the United States National Museum, Washington. It is pleasing to note that quite a number of ladies attended the Congress. A portrait group is given of the officers and principal members of the Union. There is also an excellent drawing of the nesting place of the Duck Hawk, a bird of prey of the Falcon species, and an engraving of a portion of Heligoland, showing the great Monk Rock and adjacent cliffs, whereon millions of birds alight on migration. A new cover with beautiful sketches of birds, and notes on Carolina birds, the Dickcissel, Thrushes, etc., add interest to the number. The magazine affords English Ornithologists the means of becoming acquainted with the habits of rarer American birds. It is edited by Mr. Henry Reed Taylor, with whom is associated Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, of the Smithsonian Institution.—*Newcastle-on-Tyne Chronicle.*

WE had an interesting talk with Mr. C. P. Wilcomb, curator of the Golden Gate Park Museum, San Francisco, who paid our office a visit recently. He had just completed a successful tour, gathering up Colonial relics for the "Colonial Room" of the museum. The Park Museum is receiving constant additions to its valuable collection. Among rarities it possesses the famous Doré vase, which cost $40,000. The natural history department occupies one floor of the main building, and besides this there are "Aboriginal Hall," "Oriental Hall," "Jewel Hall," a valuable department devoted to a display of California food fishes, etc. An annex of two stories is now being built. Birds and mammals are represented in the Gruber collection, which has been purchased; also others donated, including Dr. Prill's collection of birds' eggs. Large crowds visit the museum daily.

MR. C. W. MARCHANT, of West Redding, Conn., writes us: "In my rambles last spring I found a Ruffed Grouse on her nest in almost the same position as the one in the picture in the NIDOLOGIST. The bird's mate stood about three feet away, and I approached within four or five feet before either took wing. The nest contained ten eggs, and was placed at the foot of an elm tree in a swale on a high hill, and I find them there each year, in about the same spot."

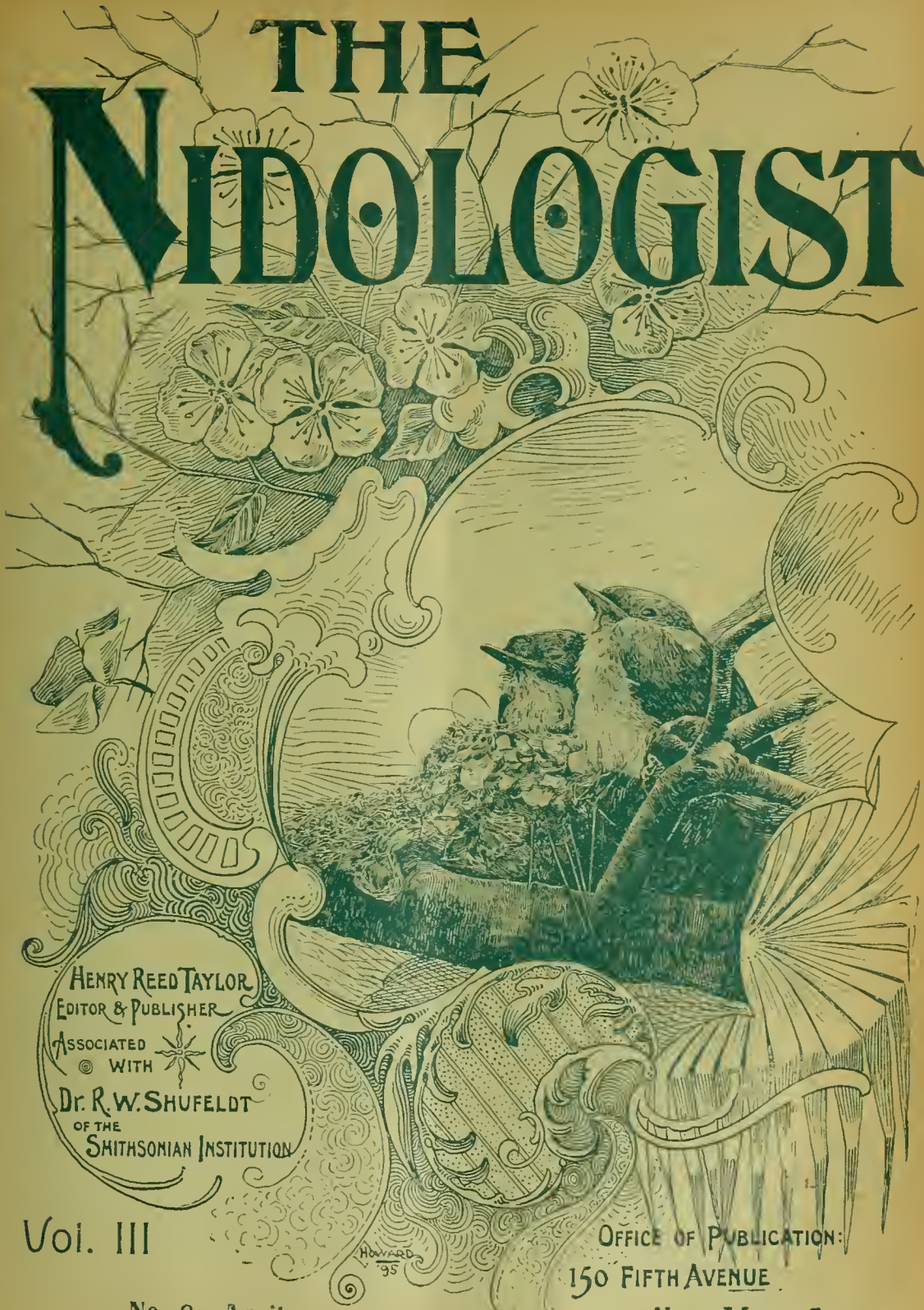
Comment in England.

THE NIDOLOGIST'S happy combination of brightness, scientific accuracy, and records of field naturalists' works has been a constant source of instruction and entertainment. It came out in December with a new and nicely illustrated cover, and some illustrations very artistically reproduced, particularly the view of a corner of the headland of the island of Heligoland, "the magnetic pole of the bird world."—*Yorkshire Weekly Post.*

MR. J. H. BOWLES, of Ponkapog, Mass., is congratulating himself over the acquisition of an odd specimen of the Rusty Grackle. It was taken October 24, and is of a uniform silvery-white plumage, with greenish-gray iris. Such a "take" is "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

EVERY sort of tent is kept by S. Hemmenway & Son, of New York. They are thoroughly reliable, and can furnish collecting naturalists with every requisite in their line.

THE NIDOLOGIST



HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
Dr. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Vol. III

No. 8 April

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
150 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY.

THE NIDOLOGIST

First of all, the Birds.

A Magazine Devoted to a Popular Knowledge of Animated Nature

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. III. NO. 8. NEW YORK, APRIL, 1896. $1.00 PER YEAR.

Snowbirds.

BY R. W. SHUFELDT, C.M.Z.S.

WHEN I was a boy and passing through the early phases of an Ornithologist in my home in New England, there were two kinds of birds we called "Snowbirds." There was the big white and dappled one, and also the smaller species, the males of which have blackish heads and white breasts. American Ornithologists now speak of the first kind as "Snowflakes," and place them in a genus *Plectrophenax*—the common Snowflake being *P. nivalis*. The smaller fellow is called a "Junco," and has had the genus *Junco* (of Wagler) created for him—the best known form being the one called the "Slate-colored Junco (*J. hyemalis*). This is the bird I knew as a "Snowbird" when a boy, and I expect, if the truth were known, there are more people now, a hundred to one, who call them "Snowbirds," rather than "Juncos," and at the best the latter is not a very pretty name. Dr. Coues, who is something of an Ornithophilologist, says it ought to be pronounced "Yoonco," and that it comes from a Latin word "*juncus*, a reed or rush; or *jungo*, I join; *punctus*, joined; either, reeds growing densely together, or used as withes to bind with." He does *not* tell us, however, what all this has to do with the Snowbird. When the United States National Museum was preparing material for the great Columbian Exposition, there was some wonderful progress made there in the way of taxidermical exhibits. This progress was due to the fact that the institution employed a number of very skilled taxidermical artists. Among these was a young man who produced some expert pieces of work; I refer to Mr. Harry C. Denslow, so well known to the American school of taxidermists. Mr. Denslow afterward went to New York State to study, and while there he sent me a number of photographs of his recent work and progress. Well, what I am coming to is this, one of these was of a pair of Snowbirds he had mounted (*J. hyemalis*, ♂ and ♀), and they are so well done, and represent these birds so beautifully, that it gives me pleasure to put them in here as an illustration of the genus we have now under consideration. It is a splendid piece of work and as natural as life.

SNOWBIRDS (*J. HYEMALIS*, ♂ AND ♀).

Now years and years ago when that lovely poet-naturalist, Alexander Wilson, wrote on American Ornithology, he knew of but one species of this genus, and for it he used the term *Fringilla hudsonia*, calling it by the honest name of a Snowbird. It was the *Fringilla hyemalis* of Linnæus; the *Passer nivalis* of Bartram, and our present *Junco hyemalis*. What would Wilson say were it possible for him to be among us again, if he were told that Snowbirds are now called "Juncos;" that

Fringilla hudsonia is very, very wide of the mark for a name; and that moreover, in addition to the species he knew and described, there were now no less than *seven* other species known, and *seven* subspecies, making *fifteen* in all, and that they ranged over nearly the whole of the North American continent? He would most assuredly be somewhat dazed at first, not knowing what a "Junco" was; much less what a *sub*species was; and having very dim notions as to what was meant by the North American continent, his discomfiture would be quite complete when told that he had *not* described more than three hundred of our birds, and that according to the Check-List of the American Ornithologists' Union, published in 1895, there were no less than 1,062 species and subspecies of birds known to this country(!), and very likely a few more still remained to be described. But America has never known a more charming writer about our birds than Wilson was, and his account of *the* Snowbird is a most excellent one. Like all his work it is *honest*, and his descriptions exhibit the influence of his trained mind and intellect, and are quite bereft of all flowery passages or the evidences of an overenthusiastic bent. His work is also *all* Wilson, and when we read it, we do not eternally feel that there is some one constantly standing behind him to keep him informed in classification and bird-structure. He made no pretensions of knowing much of either, and he was too proud to *buy* any part of his knowledge and then try and get the world to believe afterward that he had gained it through his own observations.

In one place in his account he says: "In some parts of New England I found the opinion pretty general, that the Snowbird in summer is transformed into the small Chipping Sparrow, which we find so common in that season. I had convinced a gentleman of New York of his mistake in this matter, by taking him to the house of a Mr. Gautier there, who amuses himself by keeping a great number of native as well as foreign birds. This was in the month of July, and the Snowbird appeared there in the same colored plumage he usually has. Several individuals of the Chipping Sparrow were also in the same apartment. The evidence was, therefore, irresistible; but, as I had not the same proofs to offer to the eye in New England, I had not the same success." Wilson had some peculiar ideas about the migrations of Snowbirds, that make in his account very interesting reading, especially when compared with our modern views upon the migrations of the members of this class.

January 16, 1896.

Valuations of Nests and Eggs.

Comment on "Taylor's Standard American Egg Catalogue."

THE compilation of a "Standard American Egg Catalogue," to be used as a guide for Oölogists in the exchange of nests and eggs of North American birds, has just been completed by the writer with the valuable assistance of A. M. Ingersoll, A. W. Anthony, Thomas H. Jackson, J. H. Bowles, Rev. P. B. Peabody, C. W. Crandall, C. Barlow, Dr. A. C. Murchison, and other well-known Oölogists, some of whom have been actively engaged in field work and the exchanging of eggs for fully fifteen or twenty years, and are, therefore, fully qualified to adjust with accuracy an equitable scale of valuations for exchangers.

The unthinking might hastily imagine that to alter prices would be a matter of perfect ease, but the task in this case has required the most patient application and careful consideration, digging into books of reference, and giving due weight to every factor which might affect the exchange valuation of one egg in relation to another—for the prices are all *relative*, and must be as nearly in fair proportion as is possible.

In very many respects the compiler believes the Catalogue under discussion will be greatly appreciated by Oölogists. It is the first one ever issued *by* collectors for collectors. Dealers' catalogues have confounded *cash* valuations with exchange valuations, and have in some cases priced rare species so low that they have laid themselves open to the charge of having private motives for doing so.

All price lists preceding the present Catalogue have perpetuated the most absurd errors, putting a value on eggs that are *not yet discovered*, as Spoon-bill Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, etc.; while some compilers have even priced eggs of *extinct* birds in this same amiable, misleading way. Other eggs extremely rare, or perhaps represented by only a few specimens in the United States National Museum, have been priced as low as much commoner species. The eggs of the Little Brown Crane, which breeds in the Arctic regions, have been valued at $5; but who is so fortunate as to have a set to exchange at that figure? Numerous rare Sandpipers' eggs have heretofore been slapped down at a nominal $2. Of course one may not hear of a set (outside of a government expedition) in ten years—but is it not as well, while assuming to publish a "standard" price list to fix the sum, just as a matter of information, at a higher rate than eggs represented in hundreds of collections? By the time a score of good collectors get to traversing the frozen

North, our views may change, but until then let us be sensible and not misinform the great majority who depend upon a catalogue (and justly, too) for a large stock of valuable knowledge.

Prices in general in this new Catalogue will be found to be considerably higher than formerly, but it is just and proportionate, while in some cases a drop in price has been found necessary. The demand for certain eggs has been given fully as much weight as that of supply. For example, the eggs of the Golden Eagle are not rare, yet from their beauty are greatly in demand for series, like certain other well-distributed Raptores' eggs, and therefore deserve to be priced at a higher figure. Some of the commoner birds' eggs are difficult to secure, from the nature of their nesting; others, again, are raised in price by the new "Standard," owing to increasing rarity, as the Purple Finch. Prior lists have aimed to indicate by the asterisk (*) eggs secured only in Europe, but have omitted it where it should have appeared in many cases, failing in others to price *both* the foreign and American-taken specimens. It is thought that these misleading points have been pretty well corrected in the new *Standard American Egg Catalogue*.

It should be noted that *cash* prices, published from time to time by dealers and others, seldom really influence *exchange* values, for they do not indicate, *per se*, an overstocking of the market, nor yet, sometimes, that even the more prominent collectors are supplied, or are likely to be soon.

Credit is due to Mr. A. M. Ingersoll, the well-known and thorough field collector, for the idea of a table of nest valuations. No attempt of the kind has heretofore been made to put a valuation upon nests, and the present table will be found to be compiled with great care, taking into consideration weight, bulkiness, and difficulty of securing and packing.

Owing to the expense of publication the price is 20 cents, postpaid, slightly higher than was at first intended, but still nominal, considering the value of the list.

Attention is called to the fact that while there are other catalogues called "Standard," this is the *only* collectors' catalogue, and the only one that is claimed to be up to date or printed for permanent and general use. It is submitted confidently by the compiler and the representative Oölogists who have labored in its behalf.

Taylor's Standard American Egg Catalogue is the title. It is *not* connected in any wise with any other "catalogue," past, present, or future. It is for sale *only* by the publisher.

H. R. Taylor.

To Identify Nesting Water Birds.

THE birds will soon be with us again, and the Oölogist will once more sally forth in search of specimens for his cabinet. It is the purpose of this article to bring to his notice a new way to secure the parent bird in order to identify its eggs.

In the season of 1895 I met, in the course of my collecting, with a serious difficulty. I discovered some Grebe's nests at Little Lake, near Barrie, but could not tell to what species they belonged, for the simple reason that I could not even see the birds, much less shoot them, although I heard them calling every day.

I tried setting snares on the nest, but that did not succeed. I then tried to shoot a bird by waiting in the boat near the nest, but although they were quite close to me, calling to each other several times, yet I could not catch even a glimpse of them. I was now thoroughly disgusted with Grebes and their ways, which, in my opinion, were altogether too modest and retiring. On July 3 I took a set of six eggs, and on July 9 a set of eight, trusting to identify them later.

In my boathouse I had a lot of No. 1 steel traps, which I determined to try on the Grebes. I set one in the afternoon of July 10 in a nest containing four eggs. On returning next morning, having found a prize in the shape of a set of two Loon's eggs on the way, the Grebe, a Pied-billed one, was in the trap, caught by the leg. Taking it out I threw it up in the air, expecting to see it fly off, but it could not, and dove as soon as it reached the water.

On July 20 I took another set of five eggs. The bird was unfortunately drowned in this case, having pulled the trap off the nest. I found that to prevent this the trap should be tied short so that it could not be pulled into the water. On July 26 I set a trap on a nest containing four eggs, near where I took the set of six on July 3, and likely owned by the same pair. I went away for about half an hour, and when I returned the bird was in the trap. I took it out and placed it in the boat, which it could not get out of. I then returned to the boathouse and left it there, while I went to set a trap on a nest containing three eggs, near where I took the set of eggs on July 9, and probably built by the same birds. When I came back to the nest the bird was in the trap caught by the leg, as all the others had been. I placed it in the bottom of the boat, where it was quite safe, and went ashore.

I carried both birds to a small pond, about three quarters of a mile away, and let them go. They scrambled down the bank, and seemed very glad to get back into their native element,

swimming around, diving, and flapping their wings before disappearing in the rushes. They are very courageous little birds, continually pecking my hands and each other while I was carrying them, and also pecking the dogs who came up to sniff at them. I intended to observe them while they were in the pond, but when I went there the next day they were very shy, going into the rushes at once, and not coming out while I remained there.

I think steel traps would be very useful to secure the parent bird when collecting the eggs of Ducks or other fair-sized birds. They are much surer in operation than a gun, as the owner of a valuable nest might get away from the latter, badly wounded, and never come back. The trap is always ready, its patience is inexhaustible, and the bird which *puts its foot in it* has to stay there. If the bird is not wanted to preserve, it can be set at liberty, after it has been identified, suffering no injury excepting a little temporary pain. The trap should be set with the inner jaw almost touching the eggs, covered carefully up, and tied so that it cannot be moved off the nest. It should be looked at in about half an hour, in order to release the bird from its uncomfortable position as soon as possible. A No. 0 trap with slightly padded jaws would probably be the best kind to use, as it would be easier on the bird. By the use of traps I found that the Pied-billed Grebe not only would not, but could not fly in this section of the country, during the month of July at least. A. D. HENDERSON.

Barrie, Ont.

Some Bluebird Notes.

WHAT a pleasure to contemplate with renewed interest the recent winter records of our Eastern Bluebird!

For it is evident, no doubt, or doubtfully certain, at least, that our gravest fears of the previous year may have been not well considered—even possibly a trifle premature!

By its destruction of *Sialia* we could easily recognize the brutal and cruel work of the Frost King; but, as to its alarming nature and the extent thereof, may it not be said that perhaps we have erred a little in our calculations? To this the writer would say, Yes, though of course it may be taken as an optimistic view of the situation. However, writing to me under date of January 25, 1896, my friend, Otto Widmann, of Old Orchard, Mo., has discovered on one of his recent trips, that the Bluebirds are wintering successfully, and in respectable numbers in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri, especially so in the neighborhood of Paragould, Ark., where in the course of an hour he had counted twenty-four! From Mount Pleasant, S. C., Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, writes me (February 26, 1896) that "Bluebirds have been here in numbers all winter, and I see forty or fifty every day around my house."

In view of these facts, coupled with the apparent mortality visited upon the ranks of *Sialia*, during the severe and protracted cold spell of last winter, throughout the Southern States, it has been thought advisable to publish a few items of last season's gathering.

It seems hard to explain now the conditions as then existed; indeed, it is quite difficult to even harmonize them, but, judging from present indications, the results plainly show the remarkable recuperative powers of our blue-backed favorite.

Doubtless the readers of this journal are familiar with the article prepared by Mrs. Louisa M. Stephenson, of Helena, Ark., entitled "Why are there so few Bluebirds?" which appeared in the December 14, 1895, issue of *Forest and Stream*, the paper consisting in the main of a compilation of records from various localities, the observers with but few exceptions reporting a very noticeable falling off in numbers of Bluebirds. To those, however, who have not seen this paper, the few following records may be of some interest.

Here at Glen Ellyn, in Northeast Illinois, the work of annihilation seemed all but complete the past spring, and what few Bluebirds that did occur arrived here on widely separated dates, namely, March 27, ♂ 19; May 7, ♂; May 27, and June 19. No breeders were observed the season through, and no birds seen in the county (Du Page) outside the immediate vicinity of my home at Glen Ellyn. Letters from Dr. Murchison and Mr. W. E. Loucks also testify to the great scarcity of Bluebirds in their respective localities, Kewanee and Peoria, this State.

Mr. Ruthven Deane, of Chicago, writes of seeing a single male in Lincoln Park some time in June, and although his letter was dated August 7, none were seen since July 1 at or near his summer home at Kenilworth, fifteen miles north of the city. Outside of the State he had recorded but two specimens seen during Sunday visits to English Lake, Ind.

Bluebirds were scarce all spring and summer near Old Orchard, Mo., so Mr. Widmann writes me, as well as in his favorite "Peninsula" in the southeastern corner of the State. That so few were observed in the last named locality appears quite remarkable, taking into consideration the number of favorable nesting sites offered by the numerous "deadenings" in that section.

But he writes that *Sialia* is under the ban there, that Bluebirds are killed by the farmers

for meddling and driving away the Martins. That the species fared badly in the neighborhood of Mount Pleasant, S. C., I have Mr. Wayne's letter of August 5 in evidence. He says: "In reference to the Bluebird during the past winter, the intense cold weather we experienced in South Carolina killed outright an enormous quantity of them, as well as Robins, Catbirds, and Pine Warblers."

In another letter he also refers to the few breeding birds noticed by him in the neighborhood of Mount Pleasant. But as my friend Deane observes in epistle (August 7, 1895): "The most singular feature of the whole thing to me is, why should a bird hardy enough to follow the melting line of snow from the South to the North, and often getting caught in cold storms for a week, be the one to get so thoroughly frozen out, more so than most other species which we know are less hardy."

The temperature at Charleston, S. C., at one time registered as low as eight degrees above zero, so Mr. Wayne informs me.

But in this connection, now that we know that numbers must have passed the winter successfully, the following from Mr. Widmann may be of interest. His letter dated August 13, 1895: "On my trip from Cape Girardeau to the Current River, and Black River to Poplar Bluff (Missouri points), I was somewhat surprised to find Bluebirds were more numerous than I had expected. It is possible that the Bluebirds had a better chance to pass the 'glacial period' successfully in those regions where the hillsides are often covered with the refuse left by the lumberman. On these sunny hillsides snow and ice must have yielded to the sun much earlier than in the lowlands, and under the decaying logs the bird is sure to find insects in spite of snow, and rain, and ice." In the same letter the cheerful information is also imparted that a troop of two dozen was seen by Mr. Widmann near his home at Old Orchard on August 10.

But in getting back to Northeast Illinois again we find that the summer and fall records for Glen Ellyn afford a little more encouragement, thus showing that some few more pairs had also escaped the frigid spell, and had succeeded in bringing out their broods somewhere in the country to the north of us.

On August 11 the writer saw a flock of four, and on the 13th a troop of twelve, all in female dress, and at the same stand. None were seen again until the 26th of the month, when a flock of five was noticed flying southwest over the village at 7:30 A. M., and September 25 one calling.

Mr. George K. Cherrie, of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, also informed me that he found Bluebirds more or less plentiful, in juvenile dress, while on a visit to his home near Des Moines, Ia., in August last. But the phenomenally low temperature experienced in the Southern States last winter also had a marked effect on other species as well—forms less conspicuous to the casual observer—for instance, the Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, and Myrtle Warbler, the two last entirely falling short of recognition, being not recorded at all by the writer at Glen Ellyn during the spring of 1895. BENJAMIN T. GAULT.

Glen Ellyn, Ill., March 4, 1896.

The Photo Fiend.

BY P. B. PEABODY.

THE universal American habit of exaggeration finds an apt illustration in the current semihumorous use of the word "fiend."

The fiend is no longer a pandemoniac—never safe unless loaded with chains and guarded by ponderous doors; but simply a harmless, eccentric creature whose permanent, or even temporary, turn of mind makes him, in a measure, ridiculous to that great world whose infinitesimal units, are, of course, entirely sane. A fiend with an epithet adds a degree of sanity to his craze. We may define the Photo Fiend, then, as one who pursues the art of photography with just enough of reasonableness in his ardor to make the results of his labors mildly interesting or amusing to the great multitude that are more sane than he. In process of time, the Photo Fiend will, if he have sufficient sense of humor, emerge into the domain of the amateur photographer. Having passed thus from the state of the "larval fiend" to that of the pupal amateur, there is at least a faint chance that he may, after much vicissitude, become that splendid imago, a real artist—not a professional one, of course, or of necessity; but so much the better an artist, perhaps, for that.

In my ardent pursuit of the photographic art I have grown to feel, at times, . . . "a tremor, fierce and strange," that warns me of the possibility of my becoming, some time, an amateur. And I have determined that, before I leave this larval state, I will record a number of things concerning which the photographic manuals are learnedly silent, but which the beginner in photography absolutely needs to know if he would escape vexations and costly disappointments. The world would never grow wiser were all men too proud to register their mistakes; and the way of life would never grow the easier were they that climb too selfish or too

lazy to clear, as they go, a way for the tiring feet that follow. All that is here said will pertain exclusively to the photographic art as applied to Ornithoscopy—taking this word in its most comprehensive sense, Oölogic and Nidologic, as well as Ornithic. My bird-loving friend, all enthusiasm, wants to know what camera to buy. Knowing him to be a sensible man, I sweep away all illusions by saying, "Buy a five-dollar instrument at first; by the end of three months, you will have become slightly acquainted with the ways of a camera, and will have learned the more radical, at least, of cameric limitations, as related to the recording of bird-life studies." "Let me save you," I add, "many a spoiled negative, by dropping a half-dozen hints: Take no 'shots' at first, save in strong sunlight. With bird subjects and nest subjects, never try time exposures at the first. And, as for small nests and eggs—all of them—and for nearly all nests in waving grass, avoid them if you would escape disappointment."

My friend has still a crumb of patience left; and I go on to disenchant him as to his fancy that he will do marvelous things, on the start, at "shooting" birds in flight. I tell him how coldly dealers once treated my own enthusiasm in this direction; and I quench the fire of his eye, incredulously ardent at this remark, by telling him how I once took, in the brightest of midday June sunshine, under the most favorable circumstances, with a forty-dollar camera, negative after negative of Franklin's Gulls following a prairie-breaking plow; so near me that even the most delicate shade of their colors could be distinctly seen, as they floated by, quietly and unscared, while yet in not a single negative could the uninitiated tell whether the winged things that followed the plow were bats, gnats, or cheese mites.

"What camera shall I buy, after I've outgrown the five-dollar one?" queried my young friend, a little disconcertedly. Feeling that I must encourage him a bit, I answer, "That's an open question," which, of course, is very easy to say, if not very wise.

But, candidly, if one be ambitious to do thoroughly satisfactory work in the photographing of ordinary nests and eggs, I doubt whether there be any camera manufactured, that is sold under, say, twenty-five dollars, that would long satisfy the purchaser. One might even risk discouraging, altogether, some who might otherwise attain a fair measure of success, by saying, that even a forty-dollar camera has grave limitations in the matter of nest photography. One must find what form and weight of camera is found by most men to be best suited to his especial purposes, and then he should buy the highest grade of that camera that he can possibly afford; one involving possible change of lenses being highly preferable. As a mark to aim at, it might be said, that if one can have but a single camera, that one should be a magazine film camera focusable down to two feet or less, with glass plate attachment, perhaps, and the best of "rapid rectilinear" lenses.

Having now discarded my beginner's camera and settled into serious work, I start out on the new season, repeating to myself a few cardinal hints: Avoid windy days. Don't "shoot" at everything you see; many things lose the heart of them when transferred to a negative. Learn to see, not merely pretty things, but picturesque things, and not things that are merely picturesque, but photographically so, as well.

(*To be continued.*)

Notes from the Great Lakes.

IN the December issue of this journal, Mr. Watkins gives interesting notes regarding the Black-throated Bunting, *Spiza americana* (Gmel.). This is another of those species which are greatly increased in numbers by the clearing of the country and the advancement of civilization. We have in Michigan over one hundred species of birds, both permanent residents and visitors, who are more or less influenced by civilization, and of these there are two or more becoming extinct, while quite a number of species, but only among the smaller birds, are becoming more common, like the Dickcissel, and some are even added to our list through the effects of civilization.

It is to be hoped that the observing readers will present notes upon the arrival and abundance of the Bluebirds in the succeeding numbers of the NIDOLOGIST. The notes need not be long; in truth, extended observations on arrivals are never pleasing. But let us have terse notes, but plenty of them, and from every place in the Union where this pleasing warbling harbinger of spring failed to appear in his accustomed haunts, or has lessened in numbers in 1895.

W. H. Fisher presents an interesting scrap of notes on the "Ornis of a City Yard" in the March NIDOLOGIST. An item of this nature is always of interest, as it indicates what may be done in the line of observation by anyone so inclined, even if within the confines of a city. As a further evidence of the benefit from continued observation, it may be stated that I have carefully noted the birds which have visited my city yard during the last twenty-seven years in Kalamazoo, Southern Michigan, latitude between the forty-second and forty-third parallels, and longitude approximately eighty-five de-

grees. Our city was a village when these observations began, but now contains a population of about twenty-five thousand inhabitants, yet within the bounds of a lot, five by twelve rods in size, I have recorded one hundred and thirty-four species of birds and have known of nineteen species nesting. A list with notes will be found published in the *Forest and Stream*, August 11, 1892.

In the front yard in our lot is a low spreading burr oak, and in its branches I have at various times seen sixty-four species of birds and found three to nest there. This list with notes will be found in *Science*, New York, of issue October 27, 1893.

As a boy I kept up a system of observations on the zoology and botany of our sixty square rods of territory, and the list, if published with annotations complete, would fill a good-sized book. This information is offered to those whose chances of observation are curtailed, and the suggestion is made that anyone, in any place, and at any time, may take observations and find food for reflection concerning the animal and vegetable kingdoms.

MORRIS GIBBS.

A Reverie.

(WRITTEN FOR THE NIDOLOGIST.)

I'm a dreamin', just a dreamin',
Of the winter that is done;
Of the old nests and the Owl's eggs,
And the other treasures won.

I'm a thinkin', just a thinkin',
Of the many months to come;
Of the wet and soggy weather,
And the new nests just begun.

I'm a watchin', just a watchin',
All the birds a flying past;
The flocks of Geese and Blackbirds,
And the Ducks that go so fast.

I'm a waitin', just a waitin',
For the flowery month o' May,
With its blossoms and its sweetness,
And the birds who've come to stay.

I'm a countin', just a countin',
On the happy times in spring,
When the birds are all a nestin',
And the woods with music ring.

J. R. BONWELL.

Nebraska City, Neb.

Bluebirds and Passenger Pigeons.

MR. R. D. GOSS sends some very interesting notes from Arcadia, Mo., under date March 14, 1896:

"Saw a pair of Bluebirds the first day I was here, and and from that time until now they have been quite common. Have observed as many as six at one time, and there is scarcely a day that I do not see them and hear the sweet music of their voices.

"Years ago when a boy in Wisconsin, it was but a common occurrence to see the sun clouded by the many thousands of Passenger Pigeons, and as late as in the Sixties, in Minnesota, I observed the same thing; in fact, have seen children out with cow bells, tin pans (and anything else that would make a racket), in seeding time, and were kept busy running to and fro to keep the Pigeons from devouring every grain of wheat, until the farmer could cover it up with his harrow. But alas! that day is past. Some ten years ago I saw a flock of seven in Iowa, and do not remember seeing another until a few days ago, when I saw in the woods near here a flock of nine. They came close to me, and for a few moments I think I was about as excited a man as you will meet."

J. MAURICE HATCH, of Escondido, Cal., took a set of four Barn Owl's from a high cliff on February 22.

THE sad announcement has come from Chicago of the death of Dr. J. N. Rowe, the famous sportsman and proprietor of the *American Field*.

O. W. HOWARD, W. B. Judson, Harry Rising, and Harry Swarts have left Los Angeles on a collecting trip into Arizona, partly in the interests of A. M. Shields and G. Frean Morcom.

THE Oölogists' Association is thriving. At a recent meeting officers were elected as follows: President, I. S. Trostler, Omaha, Neb.; Vice President, Harry W. Kerr, River Sioux, Ia; Secretary, Will E. Snyder, Beaver Dam, Wis.; Treasurer, Dr. Morris Gibbs, Kalamazoo, Mich.

C. H. MORRELL writes from Maine: "I wish you could get more articles from this State. We are obliged to go by guess for many of our nesting dates. I feel particularly sore on this point, for I lost a nice set of four Pileated Woodpecker's the past season by leaving the nest too long, not climbing for fear of driving the birds away before the eggs were laid. When I did climb the youngsters were just appearing through the shell. It was a solemn occasion about then."

AT a recent meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club Mr. H. M. Wallis exhibited three eggs of a Golden Eagle which had been about thirty years in confinement, and began to lay eggs about fifteen years ago. The eggs were taken and those of a domestic fowl substituted. The Eagle hatched three of the latter, and reared three fine birds, feeding them principally on rats. One was slain by its foster-mother for taking undue liberties, but the others have thriven.

To the Point.

DEAR MR. TAYLOR:

I think your *Egg Catalogue* a *good* one in every sense of the word, and do not see how any dealer or anyone else at all interested in birds' eggs could well do without it. Sincerely yours,

CHARLES K. WORTHEN.

Cooper Ornithological Club.

THE Southern Division met at Highland Park January 27. The receipt of four documents from the Department of Agriculture was reported. The meeting was devoted to discussing a plan of Club work, a committee being appointed to report at the following meeting.

The Northern Division met at Berkeley, at the residence of Rev. E. L. Hood, February 1. Messrs. H. S. Groves, N. M. Moran, S. W. Geis, and H. M. Anthony were present as visitors. The usual committees were appointed by the president, as follows: On Publication, Messrs. Beck and Barlow, and on Meetings, Messrs. Osgood, Cohen, and Koch. A paper on Nuttall's and Gairdner's Woodpeckers, by H. W. Carriger, was read, being in substance as follows: "Both species are alike in habits, frequenting the deep woods, edge of forests, and open country without favor. Both nest alike—always in a freshly dug cavity in a decayed part of the tree. The favorite nesting sites are along the creeks both in valley and hills, but usually in the foot-hill region. The entrance to Nuttall's is larger than Gairdner's, the former being 1½ to 2 inches in diameter, while the latter ranges from 1 to 1½ inches. A nest of Nuttall's was taken from a willow stub only two and one half feet up, and another fully sixty feet up in an alder. A nest of Gairdner's was not over six feet up, and others fully forty feet. The freshly dug chips are usually a reliable index to the location of the nests of both species, fully two thirds of the nests found having fresh chips beneath them. [The males of both species were observed excavating the nesting cavities, and Mr. Carriger inclines to the belief that they nearly always prepare the nest.] The males have been caught on the nest, showing that they assist at incubation. Before incubation commences Nuttall's will usually leave the cavity upon the approach of a person to the tree, but after incubation is begun they will usually remain on the eggs until removed by hand. Gairdner's, as a rule, will leave its nest at all times when disturbed.

"The number of eggs laid by Nuttall's is from three to five, usually four, and with Gairdner's it is five or six. Several runt eggs of each species were found. If unmolested the same tree is returned to year after year, though each season a new cavity is made. One tree observed had four nests in a single limb. Fresh eggs of both species may be taken from the latter part of April until the last of May."

Henry B. Kaeding presented a few interesting records secured in Amador County recently, as follows: "On December 1, 1895, was taken a specimen of California Pygmy Owl, the bird being shot in the middle of the day while feeding on a California Towhee. On the same day a male specimen of *Junco hyemalis* was shot from among a flock of Oregon Juncos. December 29 a male Rocky Mountain Creeper was collected. On December 15 a male Rusty Blackbird, which was drinking at a creek, and which was without companions. January 26, 1896, an adult male Bullock's Oriole in an orchard, an early record." All were collected by Charles D. Kaeding.

Mr. N. M. Moran read a paper entitled "The White-throated Swift," which will appear entire later. A paper on "Macgillivray's Warbler," by H. W. Carriger, was presented. This Warbler arrives at Sonoma about April 1. The first of this species for 1895 was noted on April 5 in a clump of wild blackberry bushes along a small creek. The birds were afterward observed in the vines, scolding continually, and when the nest was discovered it was fully sixty yards from this place. It resorts to the underbrush, rarely going up into the trees. The favorite nesting sites are in wild rose bushes or blackberry vines along the valley streams. A pair of these birds have returned to a certain patch of rosebushes for several successive seasons, which cover nearly a quarter of an acre, and when any portion of the patch was approached the birds would be met, when they would immediately begin scolding. Before incubation commences the bird will silently leave the nest while you are some distance away and go perhaps twenty feet through the underbrush before it utters a note; here it commences to cry distressingly, leading the collector on until he is well away from the nest, when the bird disappears. One nest containing highly incubated eggs was visited, and by remaining a few feet from the nest the bird would approach and go on, but left at the slightest movement of the observer. Two nests are built each year, and the same localities are often returned to year after year. The first set is laid about the last of April, and the second toward the last of July. One nest, found May 15, contained five large young, and the same pair again on June 21 had a new nest with four eggs nearly ready to hatch. The second nest is usually built near the first. The first set is nearly always of five eggs, and the second of three or four. The first nest is placed quite low, often not over four inches up and rarely over a foot, while the second ranges anywhere from six inches to three feet or more, though usually about sixteen or eighteen inches.

As a rule, the first nest is much larger than the second. A nest collected May 2, 1895, is composed of wild oat straws loosely put together, near the center of which is the nest

proper, which is lined with fine grasses and a very few hairs. One straw in the nest is over twenty inches long, and many are over a foot long, all bent in a circle. Another nest is composed of wild oat straws, large pieces of bark, and coarse grass, with the same lining as No. 1. The eggs of each set are always very similar to one another. On one occasion a male was observed about forty feet up in an oak, where it poured forth a pleasing song, which was the only time the bird was heard singing.

March Meeting.

The Southern Division met at the residence of F. S. Daggett, in Pasadena, February 24. The receipt of six publications from the Smithsonian Institution and one from the Department of Agriculture was reported, the same having been placed in the Southern Division Library. Mr. W. S. Cobleigh also presented Fisher's *Hawks and Owls of the United States* to the library. Two lines of work were decided upon, namely, collecting notes on the migrations, which is in charge of a committee composed of Messrs. Daggett, Grinnell, and Wicks, and studying the early life histories of common species, the report to be compiled by Messrs. Anthony, Arnold, and Jewett. Members are requested to forward observations to the committees. It was also decided to record all interesting Ornithological notes which may be sent in. Mr. Arnold exhibited representatives of species taken by him in Arizona on a recent trip, and comparisons were made with allied races of Southern California. The Southern Division meets March 30 at the residence of C. H. Wood in Pasadena.

The Northern Division met at the residence of H. C. Ward, in Alameda, March 7. The evening was given to discussing Club work, Mr. Bryant advancing a number of ideas which will probably be followed out. The Northern Division meets April 4 at the residence of W. H. Osgood, in San José

Mr. Frank M. Chapman, sailed from New York February 21, for a trip to Yucatan.

The Ornithologist, the admirable British monthly, will be referred to more at length next month.

Olive Thorne Miller's recent lectures at the Hotel Marlborough, New York, have been much enjoyed.

"Stacks" of admirable articles and illustrations have lately come to us, and we must ask the patience of all contributors. Among notable articles to appear is one by Dr. Shufeldt, on the Smithsonian, with a fine view of its Ornithological Hall.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

Publications Received.

Gurney, J. H. *Ornithological Notes from Norfolk.* Reprinted from *The Zoologist* for March, 1895. Pp. 1–8. [From the author.]

Gurney, John Henry. F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. *Supposed Occurrences of the Spotted Sandpiper in Yorkshire.* Pp. 311, 312. [From the author.]

Gurney, J. H. *On the Recent Abundance of the Little Auk (Mergulus alle, Linn.) in Norfolk.* Reprinted from the Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society. Vol. VI, Art. viii, pp. 67–70. [From the author.]

Gurney, J. H. *Catalogue of the Birds of Prey (Accipitres and Striges), with the Number of Specimens in Norwich Museum.* Published by R. H. Porter. London, 1894. [Frontispiece: Portrait of late J. H. Gurney.] Pp. 1–56. [From the author.]

Southwell, Thomas, F.Z.S. *Memoir of the Late John Henry Gurney.* [Reprinted, with some Revisions, from the Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, Vol. V, p. 156.] Taylor & Francis. London, 1896. Pp. 1–12. [From J. H. Gurney, *fils.*]

It is my intention to devote the Review-space of the present number to a few brief remarks upon the life and works of the late John Henry Gurney, the well-beloved British Ornithologist of Norwich, England. Although it is now quite six years ago since Mr. Gurney's death, the time is hardly more than ripe to glance at his career and form some estimate of his influence; in fact, it is but a few weeks ago since his good friend, Mr. Southwell, put forth a memoir devoted entirely to this subject, and a most charming account it is. For many years past Mr. Gurney frequently favored me with copies of his publications, and at one time no little correspondence passed between us. There is in my private library a copy of his *Diurnal Birds of Prey*, presented me by him over ten years ago, and several of his excellent papers that appeared in *The Ibis* are also there. It is to Mr. Southwell's Memoir, however, that many Ornithologists here in America, myself among the number, are indebted for a more intimate knowledge of his life and career, and to his esteemed son for a photographic portrait of his father (see the works in list of "publications received" above); which last I have succeeded in making a copy of with my camera, and present it herewith.

Mr. John Henry Gurney was born at Earlham Hall, near Norwich, England, on the 4th of July, 1819, and, after a long and active career in Ornithology, he died at the old family mansion, Northrepps Hall, in his seventy-first year, on the 20th of April, 1890. In addition to being a member of a number of learned societies we had the honor in this country of having him as an original Honorary member of the American Ornithologists' Union. By his earnest labors, his numerous addresses upon Ornithological subjects, his writings, and other works he greatly furthered the cause of Ornithology in general, while, owing to the especial attention he bestowed upon Raptorial Birds,

he vastly increased our knowledge of that group in particular. Indeed, at the time of his death there was probably no one who possessed the information about the Owls and the diurnal Raptores that Mr. Gurney did, and the collection he had built up at the Norwich Museum illustrating those birds was considered by many to rival even what they had at the British Museum. Taking the Owls and diurnal birds of prey together, this collection now numbers over four thousand seven hundred specimens. It contains no less than one hundred and twenty-four specimens of *Strix flammea* and its subspecies, while of *Falco peregrinus* and its near ally, *F. melanogenys*, there are seventy-five specimens. Mr. Gurney was also very fond of keeping many animals and birds alive, and, according to Mr. Southwell, he had in his younger years a "large yard dedicated to the cause of Zoology, in which a row of cages was put up for birds of prey, of which he had much the best private collection then in existence, though since surpassed by Lord Lilford's. Although the birds never bred he obtained many eggs of the Goshawk, Kite, Yellow-billed Kite, Jackal Buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard, Mongolian Buzzard, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Sociable Vulture, and others. This last named laid about a dozen eggs, most of which were very fine, though one or two were soft-shelled; she began to lay in 1859, and always laid in February until 1868, when she changed her time to March." Mr. Southwell concludes his most entertaining biography of the subject of this sketch by saying, "Those who remember Mr. Gurney in his prime will recognize his somewhat portly figure and prepossessing features, lit up with a kindly smile, so well transferred to canvas in the museum portrait; but the personal charm of manner, the cultivated yet natural tones of voice, and the cheerful greeting can never be reproduced. Those who knew him intimately will recall with pleasure the infinite fund of quiet humor and flow of anecdote, the result of keen powers of observation of men and manners extending over many years—which made his companionship so delightful, even when his bodily powers were failing—and feel that his loss has created a void never to be filled."

THE LATE JOHN H. GURNEY.

The son, the present Mr. J. H. Gurney, will doubtless sustain handsomely his father's enviable reputation, and still further increase the usefulness of the Norwich Museum and the other enterprises he had so firmly on foot at the time of his death. In his *Catalogue of the Birds of Prey* he gives us much additional biographical matter relative to his father, as well as a list of his works. (See title above.) This is an excellent little volume, and a very useful one. It is illustrated with maps of the world, giving the distribution of the *Vulturidæ*, *Scops*, etc., and has an excellent figure of the nest of *Archibuteo ferrugineus* in it, showing four young in the downy plumage. In speaking of the *Supposed Occurrences of the Spotted Sandpiper in Yorkshire* Mr. Gurney, Jr., says: "There are thirty-one supposed occurrences of the Spotted Sandpiper in the British Isles, and there are very few birds around which so much misapprehension has clustered. A good many of them are undoubtedly cases of mistaken identity, while some are foreign skins willfully or unintentionally palmed off as British-killed, and admitted into collections where they would otherwise not have found a place." This paper is well worth reading, and gives considerable information about our Common Spotted Sandpiper (*T. macularius*). The *Ornithological Notes from Norfolk* is a good example, going to show how interesting a monthly Ornithological journal can be made and how important it is to keep such records. In his account *On the Recent Abundance of the Little Auk (Mergulus alle, Linn.) in Norfolk*, the same author gives us a most remarkable chapter in bird-life, which was the result of "the Arctic weather which prevailed during January, 1895, which was the theme of every tongue at the time." Among many extraordinary happenings in England's Ornis, Little Auks were "sprinkled broadcast over the northern part of Norfolk, nearest the coast," sometimes far inland, and *many hundreds* of them were gathered up. (For complete titles of these papers see above.) In closing we desire to wish Mr. Gurney all success in his conduction of the affairs of the Norwich Museum, and especially that he may succeed in obtaining the list of *Accipitres* and *Striges* necessary to fill out his *desiderata*, and which are given in full in his *Catalogue of the Birds of Prey*.

R. W. S.

Mr. John Murgatroyd, of New York, the taxidermist, suggests that Nansen, the Norwegian, who is said to have discovered the North Pole, may bring back a Great Auk or two. What a pleasant sight it would be to see a *live* Great Auk in with the Swans in the Central Park!

Thoughts on the New Check-List.

THE appearance of this expected work was welcomed by perhaps all Ornithologists as the crowning effort of an organized endeavor that has done so much to place American Ornithology on a sure and firm basis. To those who study birds occasionally as a pastime or hobby, and they far outnumber the really scientific students, it and its predecessor have presented a fixity of names which to those not in touch with the higher lights of the science, or endowed with the faculty of remembering or noting the many changes to which scientific nomenclature is prone, has afforded a sure basis from which to associate and recall the incidents and experiences with which they delight to regale and instruct themselves and others.

Comprehensive in plan and admirable in typographic execution as this work is, it yet presents some failings which in this era of free criticism one may perhaps be allowed to at least point out and to some extent also question. The book is ostensibly the compilation of a committee of five well-known gentlemen who in it acknowledge their indebtedness for assistance rendered by six other Ornithologists equally or nearly as well known. If this volume had had an editor-in-chief, instead of the noble array of talent mentioned, one would not necessarily feel at all backward about one's action in even remotely advancing evidence, in effect suggesting that an addenda to the book would be useful, in fact, necessary.

Typographical errors are few. That Greenland, on page 321, should be spelled with three e's, and that the word "probably," on page 221, should have two p's, are doubtless due to the incorrigibility of the printer, and surely could not have been overlooked by the learned array of proof readers associated with this work. Another and a larger series of vexatious misplacements, are shown by a careful comparison of the absence or presence of marks of parentheses in connection with the name of the authority for the specific or subspecific name. ' The rule is to inclose the abbreviated name of the authority in parentheses when it is not also the authority for the first use of the name as adopted by the committee. No. 675*a* is a case where the parentheses should be removed. No. 211*a* is a case where they should be inserted. No. 706 is a similar case, and there are several others. No. 13*a* is an example where one is tempted to ask who really described the name of the bird in question. The usual practice certainly does not obtain in this instance. In another example, No. 766*a*, the Ornithological tyro will doubtless be mystified as to the course of reasoning that put (Swains) as the authority for the name of this bird as adopted by the committee. Nothing appears below it to sustain the alleged authority. The date 1884 is certainly erroneous. I must also confess my inability to decide by the *Check-List* as to who first formed the name *Rallus jamaicensis*. Linn. is given under the subgenus *Creciscus*, while Gmel. is given a few lines below. The question is submitted for examination and elucidation by the "wise men." No. 567*d* was described as a species by Mr. Loomis and was changed to a subspecies by the committee in the *Auk* for January, 1894, page 47. To be consistent, a line should be added crediting the A. O. U. supplement of that date with the change of name, also inclosing the authority, Loomis, in parentheses. This has been done in several precisely similar cases, for instance, No. 740*a*. As no one has proved intergradation of this form with *hyemalis* why may not the committee be wrong altogether and Mr. Loomis right?

In the *List* of 1886 the committee permitted the introduction of manuscript names as authoritative. In the *List* of 1895 this action is reversed, and no such names, except through oversight, are now allowed. This change by the committee is hardly well taken, is unscientific, and considerable might be said in objection. I take it that when an author accepts a manuscript name he thereby gives up all claim to it himself. Can the committee force him, whether he will or not, to accept the credit which he has willingly given to another and whom he has thereby acknowledged to be the real discoverer and namer of the new form in question? One effect has been to make a certain author name a new bird in honor of himself, which, of course, never was intended. Another effect in one case has been to give a manuscript name to a bird without even the hint of a description being found in the record of the citation given. *Parus gambeli*, a new name, was furnished the committee in manuthe *List* of 1886. Now, in 1895 they quote this *List* of script by Mr. Ridgway, and was inserted by them in 1886 as authority and first published use of the name, ignoring completely the lack of a description, and also the fact that it is only a manuscript name. To be consistent in their practice the *List* itself or the committee should be given as authority for the name. But in fact both are wrong, as a description occurs on page 562 of the *Manual* of 1887, where the name is perhaps first properly used. Canons XXXII, XXXIV, and XLI of the code apply with full force to this case. It might also be in order to suggest that, inasmuch as the committee have in this *List* reversed their former course of procedure on this subject, it would have been as well to have inserted a statement of their intention or reasons for doing so in the Preface to the present volume. The book will be used by many who will doubtless be puzzled to account for such a radical change, and who will, on account of their location, be unable to discover the reasons therefor.

In No. 320, page 122, we have an interesting case from several points of view. The North American continental bird so long known as *Columbigallina passerina* was finally, after some treatment by Mr. Maynard, which has been set aside, renamed by Mr. Chapman as *Columbigallina passerina terrestris*. In his paper Mr. Chapman distinctly states that his name is intended to apply to the resident continental bird. Now Mr. Chapman tells us that the Jamaica bird, which is different, was the bird which Linnæus called *Columba passerina*. The committee adopts these views of Mr. Chapman by adopting his name. If then these gentlemen are right, how can *Columba passerina* be the original name from which to cite the name *Columbigallina passerina terrestris?* Yet this is what the committee does. If Linnæus described a continental bird, then Mr. Chapman and the committee are wrong. If Linnæus described a Jamaica bird, then Mr. Chapman is right in giving a new name, but the committee is also again wrong. There is nothing more different in the conditions in this case than appears in, for instance, No. 360*a*, and the treatment should be precisely the same. The geographical distribution as given for this bird is misleading. If the bird of the Southeastern States is distinct from its insular relatives, then it should most certainly have a different name. If it does not and cannot intergrade, then the name should be a specific one, and the bird should stand as *Columbigallina terrestris* (Chapm.).

WILLIAM PALMER.

(*To be continued.*)

THE NIDOLOGIST.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE
DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF
ORNITHOLOGY,
With Special Reference to the
NIDIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

H. R. TAYLOR, Editor and Publisher,
Associated with DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS.

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast.

Subscription (in advance), ... $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage.)
Single Copies. . . . . 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form.
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired.

OUR AGENTS.

SWANN & Co., 1 & 2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E. C.

CALIFORNIA—C. BARLOW, of Santa Clara, is our agent, and can receive subscriptions, advertisements, furnish terms, papers, etc.

COLORADO—FREDERICK M. DILLE, 406 McPbee Building, Denver, is our accredited agent for the middle West.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION,
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

Entered at the New York Post Office as mail matter of the second class.

Song to the Chickadee.

After "Sweet Marie."

BY E. A. DOOLITTLE, PAINESVILLE, O.

I'VE a bird song in my heart,
Chickadee;
One that I would impart,
Tit, to thee:
From the woodland, from the dell,
Where in happiness you dwell,
Comes the song I love so well,
Chickadee!

Come to me,
Chickadee;
Chickadee,
Come to me,
Not because you're full of grace,
Birdie wee;
But your form so very small,
And your hearty, happy call,
Make me love you best of all,
Chickadee.

Though the snow is on the ground,
Chickadee,
Still your happy, cheery sound
Comes to me.
Everyone that passes by
Hesitates, and wonders why
To the South you do not fly,
Chickadee.

Sing to me,
Chickadee;
Chickadee,
Sing to me;
Not because your song excels,
Birdie wee;
But the other birds are still,
And your sweet contented trill
Seems to lessen winter's chill,
Chickadee.

When you stand out in the blast,
Chickadee,
Recollections of the past
Come to me;
I mean that warm spring day,
The thirty-first of May,
When I stole your eggs away,
Chickadee.

I can see,
Chickadee;
Chickadee,
I can see
That it was a heartless act,
Birdie wee;
But since I have a "clutch,"
No more your eggs I'll touch,
Though I'd prize them very much,
Chickadee.

A TRUE LOVER OF BIRDS.

No recent event in the world of Ornithologists has caused more regret than the recent death of Henry Seebohm, the famous naturalist, who devoted his life and much of his large fortune to researches in Ornithology, often undertaking long and perilous journeys in search of hitherto undiscovered eggs. One of his expeditions was, in company with Mr. Harvie-Brown, into Siberia, in search of eggs of the Gray Plover and Little Stint, both of which were found. His *British Birds*, *Siberia in Asia*, and other illustrious works will long survive him in fitting commemoration of his ardent love of science. He has left his great collection, numbering 16,000 specimens, to the British nation.

We have reproduced the excellent portrait of Mr. Seebohm, from *The Ornithologist*, the charming new publication just launched by H. Kirke Swann, Esq.

MESSRS. WILLIAMSON AND CHADWICK, the active collectors of Loring, Kan., make a specialty of collecting eggs of the Great Horned Owl. The editor was reminded of this most pleasingly the other day by the presentation of a set of three eggs of *Bubo* of their take. They were beautifully prepared.

OUR SPECIAL EASTER SALE.

I found on taking an inventory of my stock of **EGGS** prior to moving into my new quarters, that I had a surplus of many singles. To reduce this I have decided to make the following liberal offers.

For every **Dollar** ($1.00) sent me before April 10, I will send you, **prepaid,** your selection from the following list to value of $2.50. For every $2.00 sent me, I will send you, **prepaid,** your selection to value of $5.00 worth, and include FREE a copy of Lattin's New "Standard Catalogue." For every $2.50 sent me, I will send you $6.50 worth and include FREE one egg of Chuck-will's-widow and one copy of Lattin's "Standard Catalogue." For $5.00 I will send you $13.25 worth and include FREE an egg of the Canvas-back and Hutton's Vireo, listing at $3.25, and also send Lattin's "Standard Catalogue," if you will mention it. Send money in manner most convenient, stamps not taken in sums over $1.00. Parties sending orders amounting to less than $1.00 can select eggs to double the amount sent. Orders of less than 50c. must include 5c. extra for postage. Remember that this offer expires April 10, 1896, and that, while I will fill orders at these rates as long as stock holds out, NO EXTRAS will be sent after that time. Always mention a few substitutes and address everything plainly to

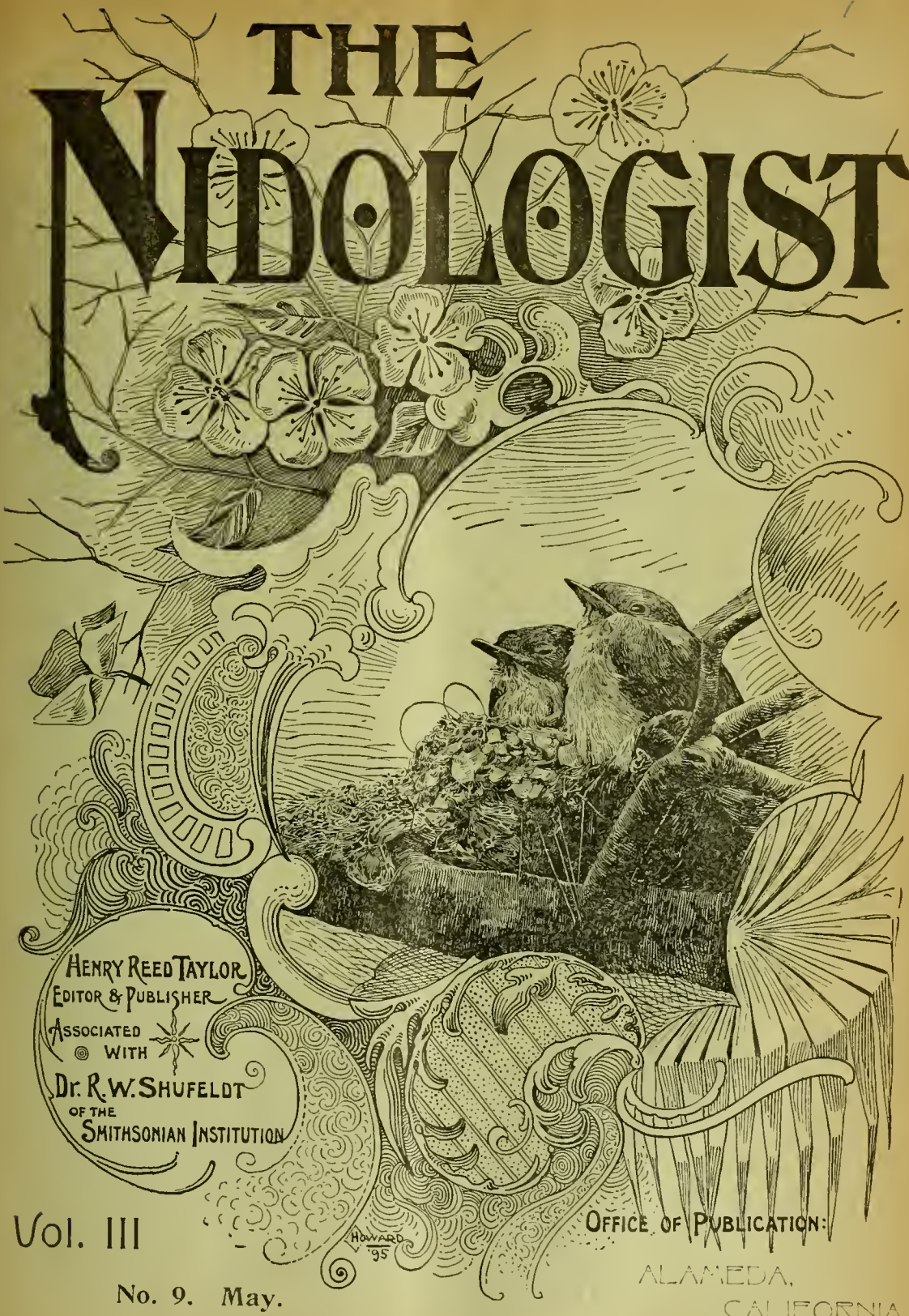
ERNEST H. SHORT, Albion, N. Y.

*Pied-billed Grebe	$0 10	Marsh Hawk	$0 35	Baltimore Oriole	$0 06	Long-tailed Chat	$0 15
Black Guillemot	25	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 00	Brewer's Blackbird	03	Pileolated Warbler	50
*Murre	20	Cooper's Hawk	30	Purple Grackle	05	*Am. Redstart	15
Calif. Murre	20	*Red-tailed Hawk	60	*Bronzed Grackle	04	Am. Dipper	1 00
*Razor-billed Auk	25	Western Red-tail	60	Boat-tailed Grackle	15	*Mockingbird	05
Gt. Black-backed Gull	40	Red-shouldered Hawk	35	Great-tailed Grackle	15	*Catbird	02
Western Gull	30	*Fla. Red-shouldered Hawk	60	Purple Finch	20	*Brown Thrasher	02
*Am. Herring Gull	20	Am. Sparrow Hawk	30	House Finch	05	Sennett's Thrasher	15
*Calif. Gull	30	Audubon's Caracara	1 00	*Am. Goldfinch	05	*Curve-billed Thrasher	15
Ring-billed Gull	25	Am. Osprey	50	Ark. Goldfinch	10	*Calif. Thrasher	20
Laughing Gull	20	Am. Long-eared Owl	30	*Chestnut-collared Long-spur	35	Cactus Wren	20
Caspian Tern	50	Fla. Barred Owl	1 00	Savanna Sparrow	12	Bewick's	20
Royal Tern	40	Fla. Screech Owl	40	Seaside Sparrow	20	Baird's Wren	20
Cabot's Tern	30	Calif. Screech Owl	40	*Lark Sparrow	05	House Wren	05
Forster's Tern	10	*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10	Western Lark Sparrow	05	Parkman's Wren	10
*Common Tern	08	*Black-billed Cuckoo	12	*Chipping Sparrow	03	*Long-billed Marsh Wren	05
Least Tern	08	Belted Kingfisher	15	Black-throated Sparrow	20	*White-breasted Nuthatch	35
*Sooty Tern	25	Hairy Woodpecker	40	*Song Sparrow	02	Brown-headed Nuthatch	25
*Black Tern	10	Downy Woodpecker	20	*Heerman's Song Sparrow	10	Tufted Titmouse	30
*Noddy	50	Baird's Woodpecker	50	*Swamp Sparrow	10	Plain Titmouse	50
Fulmar	75	*Red-headed Woodpecker	10	*Towhee	10	*Chickadee	12
*Leach's Petrel	20	*Red-shafted Flicker	10	*Spurred Towhee	20	Oregon Chickadee	35
Anhinga	25	Nighthawk	40	*Calif. Towhee	10	Calif. Bush-tit	15
Double-crested Cormorant	25	Chimney Swift	12	Gray-tailed Cardinal	25	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	20
Am. Merganser	75	Costa's Hummer	60	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	10	*Wood Thrush	06
Black Duck	40	Anna's Hummer	50	*Black-headed Grosbeak	15	*Wilson's Thrush	12
Pintail	30	*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10	Blue Grosbeak	20	*Russet-back Thrush	15
Ruddy Duck	35	Kingbird	04	*Indigo Bunting	08	Hermit Thrush	30
Roseate Spoonbill	1 00	*Arkansas Kingbird	06	Lazuli Bunting	20	Am. Robin	02
*White Ibis	30	*Cassin's Kingbird	20	Painted Bunting	10	Bluebird	03
Wood Ibis	1 00	Crested Flycatcher	12	Dickcissel	05	Mountain Bluebird	10
*Least Bittern	20	*Mex. Crested Flycatcher	25	*Lark Bunting	25		
*Gt. Blue Heron	30	Ash-throated Flycatcher	25	Scarlet Tanager	25	**Foreign.**	
*Little Blue Heron	10	*Phœbe	04	Summer Tanager	20	*Song Thrush	$0 05
*Green Heron	12	Black Phœbe	15	*Purple Martin	12	*Blackbird	10
*Sora	10	*Wood Pewee	12	Cliff Swallow	03	*Redstart	10
Purple Gallinule	25	*West. Wood Pewee	20	*Barn Swallow	05	*Willow Warbler	05
Fla. Gallinule	10	Western Flycatcher	25	*Tree Swallow	15	Wood Warbler	10
*Am. Coot	08	Acadian Flycatcher	20	Bank Swallow	08	Marsh Warbler	20
Wilson Phalarope	1 00	*Little Flycatcher	20	*Rough-winged Swallow	20	Cettia Warbler	40
Am. Woodcock	1 25	*Traill's Flycatcher	25	Cedar Waxwing	10	Orphean Warbler	50
Bartramian Sandpiper	30	*Least Flycatcher	15	Phainopepla	30	Grasshopper Warbler	35
Spotted Sandpiper	15	*Prairie Horned Lark	15	*White-rumped Shrike	08	Rufous Warbler	25
Killdeer	20	Ruddy Horned Lark	30	*Red-eyed Vireo	10	Jay	10
Snowy Plover	50	Am. Magpie	20	*Warbling Vireo	20	Garden Warbler	10
Oystercatcher	25	Yellow-billed Magpie	50	Yellow-throated Vireo	30	Hedge Sparrow	10
*Bob-white	10	Blue Jay	04	White-eyed Vireo	15	Siskin	75
Florid Bob-white	15	*Fla. Blue Jay	25	Bell's Vireo	15	Wren	05
Mountain Partridge	75	Blue-fronted Jay	75	Prothonotary Warbler	25	Robin	05
Calif. Partridge	10	Calif. Jay	20	Lutescent Warbler	75	Blackcap	10
Valley Partridge	15	White-necked Raven	60	Parula Warbler	20	Spotted Flycatcher	10
Sooty Grouse	75	Am. Crow	05	*Yellow Warbler	04	Long-tailed Tit	80
Oregon Ruffed Grouse	40	*Bobolink	25	*Chestnut-sided Warbler	20	Mongolian Pheasant	35
Prairie Hen	20	Cowbird	02	Prairie Warbler	30	Partridge	15
Wild Turkey	1 00	*Yellow-headed Blackbird	05	Oven-bird	15	Barbary Partridge	25
Chacalaca	50	*Red-wing Blackbird	01	Louisiana Water-thrush	40	Pheasant	25
*Red-billed Pigeon	1 00	Bicolored Blackbird	10	*Maryland Yellow-throat	12	Sparrow Hawk	30
*White-winged Dove	20	Tricolored Blackbird	15	Western Yellow-throat	15	Dartford Warbler	40
Ground Dove	20	Meadowlark	10	*Yellow-breasted Chat	08	Blue-throated Warbler	40
Turkey Vulture	75	Western Meadowlark	12				
Black Vulture	75	Orchard Oriole	06				

All guaranteed First Class.

Of those marked (*) I have original sets with data. Write for price on what you want.

THE NIDOLOGIST



HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Vol. III

No. 9. May.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
ALAMEDA,
CALIFORNIA

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

Vol. III. No. 9. ALAMEDA, CAL., MAY, 1896 $1.00 Per Year

PARTIAL ALBINO BICOLORED BLACKBIRD
Drawn for The Nidologist by Mrs. C. C. McGregor)

Albinos.

BY R. C. M'GREGOR, PALO ALTO, CAL.

THE following list of albino birds seems to be worthy of record. The first five are in the collection of the Leland Stanford Junior University; the last two were collected by me and presented to the U. S. National Museum:

Aphelocoma californica. California Jay. Mayfield, Santa Clara county, Cal., July 8, 1894. ♀ N. G. Buxton. Pure white, no trace of color. Bill and legs pale straw in the dry specimen.

Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi. California Woodpecker. San Diego county, Cal., July 25, 1892. ♂ Stoddard and Hyatt. (Coll. Leland Stanford Junior University, No. 549.) Jugulum, pale lemon-yellow lightly streaked with white; crown and hind neck, glossy crimson; upper tail-coverts, crissum, abdomen, sides of body and basal portion of primaries and secondaries, white. A few white spots on the outer tail feather and destal portion of secondaries. Remainder of plumage ashy color; tips of wings creamy.

Merula migratoria propinqua. Western Robin. Palo Alto, Cal. Nov. 18, 1894. V. L. Kellogg. (Coll. L. S. Jr. U., No. 2808.) A few spots of ochraceous buff on sides of body and breast; scattering feathers of light slate on lores, ears, occiput, nape and upper part of body. Otherwise pure white. Bill, straw; feet and claws, dirty straw.

Sturnella magna neglecta. Western Meadowlark. Lakeport, Lake county, Cal. Nov. 1, 1894. H. H. Foree. (Coll. L. S. Jr. U., No. 2790.) Differs from the ordinary plumage as follows: Top and sides of head and breast spotted with white; about half of feathers on back and coverts, white; one of the outer tail feather, white; the other outer feathers and two next pairs, largely white.

Agelaius gubernator. Bicolored Black, bird. Moss Landing, Monterey county-Cal. March 31, 1896. ♀ J. E. Millikin. (Coll. L. S. Jr. U.) Red wing patch streaked with black; a pinkish tinge on some of the feathers of breast, throat and side of head. The black and white markings are shown in the accompanying drawing by Mrs. C. C. McGregor.

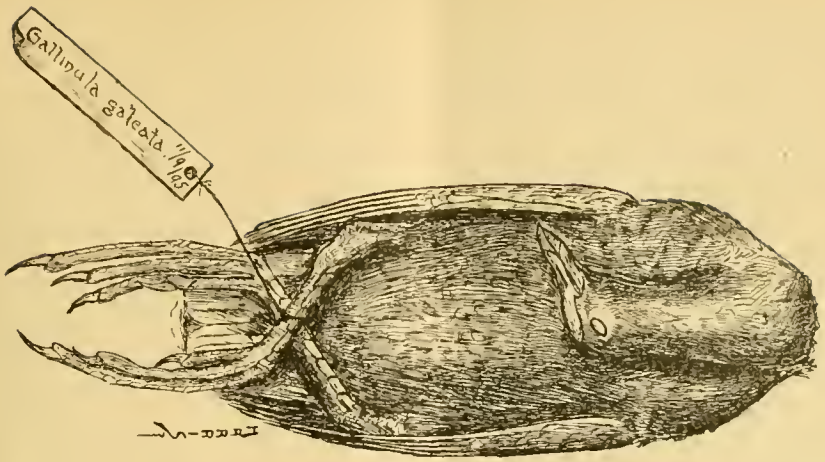
Agelaius gubernator. Bicolored Blackbird. Cahto, Mendocino county, Cal. May 4, 1889. ♂ R. C. McGregor. (Coll. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 152,194.) This is not an albino, but is curious in having a single white pink-tinged feather in center of breast.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Semper, Jefferson county, Colo. Sept. 15, 1889. ♀ R. C. McGregor. (Coll. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 152,195.) Lores, sides of head, sides of neck and throat orange, lighter on throat, becoming deeper on upper breast. Rest of body brownish-gray; wings and tail cream buff; gray of back mixed with cream buff.

Michigan Notes.

A ROBIN was reported in Southern Michigan in the month of January. Those interesting northern birds the Pine Grosbeaks have been recorded in three localities south of the 43rd parallel during the past cold season. Professor Burrow's first reported them in Ingham county in December last. In looking over the old records the following notes are found:—In 1869 the Pine Gosbeaks appeared in Kent county. Abundant in Cass and Calhoun counties in 1870; 1871 Van Buren county; 1872 and '73 give no records. In January 1874 the species first appeared in Kalamazoo county and in small flocks. In December '71 they came again and in large flocks, and remained with us until late January 1875. Flocks appeared in Washtenaw county winter of 74–75, but did not reappear there again up to 1881. I can find no records for State 1876 to 1878. In 1878–79 they appeared in Kent county and were abundant during the winter. I find no records since 1879, though the species is undoubtedly a winter visitor to Michigan as often as every two or three years. Mr. Edward Arnold, of Battle Creek, took a set of eggs of the Great Horned Owl February 27. Nest 25 feet up in a tamarack. Song Sparrows and Bluebirds appeared as usual during the first week in March. Crows have remained with us throughout the past winter and they have been observed flying about within the corporate limits of Kalamazoo every week during the season. Mr. Samuel Spicer sends the information of the presence of the Black Vulture in his section of Southern Michigan. This is undoubtedly wrong, and he has misidentified the Turkey Buzzard, a bird which is becoming comparatively common.

KALAMAZOO, Mich. MORRIS GIBBS.



FLORIDA GALLINULE

The Florida Gallinule.

THE accompanying sketch is that of a skin of the Florida Gallinule, and, as I have met with it but once in all my rambles, I have concluded it must be somewhat rare in this locality. I don't believe it nests here, though Davie places us within its range.

The frontal plate and back part of beak is bright red and the tip is green; head and neck black; back mostly dark brown and slate; wings dusky, scapulars dark brown. On the front bow of the spurious primary and the large upper covert back of it is a white streak. The belly is light gray mingled with white. Along the sides under the wings are a few long feathers. The under tail coverts are white and black, the white one being on each side. The tail feathers are black. A red band, about a quarter of an inch wide, encircles the tibia, directly below the place where it emerges from the feathers.

The plates along the front of the tarsus are mottled with greenish-yellow. Feet are dark green.

As this bird is very abundant in many regions and many of the "Nid's," readers are thoroughly acquainted with it, why not have a good paper on its habits?

J. H. HARRIS JR.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

NATURAL REGRETS.— "I have been taking THE NIDOLOGIST since January, and am very well pleased with it. I am only sorry that I did not take it before."

Haddonfield, N. J. LAWRENCE APPLETON."

Unusual Nesting Sites.

UPON the northwestern prairies many birds are hard put to it to find nesting sites common to these species elsewhere. They are here through the summer season, evidently, because the climate is suited to their taste and the food supply affected by them abundant—for it is hardly to be doubted that birds in their spring migrations make a more or less extended *trial* of a locality before definitely settling upon it for a summer home.

Of course the prairies for this latitude are swept with vigorous winds and the nights are often sharp, and the region is hardly adapted to the sensitive and delicate organism of many species, but the long succession of cloudless days with brilliant sunshine and the variety of vegetation, and abundance of insect life, furnish conditions suited to the tastes and requirements of the more rugged species, both great and small, and it is doubtful if a day in the field in June in any region of the country will bring to the notice of the observer a greater number of species than upon these magnificent, fertile prairies.

In this great prarie region the Chimney Swift seems common and yet the opportunity to build in chimneys is comparatively restricted, for the reason that the country is new as yet, and brick has to be transported from a considerable distance, and houses are supplied either with small chimneys or none at all, the makeshift being often a metal "roof-jack." Under these circumstances the Chimney Swift is driven to nesting on the inside of abandoned houses and sheds, glueing its unique little hol-

lowed shelf to the bare wall pretty well up toward the roof. Two such nests I took this season and heard of others similarly situated, but I have yet to see one of these birds issue from a chimney. The advantage of a good, clean wall, under cover, over a dirty, open chimney would seem to be great. After all, the choice of the former seems to be forced, and doubtless—later on when our chimneys get plenty and more roomy we shall have to take our sets, as I did in early youth, by means of a long stick with a wad of cotton tied upon one end and dipped in glue! But—*de gustibus*, etc.

June 22 last summer, while driving across the open level prairie I was amazed to see numbers of Bank Swallows apparently issuing from the solid ground a few rods from the wagon trail. On approaching the spot a great company of these graceful birds arose from the mouth of an abandoned dry well about fifteen feet deep, the perpendicular clay walls of which were honey-combed with nesting holes, and from which next day with the aid of ladder and spade I took a fine set of 7 fresh eggs as a souvenir of this unusual nesting situation. Hitherto I had noted only an occasional bird of this species and had hardly thought of them as breeders here, as a conventional "bank," such as this Swallow ordinarily requires—is hardly to be looked for hereabouts.

But the nesting of the Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*), one of the most abundant of our birds, indicates here, habitually, a radical departure from that ordinarily attributed to this species and surely different from the way it used to nest "when I was a boy" in Wisconsin. There I had to climb for my nests; here I oftener stoop.

Dotting the prairie in every direction are small clumps of *greasewood* (in common parlance) a low shrub from one to three feet in height; and in the latter part of June pretty nearly every clump holds its pair of Kingbirds and their nests. Once this season while searching these bits of brush for the nest of the Clay-colored Sparrow I flushed a female Kingbird from his nest six inches from the ground, set between three upright slender shoots of this insignificant shrub, this being the nearest approach to nesting on the ground within my observation. Again I found the nest and four eggs of this species in the tool box of a sulky plow left standing in a level field a mile from any human habitation and far from timber. Later a nest was shown me built in the twine box of a "binder" standing alone and far removed from any other conspicuous object.

Early in June last a vigorous pair of Kingbirds, after much cautious investigation, finally chose for a nesting site the high end of the galvanized iron gutter, running just under the eaves along the East side of our kitchen and about a dozen feet from our bedroom window. We spent much time at this window watching their leisurely and somewhat desultory labor as they undertook to shape the nest to the slippery, rounding bottom of the gutter and anchor it firmly. Possibly we inspected them too closely, for one day after a more extensive "lay off" than usual they deliberately pulled the half completed nest to pieces and transported all the material to the *low* end of the same kind of gutter on the main part of the house, but completely out of sight of the window. This time the nest was saddled squarely on the opening into the escape pipe running to the cistern. Rain fell in torrents at times while they were building in this second situation and the gutter fairly overflowed; but, nothing daunted, the work of the pair proceeded until one night a heavy wind scooped the mass of twine, rags, flax fiber and other material completely out of the gutter and lodged it in a tangled mat in the wire fence surrounding the yard. We did not discover that this untoward circumstance dampened the ardor of the birds, for soon after breakfast we observed them hard at work extracting material from the mass in the wire fence and adjusting it to a new spot in the low end of the gutter on the west side of the kitchen and squarely over another escape pipe running to the cistern. This time they were successful in completing a first class nest and in due time the female deposited therein a "first class set" of ¼ *Tyrannus tyrannus* (according to the style of nomenclature which Dr. Coues abhors with some reason) and I suppose she was really entitled to proceed with the work of incubation undisturbed, but the fact is we use our cistern water for drinking and cooking and hardly relished the idea of a nest for a filter, so with much reluctance and explanation to the children in justification of the dire necessity, I "collected" this interesting nest and set.

The season was now well advanced into July and this pair might surely have been excused from further family duty until another year, but the instinct proved too

strong and they "manfully" set to work again—this time, however, in strong contrast to their first leisurely efforts. And further, it would seem that no site other than a slippery gutter entered into their calculations for a moment, for within an hour from the time of their last despoiling we observed them engaged in feverish haste in laying a nest foundation in a galvanized iron gutter upon the house of a neighbor but a few rods away, and here they were permitted to sucessfully complete their interrupted labors and early in September were triumphantly feeding their newly hatched young.

MINNEWAUKAN, N. D. E. S. ROLFE.

The Photo Fiend.

BY REV. P. B. PEABODY.

(*Continued.*)

AVOID fogging films. *Avoid fogging films!* I say that to myself twice. And here I must say out loud (for I am writing, not in the interest of *Dealers*, but of *Consumers*) that the "Daylight" feature of certain cameras is, to beginners, at least, a delusion.

One takes that wonderful new camera into the darkest corner of a very dark hallway to unload. The reel has *balked*; of course, the film is exhausted. Nervously, the camera back is unscrewed, and, horror of horrors! instead of black cloth one sees a vision of film. Something has caught, of course; and not only are the two or three best negatives in the roll completely fogged, but the two remaining exposures are now worthless. What can be the matter? The indicator says "25" (or "50" as the case may be) simply this: The roll of film was put in strictly according to directions, and set automatically. As a consequence the first two exposures (oh, what fine negatives they might have made!) were snapped onto black cloth, and the whole stupid automatic business makes one ready to trade his darling camera for a collection of stamps. But the "Daylight" is all right "for a' that." *Have* a dark room. Load the camera there. Turn the reel until the margin of film next the black cloth touches the "off" edge of the view field. Then it's right. And now, if the film catches, all may be set right, calmly and deliberately if the dark-room be at hand (if on a collecting trip, the investigation should be made in the *dark*, there being scant excuse for not knowing one's camera sufficiently to do this.)

LITTLE RING PLOVER
(From Elliot's "Shore Birds")

And now *we start afield*. We have learned to be very humble; to watch every step; to obey directions—sometimes—and sometimes carefully to follow our own judgment. We have learned that, of species fairly common, we shall find a more perfect nest, or a more beautiful site, to-morrow, and so we pass by many good things. We find a Green Heron's nest, in a three-inch sapling, near the top, eight feet up. How can we reach *that?*

From the tail end of my wagon, I draw a skeleton ladder, light strong, hickory sides and iron rungs. It has safe braces and an equally safe extension. All this puts me at least six feet above the nest on any side and at any feasible angle. I want, now, to take a shot at four feet. Very well. I focus the camera at four and a half. In case I wished a five-foot focus, I should set the index at six. The lesson of many "indefinite" negatives, with the clear focal point just back of the point of interest has taught us, that, in automatic focusing, the indicated distance should be a little greater (in sliding scale) than the actual distance.

This raises the query: When will man-

ufacturers give us a camera in which the magazine attachment can be detached in the field, with safety to the film, thus allowing the use of cut films in holders, so giving the advantage of a perfect, verifiable focus, and a camera at *that*, withal, that shall not be too heavy for carrying all day long through quagmires and tangled woods and over rocky hills?

(*To be continued.*)

Nesting of the White-throated Swift*

THE writer's experience with the nesting of the White-throated Swift is a series of misfortunes, and at the same time a testimonial to the value of the reference books on which we are accustomed to depend for our information with regard to little known species. In fact, the results are so meager that they might be considered not sufficient to make public. This Swift is of general but not of plentiful distribution in the San Luis Obispo coast region. Nearly every cliff of any considerable size has its complement of Swifts darting and circling about it, uttering their peculiar twittering cry. This, I believe, is usually uttered on the downward flight, being highest in pitch at the beginning of the descent and lowering with the progress of the bird, and it can sometimes be heard also when the birds are at rest in the cliffs. Occasionally they may be seen flying over the valleys, but so high that they are seldom observed at any distance from the cliffs.

As to the question of migration the writer cannot speak positively. The Swifts have been observed around the cliffs at all times of the year, but whether the same individuals or not is not certain. In one instance during the fall (it was the Duck season) large numbers were observed hovering above the ponds of a small tule lake. On April 14, 1893, the writer and a brother were proceeding along the coast. The cliffs were of about twenty-five feet in height, and had a second story of caves above those in which the water was. Having discovered something in a narrow crack in the roof of a cave about nine feet up, he called me over. We found it to be a Swift on a nest. By standing on my shoulders my brother could reach the nest and found it to be not quite completed, the Swift meanwhile only withdrawing a few inches above his hand. On April 26 we again visited the nest, as this ordinarily would have been long enough for a set of eggs to be deposited. This time I went up and found no eggs. The bird attempted to fly out and came into my hand, and a glance was sufficient to remove any doubt as to identity. On May 12 the spot was again visited, and seemed to be deserted. I attempted to remove the nest, but owing to the softness of the dry grasses of which I found it to be composed and the strength of glue used in the construction, it could be taken out only in fragments. The grass was such as covered all the neighboring hills and the glue used in the construction explained the length of time necessary for completion.

Camping in the vicinity I happened to pass the spot on July 17, and to my astonishment the crack was tenanted. Investigation showed one egg almost hatched and two young, to the best of the writer's knowledge, as the nest could not be seen into. The egg is pure white except for some nest markings, and measures .9x.43 inches. In shape it resembles a Hummingbird's egg, being long and equal-ended. Swifts may be seen flying into cracks of almost any cliff tenanted by a large number of them, but these cracks are, in all cases observed, so narrow as to permit of no possible access.

N. M. MORAN.

Berkeley, Cal.

*Read before the Cooper Ornithological Club of California, February 1, 1896.

Interesting Comments.

THE following letters, apropos of our removal, have been lately received, and explain themselves:

145 BRATTLE STREET, CAMBRIDGE,
MASS., MAY 6, 1896.

MY DEAR MR. TAYLOR: I have been spending the past five weeks at Concord, in a little log cabin in the woods, where I go to rest once or twice a year. Returning, I learn with much regret that by my absence I have missed the pleasure of seeing you here and showing you my collection.

I am very sorry, also, that there should have been so long a delay in answering your letter asking for my advice with respect to moving your establishment back to California. On that point I have no doubts whatever, for I have always believed that you made a mistake in coming East. It is not easy to define my reasons for this opinion, but my feeling was that THE NIDOLOGIST was a natural outgrowth of the Pacific Slope, that it had that large and interesting region to itself, and that it possessed a certain distinctive Western flavor

which it was in danger of losing if it were permanently transplanted in New York. * * * If your expenses are greater here, that is certainly a strong reason for returning. In short, I should strongly advise you to return.

Thanking you for the compliment you have paid me in asking for my advice, I remain, with best wishes for the success of your valuable journal, Yours very truly,

WILLIAM BREWSTER.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON,
APRIL 27, 1896.

DEAR MR. TAYLOR: I am sorry to learn that you propose returning to California; not that I think THE NIDOLOGIST will not prosper as well there, but because there will be less chance of seeing you in Washington, as I had hoped to do quite frequently. I do not, however, question the wisdom of your judgment in deciding to return, and I believe that wherever you may locate you will maintain the high standard of your magazine, which is a decided success and deserves the support of every Ornithologist.

I respect all the more any man who never loses his respect for the land of his birth, and in your desire to return to your native State, I recognize the expression of a sentiment which I can easily understand and with which I heartily sympathize. That you may find there all things as you would wish them, is the sincere hope of

Yours very truly,

ROBERT RIDGWAY.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON,
APRIL 18, 1896.

Mr. H. R. Taylor.

DEAR SIR: What you write me about goirg back to San Francisco and publishing THE NIDOLOGIST there again does not surprise me, and I do not think you will lose anything by the move; in fact, I believe you will gain by it, and the experience obtained by you while in the East in various matters pertaining to the publication of a popnlar magazine will help you materially to make it still more of a success than it is at the present date. Yours truly,

CHARLES BENDIRE.

OFFICE OF "THE AUK," NEW YORK,
MAY 4, 1896.

MY DEAR MR. TAYLOR: I regret to learn of your decision to take THE NIDOLOGIST back to the place of its birth. While it made an excellent start in the golden West, its sojourn in the East has evidently had no constitutionally bad effects, but has given it tone and strength, qualities which I trust a return to its birthplace will still further develop. Wishing THE NIDOLOGIST the continued success it so well deserves, believe me, as ever,

Cordially yours,

J. A. ALLEN.

W. K. VANDERBILT, JR., Esq., is interested in Ornithology, and is one of THE NIDOLOGIST'S subscribers.

AN ARTICLE on "Whip-poor-will Courtship" appears in this number, contributed by W. A. Johnson, who has announced that he will publish a paper similar in scope to THE NIDOLOGIST, at Galesburg, Ill., in September.

Periods of Deposition of Eggs.

BY J. H. BOWLES.

THIS, to me, exceedingly interesting subject in the study of Ornithology and Oology is among the many that I have pursued with but small measure of success. However, I have managed to accumulate a few notes that I trust may be considered worthy of a place in the NIDOLOGIST.

It seems to me that among the principal features to be considered as being of influence, are temperature, which so largely depends upon the location and time of year; the number of eggs to the set; and food, its character and quantity.

It is fairly safe to assert as a rule that the majority of birds lay one egg, and only one, each day until the set is completed. There are certain families, however, in which the rule is occasionally broken, and others where its application would be entirely inadmissable.

Probably the family of birds by far the most erratic in this respect is that of the Raptores, the members of which seldom (never in my experience) lay all the eggs of a set in as many days. The different members of this family extend their nesting periods from February to July, in fact I believe the Bald Eagle commences incubation during December in Florida, and at no time do the birds seem at all regular in laying (I am uncertain regarding the larger Owls and Eagles).

The most irregular of all I have found to be the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), which I have known to occupy over two weeks in laying a set of five eggs. The dates of this are as follows: nest was found on May 15, 1893, containing two fresh eggs, one of which I took. Visited the nest again on the 19th when it still held but one egg, which I took and left an egg of *Gallus domesticus* as a substitute. On the 23rd there was one more egg which was left. On the 25th the nest held one egg of Biddy and two of *cooperi*, the latter I took and left two more of Biddy in exchange. Took one egg, the last one, June 1, after which no more were laid. None of the eggs showed the least sign of incubation.

By a similar method I have found the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) to lay an egg every other day or two, though on one occasion there was an interval of

six days between the second and the last egg in a set of three.

Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipter velox*) skip from one to three days, usually more than one. For example, it took one bird exactly two weeks to lay a set of five eggs, for which eggs of the bantam were substituted. This bird seemed to think something was wrong, for after I exchanged the first two eggs she put a thick lining of hemlock bark in the nest, which is the only instance I have seen of lining in the nests of these little Hawks.

The results of my experiments may possibly have been effected by my visiting the nests so frequently, but I think it improbable, as many full sets that I have taken have shown in their different stages of incubation that several days must have elapsed between the laying of each egg.

The smaller birds, such as Flycatchers, Sparrows, Warblers and others, I have found to follow closely the rule of an egg every day. One exception to this was in the case of a Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) which laid the last two eggs in her set of four in one day.

I also have my suspicions of a Prairie Warble (*Dendroica discolor*) though the evidence is rather weak. I found her nest about five o'clock one afternoon when it had not a vestige of lining. Early in the morning of the fourth day after, I was surprised to find the nest completely lined and containing four eggs. This was in very wet weather, when the bird would scarcely have chosen night work for working on her nest, and certainly could not have finished it the day I found it.

I have read that all birds that habitually lay only two eggs to their sets, lay an egg every other day, but have had no experience with any such, except domestic pigeons, which usually conform to this rule, so cannot add my quota. It is hardly necessary to mention those extremely eccentric birds, the Cuckoos, in this respect, as they are, if possible, more freaky than the Raptores. Who has not found their apologies for nests with eggs in every stage of incubation, among which a young bird of the jettiest black is often seated? But it would be a surprise to us if these birds ever did anything in the way most birds would do it. I will deviate from my subject to mention that there are also few birds who are such deadly enemies to the tent catapillar as are our Cuckoos. I once watched a pair of Black-bills (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) "go through" at least half a dozen tents. Each selected a nest, thrust its bill in, pulled out a catapillar, ate it and then repeated the act, working all around the nests, which were like honeycombs at the end of the performance. How the birds held so many insects I cannot conceive; indeed, at the end they came and sat close together on a limb, looking very pensive and sleepy. I closely examined the rifled nests and could find nothing but a few dead worms.

The last bird on my list is the Sora (*Porzana carolina*) of which I can give but one instance. My brother found the nest on May 29 of the past season, when it contained two eggs. As it is an uncommon nest in our marshes, he took me to it on the following day, and we were agreeably surprised to find that there were four eggs. Whether this is usually the case or not, must be answered by someone of more experience with these birds than myself.

And now comes the question, "Why are these things thus?" I can form no plausible theory, of regular application, for any of the above mentioned, with the exception of the Raptores. In the case of these birds, I believe the explanation lies in the question of food, as from its nature, it cannot be found in regular quantities. There must be times when they find it difficult to get food enough to satisfy their hunger, while the food of the insectivorous birds is probably about equally plentiful at all times during the breeding season. Now it seems plausible to think that birds having regular rations, we may call it, will be more regularly productive than those which much of the time, have to depend on what chance throws in their way.

Ponkapog, Mass.

Whip-Poor-Will Courtship.

I read with interest the experiences of Mr. Galloway and Major Bendire on the love notes of the Whip-poor-will, but think I had a much better opportunity of watching the birds than mentioned by Mr. Galloway and noticed one or two more phases in the proceedings.

On the third of June last while camping in the Spoon River valley, I was suddenly startled about 9 p. m. by a Whip-poor-will very close to the tent; opening the flaps I saw Mr. Whip-poor-will had installed him-

self on a level spot, free from grass, where there had previously been a campfire. The moon-light streaming through the tree tops gave this improvised stage a calceum light effect.

He began the well-known call with the "cluck" closely following. A person would hardly believe the "cluck" came from the same source, as each "whip-poor-will" followed in such close succession as to seem one continuous call. After a few minutes he took short flights of about two to five feet verticlly into the air, hovering similar to the Kingbird, then dropping like a stone to his former position to resume his call. This continues until the female appears in the ring as suddenly and as silently as though she had come out of the ground.

Now the scenes changes. Mr. Whip-poor-will assumes a "turkey-gobbler" attitude, strutting around his mate, and *now* the notes change to the low guttural sounds discribed by Mr. Galloway; sounding to me much like the notes of young Crows.

Here our horse takes it into his mind to scratch his back on the wagon-wheel, making a racket which scares away our love-making pair.

I felt very much impressed with the sight and grabbing my note-book wrote my inspirations of this rare opportunity before again retiring.

WALTER A. JOHNSON.

GALESBURG, Ill.

Birds and Fire.

ANOTHER article appeared in THE NIDOLOGIST a short time since concerning birds being attracted by fire. I have a similar instance to record:

It happened in Boone County, Iowa, in the fall of 1889, when there was quite a large prairie fire. After the ground had been burnt over, two haystacks that had caught continued burning. They were but a short distance from a fence, the posts of which remained standing, and a slough. While the stacks burnt a flock of Blue-winged Teal stopped at the pond and for a long time several Meadowlarks were singing on the fence posts, while overhead, in the darkness, could be heard the cry of many Nighthawks and numberless Killdeers. The cries of these birds and burning smoky prairie made a scene, that midnight, I shall never forget.

ARTHUR M. FARMER.

CLINTON, MASS.

A Battle in Air.

ON JANUARY 21, '96 while crossing the bridge that spans the Merrimack River at this city, I saw a Great Northern Shrike, having a set-to with an English Sparrow. They were in the air, about thirty feet from the ice, the river being frozen at the time. I of course, stopped to see the fun, and to note the result. The Sparrow would dart in every direction, trying his best to evade his antagonist, but go where he would, Mr. Shrike was not more than three feet behind him. He did not seem to be trying to catch him then, but to tire him out. But finally, the Shrike, as if tired of fooling with him so long, rushed in, and dealt him a blow, and at the same time caught him with his claws. The Sparrow was evidently stunned as he did not move after that, but the Shrike did not drop him, and after circling around a few times quite heavily as if he had about all he could carry, flew across the river, and lit in an elm tree, and it being so far from the bridge, I could not see what was done after that. The Sparrow put up quite a fight for his life, but wasn't "in it" with the Shrike, and I think it is safe to say that he will not be missed.

CHAS. S. BUTTERS.

HAVERHILL, MASS.

The Song of the Wood Pewee.

NOTWITHSTANDING we are told that the *Tyrannidæ* are "non-melodious," I have on two occasions heard from the Wood Pewee what I would not hesitate to call a song. One was heard in June, 1893; the other in a different locality in July, 1894.

The songs were similar; they had the usual plaintive tone of the Wood Pewee, and consisted of a miscellany of notes uttered easily and rapidly, without a pause from start to finish. The predominating expressions were "pewee," "pe-te-wee" and "peer," the latter often uttered three or four times in succession, these notes being intermingled with many shorter but similar sounds.

The duration of the entire song was about twenty seconds; not so short a song as you may think, unless you have timed a few bird-songs.

Whether an account of the song of the Wood Pewee has been published, I do not

know,as I have access to but little Ornithological literature; but as I have seen nothing of the kind, I think perhaps this note may be of interest to at least some of the readers of THE NIDOLOGIST.

J. C. GALLOWAY,
Montgomery, Ohio.

Thoughts on the New Check List.

(*Concluded.*)

CONSERVATISM as opposed to liberalism is generally regarded as slowness, but is it not better to make haste slowly and to be right than to act hastily and then have to retrace and alter? With laws to act by, why not compare with and follow them, and when they fail to meet the requirements of advancing knowledge, why not change them?

Mr. C. W. Richmond has recently noticed the difference in the spelling of the name of the genus *Helmitherus* as given in the List, and the same genus *Helmitheros* as given by Prof. Baird. He very kindly showed me the original spelling as used by Rafinesque, and has allow me to use it in this connection. But one conclusion can be formed, and that is that Prof. Baird was right. There is an error also regarding the number of the page where this name was first used. Another illustration of the same kind is afforded in the genus *Thryothorus*. *Thriothorus* is the original spelling. Compare the spelling in *Junco hyemalis* and *Troglodytes hiemalis*. Canons XXXI and XL of the Code apply with especial force to the above cases.

No. 474j is a nut that needs cracking. Mr. Dwight's use of the name *pallida* antedates Townsend's by several months, also Dwight distinctly prints, *Otocoris alpestris pallida* Townsend, MS. Does Dwight's mention of the bird constitute a description? As intergradation is unknown,what objection is to be found to the *Otocoris pallada* (Townsend MS.), Auk, Vol. III, April, 1890, page 154?

If the Committee's action in eliminating manuscript authorities is sustained, then the genus Phainopepla should have Baird as authority. Mr. Richmond tells me that the publication of this genus by Sclater occurred in 1859, while Baird's mention is about a year earlier (P. R. Rep. IX 923, October, 1858).

Common names are not properly an object of scientific nomenclature, but as the List contains a name of this kind for every bird mentioned, it is perhaps unnecessary to suggest that their use should be, as far as is possible, consistent and euphonious. I shall mention but two cases, but they will show what I mean. There are two genera of Cardinals. Would it not be better to call all the species Cardinals, with the addition of a word designating the kind?

Pyrrhuloxia is not a common name, but is used in the List as such as a means of getting rid of a difficulty. If we cannot call No. 594*a* an Arizona Cardinal, why not call it Beckham's Cardinal? And No. 594*b*, why not call it Peninsula Cardinal?

No. 587*a* is *not* a white-eyed bird. The irides are yellowish-cream color, surrounded by a reddish ring. Why not call it the Florida Towhee?

There are many lapses in the habitats as given under the head of geographical distribution. Most of them are perhaps due to the widely dispersed nature of the evidence necessary to correctly define the habitats, and also the great labor necessary to systematically work them out correctly, but there are some which may be conveniently pointed out. Having recently been under the necessity of cutting up a list of North American birds and having arranged the names under certain catagories,I have been impressed with the impossibility of depending on the wording as found under the name of each form, even as regards their general distribution.

Melospiza cinerea does not occur on the Pribilof Islands. When Mr. Richmond was preparing his recent paper on this species and *Melospiza insignis* we were careful to see that the Pribilof Islands were not not mentioned as a habitat for either. Dr. Brandt's specimens there mentioned came, I take it, from Kadiak and St. Paul's Islands, both of which are situated on the Aleutian chain. A wrong tying on of labels at about the time of collecting will account for the difficulty about the habitats mentioned by Mr Richmond. During several months spent on the Pribilof Islands I should certainly have seen this bird if it had been there.

The words "Pribilof Islands and" should be stricken out under No. 272*a*. The bird does not breed on the islands, is only a rare migrant. To be consistent, birds having equal distribution range should be indicated by the use of the same language. Birds known to breed in Newfoundland and Labrador only should be so stated. A bird breeding from Newfoundland and Labrador to British Columbia or Alaska should be recorded as such. The language used to show the geographical distribution should be concise and plain and consistent upon comparisons.

I wish now to notice a series of conditions which many students of ornithology fail to understand because the masters of science seem to act inconsistently. One would naturally think that under like conditions a like treatment would be made, but this is not always so.

Canon XI of the Code is as follows: "Trinomial nomenclature consists in applying to every individual organism, and to the aggregate of such organisms known now to intergrade in physical characters, three names, one of which expresses the subspecific distinctness of the organism from all other organisms, and the other two of which express respectively its specific indistinctness from, or generic identity with, certain other organisms; the first of these names being the subspecific; the second the specific, and the third the generic designation; the three, written consecutively, without the intervention of any other word, term, or sign, constituting the technical name of any subspecifically distinct organism." Under the same Canon we find the following: "In a word, *intergradation* is the touchstone of trinomialism." * * * "The system proceeds upon a sound scientific principle." * * * "Such local forms are often extremely different from one another; so different, in fact, that, were they not known to blend on the confines of their respective areas, they would commonly be rated as distinct species."

Dr. J. A. Allen, in "A Seven Years' Retrospect," says, page 5: "Since conspecific subspecifics often differ more from each other than do

valid species, notwithstanding that the former completely intergrade while the latter are always separated by an appreciable hiatus, two things are recognized through the use of trinomial designations. First, that distinctness, without regard to kind or degree of difference, is indicated by the use of a binomial name, while the use of a trinomial implies known intergradation, notwithstanding the wide difference which may sometimes exist between two or more forms of a conspecific group." Again, he says on the same page: "While intergradation, in the case of new germs, may be often inferred with a great degree of certainty, perhaps fewer retractions will be necessary if the use of a trinomial be deferred till satisfactory evidence of intergradation be acquired."

Mr. Henry Seebohm, in his "Geographical Distribuution of the Family Charadriidæ," 1887, page 64, says in effect the same thing: "In practice it will be found that the most convenient line that can be drawn between a species and a subspecies is to regard those forms as specifically distinct, however near they may be to each other whenever they are *not* connected by intermediate forms—without reference in the one case to *how* the intermediate forms are produced, or in the other to *why* they were not produced."

Now if intergradation is not the criterion by which to gauge the use of trinomials, I take it that the above is only wasted ink and paper, to say nothing of the trouble incurred in writing and originating it. What are the Code and the Remarks for, if not to decide these cases by?

Parus carolinensis is a geographical race of *P. atricapillus*, a southern derivative from a boreal form. They are not known to intergrade, hence are good species. Their habitats, however, at some points interlock, but as far as known the two forms are now distinct. *Sturnella magna* and *S. m. neglecta* are on precisely the same footing though occupyiug eastward and westward habitats. Who has collected intermediates of these kinds? Who has noted the mixed melody of these intergrading birds? Where is the evidence on which one is made a subspecies of the other? In "N. A. Fauna, No. 5," Dr. Merriam has described a siugle specimeu of an Owl as *Megascops flameolus idahoensis*. The bird is unique, distinct from *flameolus*, and should, to be consistent, stand as a species *Megascops idahoensis* until proved to intergrade with another. Besides, its locality is about four hundred miles from the nearest known habitat of *flameolus* and intergrades are unknown, in fact are almost impossible owing to the character of the intervening country.

There are certain North American birds which are in a large degree congeneric with certain Eurasian forms. Many of these are in the List considered as conspecific, notwithstanding the distance and oceans which separate them. They undoubtedly had a common origiu previous to or about the time of the glacial epoch, but since that time there has been no land connection to enable the forms to intergrade. What is there unscientific in allowing the American forms of *Certhia* to stand as species until they are proved to intergrade with each other? Thus *Certhia americana*, *C. alticola*, *C. montana*, and *C. occidentalis*. If they do intergrade, then they should stand as subspecies of *americana*. Why should we not also write *Loxia minor* and perhaps *Loxia stricklandi*? Why not *Pica hudsonica*? How can this last intergrade with *Pica pica*? Why will not *Archibuteo sancti-johannis* correctly indicate a bird which inhabits nearly the whole of North America? It does look as if a new definition of what constitutes a subspecies is in order, or else the laws we have should be obeyed. We have a Code, a Check List and a Committee. Yet authors will persist in absolutely changing names, in allowing their own limited experiences to overrule the supposed superior abilities and knowledge of the Committee. Even the individual members of the Committee persist in using names contrary to the rules of the Committee. We laymen like to look up to those whom we support as the heads of our organization, but we often have our faith considerably shaken.

WILLIAM PALMER.

"THOUGHTS ON THE NEW CHECK LIST."

To the Editor of THE NIDOLOGIST:

DEAR SIR:—"A little learning is a dangerous thing."

So wrote Alexander Pope over two hundred and fifty years ago, and the correctness of the statement has been many times demonstrated, and is newly evidenced by the article under the above caption in THE NIDOLOGIST for April, 1896.

In the interest of scientific accuracy, it is to be hoped that Mr. William Palmer, with his excellent literary equipment and extended scientific experience, which stand forth so prominently in his article above cited, will lose no time in preparing for the benefit alike of his scientific confreres and the "noble array of talent" responsible for the New A. O. U. Check List, the full and complete "addenda to the book," which he finds is "necessary." Possibly in the series of papers apparently to be given under "Thoughts on the new Check List" this will be supplied.

It is gratifying to know that in a work of this kind "Typograpical errors are few." Mr. Palmer calls attention to two; he may have many more on his list; we can supply a limited number which he possibly may have overlooked. There are also a number of clerical slips,—"vexatious misplacements" of parentheses in respect to the names of authorities, etc., of which it is intimated there is "a large series." But only two are here pointed out. In these the criticism is well taken; please let us have the rest. I am sure the A. O. U. committee will be only too glad to have the errors in its work pointed out, and will promptly take steps for their correction.

No. 13*a* and No. 766*a*, referred to by Mr. Palmer, he will find noticed in "The Auk", April 1896, p. 189. In the case of "*Rallus jamaicensis* Linn.," Linn. of course should read Gmel. There should also have been a line added to the reference under No. 740*a*.

In his next paragraph about manuscript names, Mr. Palmer shows he has waded beyond his depth. It seems strange that he should not know that in substituting a new name far a preoccupied name that no description is necessary. Furthermore, that while *Parus gambeli* was a manuscript name when adopted by the committee in 1886, it ceased to be such when published in the Check List. The correct citation for the new Check List is as there given, and not "Ridgw. Man. 1887." Mr. Palmer's references in this connection to Canons XXXII, XXXIV and XLI would seem to indicate that he considers *Parus gambeli* as *nomen nudum* till published in Ridgway's "Manual," over-

looking the fact that the concordance given under this species fixes the identification of the name beyond question. Thus Mr. Palmer's criticisms on this point are wholly gratuitous and erroneous; the reference in the second edition is perfectly correct, and the only one that can be given.

Yet it might be well for Mr. Palmer to enlighten still further the benighted committee and many others involved in the same deep ignorance, how it is that its treatment of manuscript names is "unscientific."

In the case of *Collumbigalina passerina terrestris* it is hardly worth while to waste words in argument. When Mr. Palmer is able to show us that all of the West Indian birds are identical with the the Jamaican form and that *terrestris* is confined to the "Southeastern States"—a condition of affairs the committee evidently satisfied itself did not exist—then Mr. Palmer will have grounds for his opinions.

Very truly yours,

NEW YORK, April 7, 1896. J. A. ALLEN.

Whip-poor-will Calls.

THE interesting "Whip-poor-will Notes" by Mr. J. C. Galloway in the February NIDOLOGIST confirms what I heard in the notes of Whip-poor-wills at different places and times in Crittenton county, Kentucky, about five years ago. After I first noticed the "chuck," so well described by Mr. Galloway, I always heard it sandwiched between the calls when within, say, thirty to fifty feet of the bird.

I regret that I have been unable to find my notes on these occurrences, and what I write is from memory only. However, it must have been early in the season, say April; and I know my observations did not extend over a long period, for not exceeding two years after I first heard the peculiar note, I removed to where I have been unable to hear the plaintive call at all. I half-way suspect that, if not alway present, the "chuck" is at least common, though by no means commonly heard.

The "haw" and "kuk" notes I have never heard.

The Whip-poor-will has been a favorite "song bird" with me, and I remember well the feeling of mingled indignation and pity that overcame,or to put it mildly,came over me when, in Red River county, Texas, I first heard the vastly inferior call of "Chuck-will-widow!"

R. H. DEAN.

Tennallytown, D. C.

"WISH you success, and like new appearance of NIDOLOGIST very much. Keep it up."

Worcester, Mass. CHAS. K. REED."

"I AM well pleased with the 'NID,' and look forward to its coming with eagerness.

Blacksburg, Va. HARRY H. PENTZ."

REV. C. M. JONES, of Eastford, Conn., sends us the following interesting note:

"I was much pleased to obtain, in December last, a Murre, which a man here in town found in his mill-pond, frozen in the ice, and dead. He chopped it out and gave it to me. The ice had evidently frozen around it in the night and held it fast. It was resting in a perfectly natural position, showing no evidence of any struggle. But, of course, the interesting thing about it is the fact of its being so far inland as the north-eastern part of Connecticut. There had been a north-east storm a short time before, but not very severe, and it would seem hardly sufficient to have driven the bird so far out of its way."

***

THE SAW-WHET BREEDING ON LONG ISLAND.

I went out "prospecting" about a week ago and saw a Saw-whet Owl's nest, containing five eggs. This is the first instance that has come to my knowledge of their breeding on Long Island, and I never expected to have the pleasure of finding their nest, but it's "the unexpected that always happens."

A. H. HELME.

Miller's Place, N. Y.

***

ON THE ABUNDANCE OF THE PURPLE FINCH.

In the article on valuations of nests and eggs, in the April NIDOLOGIST, I read that the eggs of the Purple Finch have been priced at a higher figure in the new "Taylor's Standard Catalogue" on account of their "increasing rarity." Without finding any fault with the price, may I not suggest that possibly this evident increasing rarity is due in part to the shifting of their range?

In Saratoga county, N. Y., I have for several years observed the apparent increase in numbers of this species. Here in Madison county they are one of the first

birds to arrive in the spring. They have been here since April 11 in no small numbers, and can be heard singing at almost any time of day. Like other birds, they go in greatest numbers where they can find their own peculiar nesting locations, seeking the fir spruce and cedar trees, and as such accommodations fail in one place, they move along to a new district.

B. A. GARRETT.

Hamilton, N. Y.

***

NORTH DAKOTA COLLECTING.

A four days' trip to the wild country just completed, netted a companion and myself, nine sets and two singles, Ferruginous Rough-legged Buzzard, 1–5 Long-eared Owl, 1–5 Canada Goose, 1–2 Sandhill Crane, 1–11 Shoveller Duck. Am now watching a pair of Ferruginous Rough-legs completing a nest on the verge of a steep bench overlooking a lonely valley not more than two miles from this point. They are somewhat belated, and I take them to be the same pair that I disturbed while building on a rocky hillside less than half a mile from their present location, as the former site was promptly abandoned after my visit.

On April 17 a boy brought me a set of two (one broken) of the Ferruginous, together with the female, which he winged as she left her nest. My yard is enclosed with a woven-wire fence, and I turned this fine bird loose and kept her nearly four days, and I feel that I am pretty familiar with this magnificent species that seems but a short remove from the Eagle.

EUGENE S. ROLFE.

Minnewaukan, N. D.

***

MY FIRST NEST IN 1896.

I had the good fortune of discovering a nest of Anna's Hummingbird, containing two eggs, on February 14, 1896. The nest was constructed on a horizontal limb of a Monterey cypress tree, and was supported by two small twigs which formed the shape of a V. It was nine feet from the ground, composed of bits of bark, moss and cobwebs, lined with a few pieces of cotton and California Partridge feathers.

Unfortunately the eggs contained well-developed embryos, which would doubtless have hatched in a day or two. I think I can safely say these eggs were fresh on February 5, thereby making this an extremely early nesting date for these little birds considering the climate and location of San Francisco. As far as I can learn this is the earliest record for this species ever taken in San Francisco county.

CLAUDE FYFE.

San Francisco, Cal.

***

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD IN FLAG LAKE, FULTON COUNTY, ILL.

After reading Mr. P. M. Silloway's article in the last number of the NIDOLOGIST, in which he refers to Flag Lake, I looked over my notes and found the record of a set of four eggs, of the Yellow-headed Blackbird, taken from said lake June 6, 1894. This was the only set taken, although in company with Dr. Strode I searched for them on several occasions. A number of the birds were seen, but an effort to secure a specimen for the cabinet failed. J. R. MAGUIRE.

Lewiston, Ill.

***

A NOTE ON THE MEADOWLARK.

On May 24, 1895, while at Beatrice, Neb., a set of seven Meadowlark's eggs were brought me by a friend, collected in a field about twelve feet from a seldom traveled country road, the nest not being rooted over as is usually the case. Six of the eggs were so badly incubated that I could not save them. The remaining egg was addled. This set might have been of *Sturnella magna*, but was probably the western form, *S. magna neglecta*.

A. S. PEARSE.

***

ENGLISH SPARROW IN WASHINGTON.

I observed to-day on the streets of Puyallup a male English Sparrow. This is the first instance it has ever come to my observation in this section in my three years' residence here, either by notice or hearsay. Have they been reported elsewhere on this northern coast? GEO. G. CANTWELL.

April 14, 1896.

***

BREEZES.

A. M. Farmer writes from Clinton, Mass.: "Nearly thirty Bluebirds have been observed here this year, so we are not entirely deserted by them."

Here is a sample of what I wish I could do every day: February 2d, collected a

fine Great Horned Owl and two eggs; February 5, a subscriber for the "NID."

CARL FRITZ HENNING.

Wilfred H. Osgood and R. H. Beck are camping and collecting in the Sierras, having arranged to dispose of their bird skins W. W. Price.

A. M. Shields and G. Frean Morcom's collectors in Arizona, send in glowing reports, having secured many eggs of the rare Thrashers, includings seven sets of Leconte's Thrasher, more than the total previously known to collections.

Cooper Ornithological Club.

SOUTHERN DIVISION met at the residence o C. H. Wood, Pasadena, March 30. A motion was carried that propositions for membership be considered one month before action be taken. A letter from Mr. W. B. Judson who is on an expedition in Arizona was read.

The Northern Division met at the residence of W. H. Osgood at San Jose April 4. Upon suggestion of Mr. Emerson a Club Outing was arranged to take place in the Santa Cruz mountains, May 30–31.

MAY MEETINGS.

The Southern Division met in Los Angeles April 27. Owing to ill-health the resignation of Mr. M. L. Wicks as Vice-President was accepted. The vacancy will be filled at the May meeting. It was voted to change the date of the monthly meeting from the last Monday evening to evening of the last Saturday in each month. The question of introducing Wild Turkeys in Southern California was discussed. Mr. Gaylord presented a paper on "Los Angeles County Records" in which the taking of the following specimens was noted: "On April 6, 1894 I took a partial albino specimen of *Spicella socialis arizonae* from a flock of about twenty-five birds of this species.

Zonotrichia albicolis. I took a young female from a flock of *Z, coronata* on November 21, '94, thus adding another record of this species from California.

An adult male *Coccathraustes vespertinus montanus* was taken by Mr. Towne at Pasadena, December 28, 1894. The bird was not accompanied by individuals of its own species but was with a flock of *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*.

A few flocks of *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus* were seen flying north over Pasadena in the fall of 1894.

I took a young female *Myoitilta varia* in the Arroyo Seco at Pasadena, October 8, 1895 thus making probably the first record of this bird from Southern California.

A male *Spizella atrigularis* in moulting plumage was taken at Pasadena, April 6, 1896. This species seems to have merely been overlooked by local collectors until this spring.

April 1896 was marked by an unusually large migration of Warblers, Sparrows and Flycatchers.

The Southern Division meets May 30.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

This division met May 2 at San Jose. Mr. Beck reported the taking of a Pinon Jay at Monterey during the fall of 1895. A discussion as to suitable work for the club followed. It was decided to commence the compilation of lists of the birds of several of the counties best represented by club members, together with annonations. The committee to conduct the work for Santa Clara county was appointed as follows: R. H. Beck, C. Barlow and H. R. Painton. Committees for several other counties will be appointed at subsequent meetings. Owing to the absence of a large number of the members it was decided to postpone the Club Outing which was to have taken place May 30 and 31. The Northern Division meets at R. S. Wheeler's in Alameda June 6.

Eggs of the Belted Piping Plover.

MAJOR CHARLES E. BENDIRE of the U. S. National Museum, writes us: "In the last number of the *Oologist* there is an article contributed by Raine on the eggs of the Belted Piping Plover, which is misleading (see pages 17 and 18). In *The Ipswich Sparrow and its Summer Home*, by Jonathan Dwight, Jr., M. D., 1895, etc., you can find a description of the egg; and a set of these eggs, No. 6078, with parent No. 27027, taken by Mr. Donald Gunn of the Hudson Bay Co., were taken on the shores of Lake Winnipeg as early as 1862, and are now in the collection here as well as other sets."

A WISCONSIN farmer wrote to the Agricultural Department at Washington as follows:

"Sir: I want a agricultral report on being in the farmin bisiness. I orter git it."

It happened that the gentleman in charge of the department correspondence was a very conscientious and even elegant letter-writer, and, partly by way of pleasantry, he replied to this communication in his most elaborately courteous manner:

"The department would be most happy to comply with its esteemed correspondent's request, but it needed to be informed somewhat more specifically which of its numerous reports was needed. Would Mr. ——— be kind enough to mention the date, or, at least, the subject of the document in question?"

Mr. ——— replied promptly and succinctly thus:

"I don't care a rap what the book is about or when it was rote. I want it fur a skrap book."

EDMUND A SAVAGE ELLIOT, Esq., M. B. O. U., writes from Kingsbridge, England: "A copy of THE NIDOLOGIST to hand. Kindly enter my name as an annual subscriber. Associated as you are with such an inspired writer as the author of the article on the Mockingbird in 'Newton's Dictionary of Birds,' you need not have a dull page in it."

PROF. E. HARTERT, the distinguished Ornithologist of the Zoological Museum at Tring, England, has sent in two years' subscription to this magazine.

"Your magazine amply fills an Ornithological hiatus, is worth more than the price, and to me is especially interesting for its wild life illustrations.

Auburn, N. Y. FRANK R. RATHBUN."

FRANK H. LATTIN'S weekly Natural Science News has suspended publication, and Popular Science News will fill its unexpired subscriptions.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

CHAPMAN, FRANK M. *The Changes of Plumage in the Dunlin and Sanderling.* Extracted from Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Vol. VIII, Art. I, pp. 1—8. New York, March 4, 1896. [From the author.]

CHAPMAN, FRANK M. *On the Changes of Plumage in the Snow Flake (Plectrophenax nivalis).* Extracted from the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Vol. VIII, Art. II, pp. 9—12. New York, March 5, 1896. [From the author.)

ALLEN, J. A. *Alleged Changes of Color in the Feathers of Birds without Molting.* Extracted from Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Vol. VIII, Art. III, pp. 13—44. New York, March 18, 1896. [From the author.]

At different times, and by different writers, for the last eighty years and more, the phenomenon of molting in birds has been discussed. Its describers, during the early years of the present century, for the most part, maintained that, in addition to the casting of the feathers by birds in the ordinary molt, there where cases wherein fully matured feathers themselves changed color without being molted. Both these changes could be going on in the same individual at the same time, and were usually due to the changes in the season. Various birds were pointed out to sustain these early views, as the Ptarmigan, certain Gulls, Finches and others. A consideration of the change of plumage in the Bobolink, has proved a fruitful source for discussion and these species in particular has been held up by those only too eager to advance their opinions upon this subject. Yarrell of England published upon this in 1835, and what he said had great weight, and convinced many that the theory of the change of color in feathers could be and was effected without the bird molting them. Now although Yarrell was a scientific man, he unfortunately by no means applied the strict and true scientific methods in dealing with the matter of molting. So potent was his influence and his word, however,that as late as 1884,British ornithologists continued to repeat his statements; even so competent a naturalist as Mr. Howard Saunders having done so. Between 1830 and 1860 several remarkable papers appeared upon his now famous *vexata quaestis*, and those of Blyth, Bachman, and others are notable ones. Audubon, not possessing the requisite scientific knowledge to deal with matters of this kind, and, as it appears he got nothing out of Macgillivray about it,wisely kept silent in the premises; although it may be said that if he had any ideas on the subject at all he too, believed that "in some species of land birds," a molt took place "without the actual renewal of the feathers themselves." (Ornith. Biog. IV. p. 213.) In 1852 this controversy was vigorously revived through the publications of Schlegel, and of Homeyer, and verily the "feathers were made to fly" without any special "new influx of nourishing secretion and pigmint" into their intimate substance, to change their colors! Thus the issue was kept up, first by one and then by another—elaborate hypotheses, supported by a few facts, and much theorizing, were advanced by Severtzof (1863) and by Fatio (1866), while the revelations of the microscope, and the laws of physiology, were apparently both applied and misapplied without landing the true facts in the case in the smooth waters of unaminity of opinion. In so brief a notice as the present one must of necessity be, the exhaustive discussions of Gloger, Gatke, Keeler, Headley, Sharpe, Ogilvie Grant and several other eminent writers in this field, unfortunately can not be compared and reviewed. In 1890 Mr. Frank M. Chapman published an excellent paper "On the Changes of Plumage in the Bobolink" in *The Auk*, showing how that in this bird certain changes in the colors of its feathers are effected by their edges wearing away. Later he returned to the subject again, and in two brief papers on the changes of plumage in the Snowflake, Dunlin and Sanderling, controverts the views held by Herr Gatke in his recent famous work on "The Birds of Heligoland."

During the same month Dr. J. A. Allen put forth a more extended effort (see title above) in which he reviews, with more or less thoroughness, the previous literature of the entire subject of the molt in birds; points out the absurdities of theories of Schlegel, Fatio and Gatke, and sets forth in a manner, most vigorous, that the color change in the plumage of birds is due primarily to a molting of the feathers; that in some species these changes of color are due "to a gradual wearing off of the light colored edges of the feathers of the winter dress, leaving as the breeding season approaches, the already existent colors of the breeding dress exposed. Combined with this is more or less blanching of the color of certain parts," finally, "due in part to abrasion, and also chemical action consequent on exposure, the colors of certain feathers are subject to slight changes in tone." It is a well known fact that, during the molt, pin feathers are evident throughout the changing plumage of the Bobolink, and recently the present writer has seen numbers of living individuals of these species in this condition.

Dr. Allen's paper is a very useful and timely contribution to the subject—yet the phenomena of the molt in birds is by no means exhausted. The nature of the change in the color of feathers due to certain foods, as the production of "red canaries" by feeding the birds upon cayenne pepper, is an interesting fact; the *causes* for albinism and melanism equally so; why the gradual wearing away of feathers due to "abrasion," should stop, exactly on certain stages and leave *certain sets* of feathers *all* of a certain form, is a phenomenon worthy of more extended research; while it would seem the exact nature of the chemical action (due to exposure) of the elements upon feathers, that produces changes in their colors, still stands in need of further investigation and elucidation.

Fuller explanations, than have heretofore been advanced, for the "why" and the "how" for certain so-called "freaks of nature" in the plumages of certain individuals, will by no means come altogether amiss. A "freak of nature" is a very convenient term sometimes to cloak a mountain of ignorance of the nature of certain phenomena; hence its constant employment by laymen the world over. Darwin attributed the occasional appearance of scarlet feathers in the wing-coverts of the male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) in breeding plumage, to a variation that probably had something to due with selection, and his remarks upon the plumage of birds is filled with food for thought, and many of the problems that confronted him in these fields still stand unsolved.

R. W. S.

THE NIDOLOGIST.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE

DEVOTED SOLELY TO

ORNITHOLOGY

With Special Reference to the

NIDIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

H. R. TAYLOR, Editor and Proprietor

DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, of Smithsonian Institution, Associate

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & Co., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

THE NIDOLOGIST greets its many subscribers from its old home and birthplace, in the far West, where it will henceforth be published. While, as in the past, it will reflect mouthly the doings and interesting experiences of Oologists and Ornithologists the country over, it is believed it will have an added interest in hailing from such an ideal field for collecting and observation.

LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, curator of Ornithology in the California Academy of Sciences is preparing a bibliography of Californian Ornithology, chronologically arranged, and with careful annotations. It will be published by the Academy and will be welcomed as a valuable contribution by working Ornithologists.

JOSEPH GRINNELL, of Pasadena, Cal., is on a three months collecting trip in Alaska.

Have you ever thought how handy your Catalogue is for a collector to catalogue the sets he has in his collection? I have in my own case indicated in a couple of the Catalogues in front of the A. O. U. No. of each species, the number and size of the sets of those eggs which I have in my collection. Thus by looking at the Catalogue I can tell in no time just what sets I have, and by the use of certain arbitrary signs I can tell whether the eggs are 1st class, full data, or incomplete sets, or full sets, in fact just what their condition is. This is very handy as it saves having to refer to my collection every time I wish to learn the number of sets I have of a certain species.—O. W. KNIGHT,

Bangor, Maine.

TWO YOUNG California Vultures were taken this year in Monterey county, Cal., from as many nests.

Mr. Harry R. Taylor.

DEAR SIR: I have just examined your new "Standard American Egg Catalogue," and am very much pleased with it. My future exchanges will be based on the prices contained in this catalogue. You certainly are to be congratulated for compiling a recognized basis for exchange, so complete and impartial.

Waynesburg, Pa. J. WARREN JACOBS.

WANTED, FOR SALE AND TO EXCHANGE

WANTED—The first four numbers of volume 1, NIDOLOGIST; will give good cash price. Address ALFRED MIERS, Walkerville, Ontario, Canada.

WANTED—AUK'S complete file "Archeologist" (except No. 1, Vol 2), 17 Oologists, 5 O. and O. of 1891 for best offer. V. H. CHASE,
Wady Petra, Ill.

CAMERA WANTED—5x8 or larger of good make. Can also use a Pocket Camera or Kombi or *perfect* Indian relics. I can offer the following first-class skins, also other articles: Red-tailed Buzzard, Marsh Hawk, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, American Merganser, Golden-eye, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Ruffed Grouse, Loon, Bald Eagle. L. V. CASE, Geneseo, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE—I will exchange a secret for trapping foxes by scent, which will call them one-half mile to the trap; the scent has to be made in April, and it costs you nothing to make it, and until May 15, I will exchange the secret for $10 cash or $12 worth of such things as I can use in the line of microscopes, telescopes, field glasses, mounted birds, rare eggs, books or U S. stamps; no cards answered. Address
WALTER E. MACLAIN, Box 70, New Vineyard, Me.

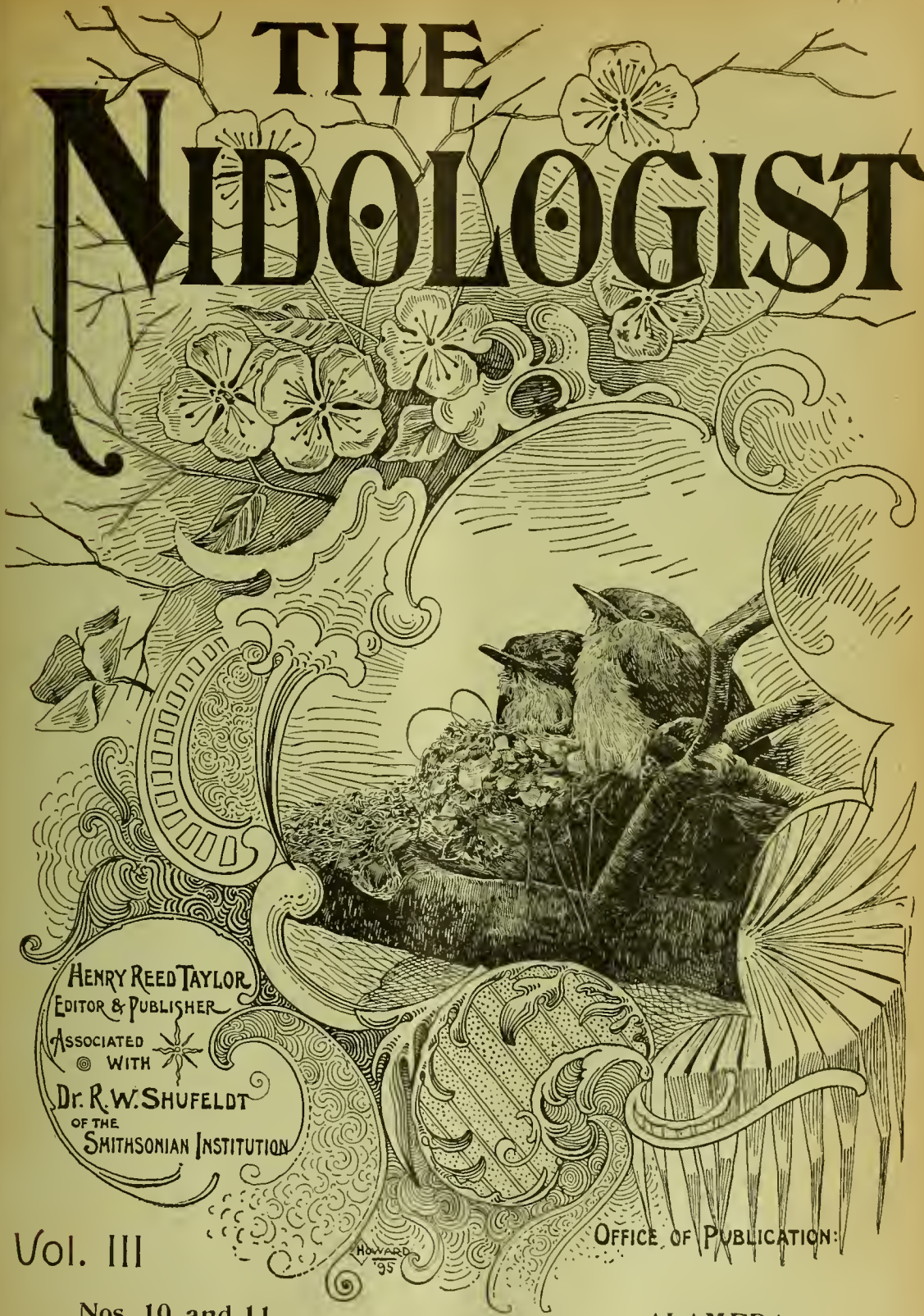
LOOK—For a $5 bill I'll send 20 extra fine Osprey Eggs in sets, with data, showing variation in color and markings, with a fine set of Eider Duck with data. F. B. EASTMAN, 903 Market st., Wilmington, Del.

WANTED.—A Kodak: I want any of the following makes: Bullet, Bull's Eye, Hawk Eye Jr., Hawk Eye, or Night Hawk. I offer Vols. I and II of the Nid. complete, and the following sets of Hawk's eggs with data: Nos. 335¾, ¼; 337½, 333¼; 337b½; 347½; 360a⅛; 360¾, ¼.
L. M. CLARK, Suffield, Conn.

CHOICE Southern Eggs in sets to exchange for sets and singles of 35, 104, 112, 183, 188, 204, 205, 206, 271, 452, 356, Emue, Ostrich.
DR. M. T. CLECKLEY,
45-47 Greene St., Augusta, Ga.

FOR SALE.—"Nidologist," Vols. I and II (complete), "O. & O." Vols. XV, XVI and XVIII, Coue's "Key" and "Land Birds of the Pacific District;" all as good as new. Can use Le Conte's "Elements of Geology," last edition, and "National Herbarium Contributions Vol. IV. H. M. HALL,
399 1st St., Riverside, Cal.

THE NIDOLOGIST



HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

VOL. III

NOS. 10 and 11

JUNE-JULY

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:

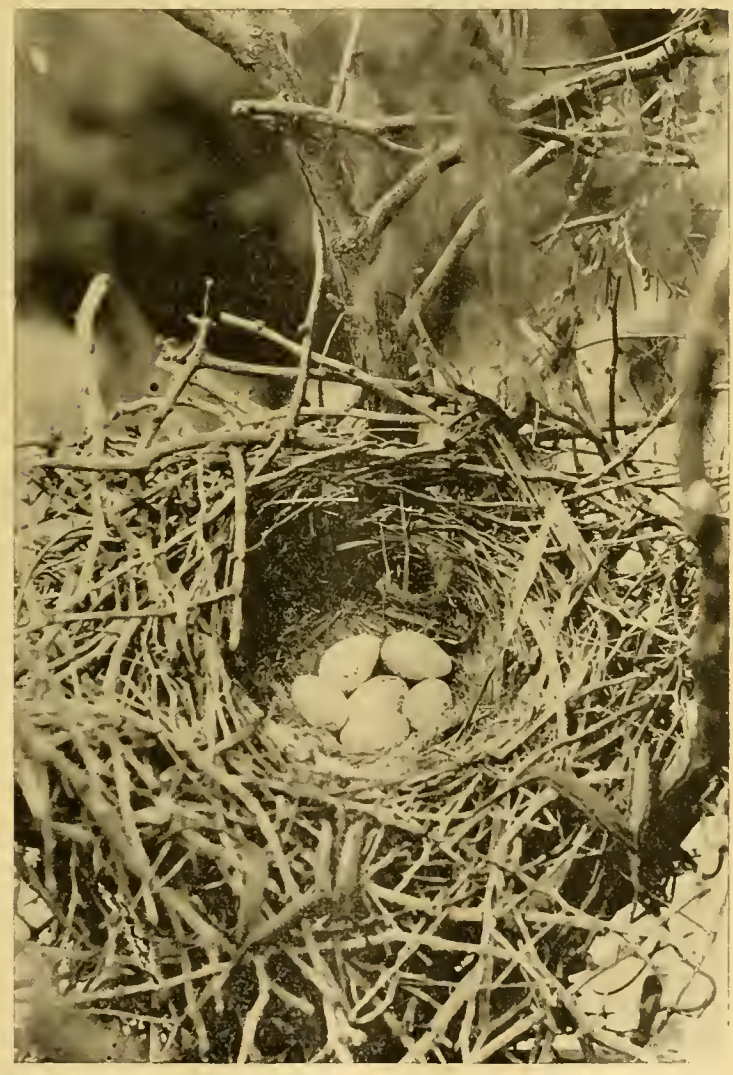
ALAMEDA,
CALIFORNIA

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. III. NOS. 10 AND 11. ALAMEDA, CAL., JUNE-JULY, 1896 $1.00 PER YEAR



NEST AND EGGS OF THE WHITE-NECKED RAVEN.

Nidification of the White-necked Raven.

DURING the past four years it has been my fortune to examine over forty nests of the White-necked Raven, fourteen of them this season.

In this portion of Texas the Raven begins building about the 20th of April, and by the 1st of May fresh eggs may be found. June 10 is my last date for fresh eggs, though I am satisfied they may be found even as late as the 1st of July.

On May 11 of this year I found a pair carrying sticks to a mesquite tree, and after dropping quite a pile on the ground, they seemed at last to settle on a location, and began building. On May 15 the body of the nest was complete, and so remained until the 18th, when the work of lining was begun; in this work only the female seemed to be engaged, though both had been occupied in constructing the outer portion. On the 20th it was complete, and a very pretty nest it was, the body of it being composed of sticks and twigs, some of them as large as a man's little finger and 12 to 18 inches long. Then came smaller twigs and "binder" twine, while around the brim a number of "devil's claws" served to hold everything well in position; the lining was of wolf hair, cow hair, rabbit fur, and a very little wool. Outside measurements—diameter 11¼ inches, depth 17 inches; inside measurements—diameter 6 inches and depth 4¾ inches. This is a typical nest, both in construction and measurements, and as such I send along a picture of it.

On May 23 the first egg was deposited, and one was added each day until the set was complete. I allowed them to remain three days longer, to be sure, then took the set, which measured as follows: 1.79 x 1.29, 1.80 x 1.25, 1.81 x 1.28, 1.85 x 1.27, 1.88 x 1.21 and 1.90 x 1.25.

In markings, the eggs of a set are quite similar, though different sets vary very much. I have one set marked almost exactly like the American Crow, another with longitudinal stripes like the Crested Flycatcher, and still another with almost no marks at all, only a few faint specks.

On May 12 Emmett Robertson and I made a trip of a few miles, and found two complete sets, one of five and one of six eggs, and also a nest containing only one egg. This last was left until the 18th, when we returned and secured the set of six, and found seven more nests, having in one nest seven; in two, six each; in two, five each; and the two remaining sets incomplete, containing respectively four and one each; these were left as before, and secured later on.

I have found that eggs are deposited daily, usually between three and nine o'clock; that as soon as the set is complete both birds stay near, and frequently put in a vigorous protest in the shape of hoarse croakings whenever their home is invaded.

Of 92 eggs in my possession the average size is 1.83 x 1.25, maximum being 1.97 x 1.29, and minimum 1.69 x 1.10. The usual number of eggs laid is five or six, more often the latter; occasionally a set of seven is found, and I have found one nest with only four, which I suppose was complete, as one was already hatched.

I have only examined some four or five nests containing young, and they are about as hard-looking specimens as one need wish to see. When first hatched they are naked, red as lobsters, and principally head; by the time they attain the size of a Dove the skin has become darker and black feathers have come out, especially on the wings and head, which, by the way, is still the main part of the bird. The white feathers of the neck are not present at this age, and as I have never examined any birds between this size and full grown, can't say when they do first appear.

The site chosen for the nest is usually low ground, near a stream, more often in a mesquite tree than anywhere else, and placed from 8 to 15 feet from the ground; horizontal limbs are seldom selected, the favorite situation being in a crotch where the nest may be supported by from three to ten upright limbs.

W. E. SHERRILL.

Haskell, Texas.

THE FEATHER, a poultry and fancier's journal, has a short wild bird department, edited by Dr. F. H. Knowlton of the Smithsonian Institution. In its last number appears a truly wonderful (if true) story about a visit to a Bald Eagle's nest in Virginia, in which the writer states: "The nest, which was about fifteen by twelve feet, was built in the top of a giant tree * * * the outer works of the nest were composed of fence rails, just as they had been used on the farm."

As Dr. Knowlton is responsible for the paper's bird department, we would respectfully beg to inquire if he verified the above measurements, or counted the fence rails? Authorities in Virginia should have a care to these Eagles, for if they once combined they might carry off a town.

COMMON PUFFINS (F. ARCTICA) ON ONE OF THE ROCKS AT ROTT, STAVANGER, NORWAY.
(From a Photograph by Dr. Collett)

Ornithology in Norway.

BY DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

THERE is a great deal about Norway and the coast of Norway that reminds one of what he sees along the shores of Maine, or Labrador and the adjacent regions; while in certain of the districts back from the ocean in these latter localities, the topography of the country is not so very different from what we see in Norwegian landscapes in similar places. And, so it is, with the sea-fowl of these several precipitous and rock bound shores. Many of the birds, such as Grebes, Loons, Puffins, Auks, Guillemots, Dovekies, Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Fulmars, Shearwaters, Petrels, Cormorants, Mergansers, Ducks, and a perfect host of others are common to the two countries, though this does not obtain to such a marked degree in the case of the land birds. But the Capercally of Norway would be perfectly at home in the forests of Maine,—indeed I believe it has already been successfully introduced there. We have one Woodcock, while the big European Woodcock is found all over Norway; plenty of Ptarmigan are found in the last named country, while certain representatives of these birds are well-known to Labrador, and in vigorous winter no doubt could often be found in north-eastern Maine. Owls and Hawks, not so very different in character, occur in both countries, and the same remark applies to some of the limicoline birds. Incidently, it may also be said here, that what is true of the Norwegian Avifauna is also true of the other classes of animals,—for, as a rule, representatives of any of the vertetrate or invertetrate groups we may be pleased to select, will be found to occur, in these latitudes, upon either side of the Atlantic. Many pens in this country have made the Ornithology of all our New England districts, as well as the eastern portions of her Majesty's dominions in America, familiar to us—and, so it has been in northern Europe. So far as Norway is concerned, however, there is no one of her naturalists, in these days, that has done more towards the elucidation of the natural history of that country than has been accomplished by Dr. Robert Collett of the Zoological Museum of Christiania. Very well does the writer remember at the first Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1883 in New York, when Dr. Collett was elected a corresponding member of that organization;—since which time at various intervals, not a few letters have passed between us, as have also many pub-

DR. ROBT. COLLETT (1892)

lished memoirs. Dr. Collett has written much both upon the fishes and the birds of Norway, and has also published in the Norwegian language, an extensive brochure (with 3 folding plates) upon the classification and the anatomy of the Owls. This work I have recently had translated into English, with the view of publishing it, and thereby extending its usefulness. Still more recently he has done some very good work with his camera among the sea-fowl on the rocky coasts of Norway and the off-lying islands that enjoy a similar character. One of these, wherein he succeded in taking a number of Cormorants and their nests (*Phalocrocorax carbo*) on the Lofoten Islands has recently been accepted by *The Auk* for publication, and another that he has likewise sent me is here offered in connection with the present article. (See Figure.) It represents a number of Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) on a rock near Stavanger, a point the Doctor visited during the summer of 1895. I copied this photograph with my own camera, slightly enlarging the original, and it is my enlarged copy that appears here.

Upon examining the photograph with a powerful lens so as to greatly increase the size of the birds, I could easily imagine that I stood upon the very rock where they were, and as they were resting in many characteristic attitudes, it was almost as good as seeing the birds themselves, something that I have as yet not enjoyed in nature. Some day I may have this picture very much enlarged, so as to have the Puffins at least a fourth the size of life; they will then be useful as models from which mounted birds may be preserved by the taxidermic artist, and it is a species we very much need such an example of, as a guide to go by, for the mounted specimens of *Fratercula* in all the museum's cases that I have examined are usually anything but correct.

Doctor Collett writes me that he intends to still further explore the coasts of Norway during the coming summer (1896), and doubtless to no little benefit to ornithological science.

Song Flight of the Prairy Horned Lark.

ON MY WAY to the thicket and just as I was climbing over the north gate I heard a Prairie Horned Lark, and I soon saw him singing as he was flying upward until almost out of sight—though I saw him plainly with the glass. And then he flew up and down, up with a very glad strong song and down with a jerky twitter, only a few feet at a time. After he had kept this up for fully five minutes he just seemed to shut his wings and fall head first from where he was, almost out of sight, to the ground, only about ten rods from the place he went up from, just opened his wings twenty-five or thirty feet above the ground to catch himself.

This song flight I have read of several times but never saw a good sample of it before. I just lay on my back on top of the gate and took it all in.

While at the highest point in the air when coming down a few feet at a time with a jerky song, he apparently just tumbled end over end, suddenly catching himself and flying back up, singing loudly and much finer than he ever does on the ground. [Extract from letter from Virginius H. Chase, Wady Petra, Ill., Feb. 26, 1896.]

Mr. N. M. Moran, of the Cooper Ornithological Club, took this year two sets of the White-throated Swift. These are the first complete sets ever taken. He also secured two sets of the Black Oyster-catcher.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch.

ONE of the typical birds of our woodland avifauna is the sprightly little Red-breasted or Canada Nuthatch, common from early spring till late in the fall. Closely resembling the larger White-breasted Nuthatch in habits, it is less noisy and more likely to be overlooked, though outnumbering the White-breasting more than three to one. Its notes are quite similar, having the same peculiar twang, but are not so loud, though, I think it posesses a greater vocabulary. It has one loud rattling call that can be heard some distance, as it is frequently repeated from a perch on the topmost twig of an evergreen tree, which is one of its favorite feeding grounds.

In early spring it is usually in company with Titmice, Kinglets and Brown Creepers, roaming about through the woods in small flocks. It is less hardy than the Chicadee and I think seldom or never remains through our long, cold winter.

My experience has been more in the nesting season, when I have had little difficulty in finding its nests. A rather low, swampy piece of woods is generally chosen, and its favorite nesting site is in some very shaky fir stub, from eight to twenty-five feet up. A very small hole is made for an entrance, not much more than an inch across, and a cavity about six inches deep is excavated. Frequently the wood is so soft and rotten about the entrance that it can be broken away with the fingers, and is never so hard but that it is easily removed with a jack-knife.

One exception to this class was a nest about forty feet up in a large maple where a branch of four inches in diameter had been broken squarely off; straight down in the heart of this branch the cavity was dug through wood which was nearly as dry and hard as stone.

The nests themselves are quite scanty affairs, consisting merely of a few shreds of what looks like the inner bark of the fir, mixed with feathers, evidently from the breast of the parent bird. The nests differ so radically from the nests of the Chickadee that it is impossible to confound them, although the eggs bear a very close resemblance. About the entrance to the nest is always a coating of pitch, sometimes only a few drops and at other times quite a quantity being used.

When in the woods in the early nesting season if I hear a Nuthatch I approach as near as possible and sit down and watch, keeping an eye on the most favorable stubs in sight. If you can see both birds the nest is not far distant and usually fifteen minutes patient waiting will locate it. When both birds get together in the same tree and begin to converse in low tones, almost in whispers, a visit to the nest is in contemplation and if you have not taken up your position too near the nest the chances are that you will soon be rewarded. After a little experience one can tell by the uneasy actions of the birds if he is too near, and a change of base may become necessary in order to locate the nest.

When a complete set has ben laid and incubation has begun it is much more difficult to find the nest. Full sets are found about the 20th of May and six or seven eggs is the usual number, although I have taken as many as eight in a set.

When incubation has begun the birds are very bold and fearless. The last set that I took was somewhat incubated and during my ascent the female started several times to re-enter the nest, and when I was robbing the nest of its contents she darted by my face repeatedly within a few inches and expostulated in her loudest voice, though the male did not appear

F. B. SPAULDING.

Lancaster, N. H.

Bird Notes From Montgomery Co., Pa.

THE BOB-WHITE (*Colinus virginianus*) is a resident in some portions of Pennsylvania, and formerly it was common in this vicinity, but now it is comparatively rare; last reason, however, especially during September and October, there have been quite a number of them observed. As seems to be characteristic of these birds they have usually been seen in small flocks consisting of from four or five birds to a dozen or more, frequenting our fields and meadows.

The Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) is a resident of some sections of this state during all seasons of the year, but is, of course, more abundant during the summer season. In many portions of the state it breeds, in recent years its nests have been found in Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, and York counties. In the two latter counties and along the Susquehanna river it is said to breed annually in small communities. In

this vicinity (near Philadelphia) I have never considered it a common bird until this season when I have seen a great many. So far as I know, there is no explanation to offer for the present prevalence of this species; their services as scavengers are certainly no more in demand, this season than they have been during previous seasons. Is it possible that the food supply in the interior of the state is deficient, and hence the distribution of the bird is more general than it has been during recent years? Perhaps some of the readers of the NIDOLOGIST are in a position to throw light upon this subject.

The Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) is a not very abundant summer resident in this vicinity. When found, however, it usually frequents the valleys of our larger streams and rivers. I found a set of four eggs of this species along Mill Creek, near Manayunk, on July 4, 1895. I have never found it breeding here before, and do not consider it common. Dr. Warren (*Birds of Pennsylvania*) and Mr. Pennock (*Birds of Chester Co., Pa., Oologist, 1887, p. 1.*) mention it as a species breeding in this vicinity, but Mr. Stone (*Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey*) does not.

On September 19 I secured a specimen of the Tennessee Warbler (*Helminthophila peregrina*). It is a rare migrant in this vicinity, more common in the fall than it is during the spring. Several specimens have been recorded by different Ornithologists in eastern Pennsylvania.

The readers of the NIDOLOGIST who are medically inclined, and I know that there are a member of them, know that there are several preparations of the juice of the poke-berry (*Phytolacca decandra*) upon the market which are claimed to be of great service in the treatment of obesity. It was originally used for this purpose, because it was alleged to make the birds which feed upon the berries emaciated, and as it was supposed to reduce the amount of fatty tissue in birds, the natural deduction was that it would be of service in reducing the superfluous amount of adipose tissue in the human subject. Almost a year ago I gathered some data upon this subject from well-known Ornithologists, and their observations, as mine had been, were that birds which feed upon poke-berries are always well nourished and are never in an emaciated condition, at least not from feeding upon these berries. This being the case, of course, the berries are worthless for the purpose for which the *Phytolacca* preparations were intended. The birds that I have recorded as feeding upon poke berries are the following: American Robin (*Merula migratoria*), Wood Trush (*Turdus mustelinus*) Brown Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*), Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*), Flicker, (*Colaptes auratus*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Cedar-bird (*Ampelis cedrorum*), Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*).

I have examined a number of these birds this season that have been feeding upon poke-berries, and have always found them well nourished and very frequently abnormally fat.

W. E. ROTZELL, M. D.
NARBETH, PA.

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Wisconsin.

IN Mr. P. M. Silloway's article, "Amphibious Experiences," in the March number, he speaks of being "unable positively to distinguish their work from that of the Red-winged Blackbird."

In this locality there is a great difference between the nest-building of the two species. The latter builds its nest in the lower rushes and flags, sometimes on a tussock of grass, and among the straight-jointed stalks of the horse-tail before they reach their full height. Quite a bit of green vegetation also enters into the construction of their nests.

The Yellow-head seems to prefer the taller reeds and patches of wild rice, that grow nearer the open water, in which to build. They weave the long dried grasses in and out about the rice stalks, thus fastening them together, and build up a loose, bulky nest, from six to ten inches high, about a foot above the water. The edges are carried about three inches higher than the bottom inside, forming a thick brim. Bits of broad, soft grass cover the bottom.

I have a beautiful specimen of a nest, taken May 27, 1891, with a set of four fresh eggs, being the most elaborate I have ever seen.

It is attached to thirty or more wild rice stalks, beginning about a foot from the water. The broad grasses and sedges are loosely woven and intertwined about the rice stalks (all dead except four), forming a nest fifteen inches long, from top to bot-

tom. The bowl is three and one-half inches deep, and is lined to the top with the threshed-out tips of the rice. The bottom is c overed with short pieces of broad grass, none of the fine wire grasses being used in the make-up, as in the Red-wings' nests. It measnres six inches across the top on the outside, and three by two and one-half inches across the bowl inside. The whole resembles a roughly-woven inverted cone.

My notes of '91 show that the first set was taken May 25, and consisted of four fresh eggs. May 27, obtained several of three and four each, fresh, to advanced in incubation. A set of four eggs was found June 6, too far advanced to take. The last note is June 12, when I took several sets, fresh to advanced, of three and four each. Saw several nests with young birds, but none with more than four.

I think there is usually one more note in their song than in that of the Red-wing's, which consists of but three, "kong-ker-eee." A chorus of "kong-kong-ker-ee, kong-kong-ker-ee," coming from the borders of a marsh, while the "pum-pum" of the Bittern reaches your ears from the distance, and the whistle of the Rails as they dart here, now there, and the "kong-ker-ee" of the Red-wings, all about you, make up a grand chorus (perhaps not harmony) that makes one wish the early morning hours were longer.

GEO. A. MORRISON.

Lake Fox, Wis.

Wood Thrush.

ALTHOUGH the Wood Thrush is comparatively speaking a common woodland bird, still very little is recorded in the Ornithological papers about, or is it given the credit due it. From the earliest recollection of my boyhood days when I first began to cultivate my love for the feathered friends around my home, the Wood Thrush has been my favorite songster. Formerly there existed, a few miles north of Detroit, a piece of rather low timber land bordering and intersected by a delightful rippling stream. Here in this locality I became acquainted with many of our songsters, and here it was that I learned to love *Turdus mustelinus*. Many an exquisite May morning have I pulled out of bed with the first streaks of early light and driven out to the woods in order to hear this divine singer break out into song to greet the morn. The violets and spring beauties nodded their dainty heads and blossomed throughout the woods, while overhead their representative of the air filled the glades with music. The Wood Thrush here seemed at his best, and his mild ethereal bell notes, seemed to vibrate and ring through the glades like the notes of some great organ. Not often would I see the author of all the music, but his notes seemed to shame the lesser songsters into silence, and when he sang they listened in company with me. When I did discover the author perched in a sappling or leafy bush, he would eye me in his open honest manner and deliberately fly away and not skulk like the Veery and kindred Thrushes. The Wood Thrush seems to be musical in all kinds of weather, rainy as well as sunny. I think in Wilson's fine description of this bird nothing is so fine and pleasing as his note: "Even in wet, dark and gloomy weather when scarcely a single chirp is heard from any other bird, the clear notes of the Wood Thrush thrill through the drooping woods from morning until night; and it may be truly said the sadder the day the sweeter his song." Will I ever forget the 8th of June, 1889, a sobbing, soft kind of a day when the rain fell gently and the verdant world seemed to absorb and welcome it with open mouths after the hot dronth of May. I wandered out to my favorite woods in my mackintosh and spent the day. One songster I remember in particular perched on a mossy log facing me with his creamy spotted breast swelled out, and how his notes filled and revibrated through the woods. I never have heard the Hermit's professed superiority to the Wood Thrush, but until I do I will side in with Langille, who terms him the Beethoven among birds.

In his nesting he usually selects a small sapling or leafy bush, some times by the border of a stream. The nest is an affair of sticks, twigs and leaves plastered together with mud, and well lined. Once I found a nest of this species decorated with green leaves. Truly a sylvan retreat worthy of the owner! The eggs are three or four, of a beautiful blue. The Blue Jay seems rather partial to Thrushs' eggs here, according to the number of depleted nests I find with broken eggs.

The favorite time to hear the Wood Thrush at his best is when the twilight is beginning to settle down upon the woods,

and the alternative shadows made by the setting sun causes the woods to glorify in the fading light. All is holy and quiet; night is all but here; and the birds hymn the dying day. Then it is the Wood Thrush's wavering, tremulous notes, tinged with melancholy, to suit the hour, bear good-bye to the day and welcome the evening shades.

Upon the woods being drained in my locality and the favorite places being destroyed this bird is growing rarer every year here except in retired portions. Occasionally I see one in early spring around amid the shrubbery in the city. Arriving about the middle of April, they nest by the 20th or 25th of May, when full sets of their eggs can be taken. Early in October they leave for their Central American home. Insects and berries are their principal diet.

B. HALL SWALES,

Detroit, Mich,

The Florida Red-shouldered Hawk.

(*Buteo lineatus alleni.*)

IN the vicinity of Waco, McLennan county, Texas, this form of *Buteo lineatus* is the most abundant bird of its genus that occurs. During the breeding season these Hawks are principally observed in the bottom-lands in the vicinity of the rivers and streams, but during the winter months they are quite common on the prairies, which they haunt in quest of food. Their principal food during the period of reproduction consists of such species of small birds, mammals, reptiles and batrachians as are found in their breeding haunts; while the stomachs of specimens shot on the prairie during the winter contained the remains of small mice (species of *Sitomys* and *Ochetodon*) and Sparrows and other small birds. During the fall months, while on the grassy flats, engaged in jotting down bird arrivals, I observed many of these Hawks, either circling high in the air or at rest on some lonely elm or mesquite tree, gazing with watchful eyes at the flocks of *Fringillidæ* which are found here at this time of the year. In this locality the breeding season of this species extends from the last of February to about the last of May. To some observers, among them Mr. Atkinson of Dime Box, Texas, whose notes I have read in the June-July, '94, NIDOLOGIST, this may seem a rather broad assertion, as the latter gentleman mentions that in his section eggs may be found as early as March 5 and as late as the middle of March. This year the first eggs taken were a set of three, collected on March 24. The bird was incubating and the contents of the eggs were slightly tinged with blood. On May 5 the last set of the season, consisting of two eggs, were almost fresh. On May 19 a pair of the birds were discovered flying over a nest situated in a fork of a tall pin-oak tree. On climbing to this nest it was found to be empty, but had been newly lined and partly filled with fresh green elm leaves. It was visited again a week later, but was still empty and the birds had disappeared. Some observers mention this Red-shouldered Hawk as being pugnacious towards persons disturbing or despoiling their nests, but my observations do not coincide with this. At the nest discovered on March 24, on our approach the female silently slipped off, circled around once, enabling me to identify her, and disappeared in the deeper woods and was not seen again. On April 7 a set of two fresh eggs was taken from a nest in a tall pecan tree. Both birds were present. and after circling around my companion, Mr. Chas. B. Pearre, who had climbed for the nest, for a few moments, they disappeared; but after we had left, and were yet within a hundred yards of the tree, they returned. One of the birds, the female, I think, then flew to a branch of the tree overlooking the nest, while its mate perched on a pin-oak near by. At a nest discovered May 5, the birds were not seen until the eggs were taken, when they made their appearance, uttered several loud cries, and flew in circles around the tree containing the nest. On April 15 one of several nests examined contained three well-fledged young. The parents were very demonstrative in their actions, but not at all pugnacious. The birds were present at the nest in most instances, often betraying their location. Two, three, and rarely four eggs compose the nest complement, two being the more common number in this locality. The ground color of the eggs is dull-white or bluish-white, and varies from almost wholly unmarked specimens to those heavily blotched with umber, rusty and reddish-brown, and red. A set of three eggs in the collection of my friend, J. W. Mann, Jr., present quite a contrast. Egg (*a*) has a dull white ground, and is heavily blotched

with rusty brown; egg (*b*) has the same ground color, but is almost wholly unmarked with the exception of one or two light-colored specks on one side; egg (*c*) has a deep bluish-white ground, and is evenly and handsomely marked with small reddish blotches. A set of two eggs in my collection are faintly marked with dull brown at the smaller end. The eggs are usually ovate in shape, and average 2.05 x 1.70 in size. The birds breed principally in the bottom-lands, usually in a thickly wooded section bordering some river or stream of fair size, but seldom at any great distance from water. The largest trees growing here are pin-oak, elm and pecan trees, and in these the nests are built usually in a fork of the main trunk or of some large out-branching limb, at an elevation of from 30 to 60 feet from the ground The nests are large and bulky, composed for the most part of large sticks, lined with tree moss, dry grass, and in some instances a few feathers. The nests are used for several seasons by the same pair of birds. The birds always fill the nests with a small quantity of green elm leaves or green cedar twigs, before the eggs are deposited, and afterwards add more. Nearly all of the eggs taken this season were more or less stained by these leaves. I notice that the cedar twigs are principally found in the nests discovered early in the year, as in the case of a backward spring, like the one past, the trees did not get their leaves as early as usual and the green leaves were not so easily obtained. Four nests were measured. The first, situated in a triple fork of a tall pin-oak, at a height of 50 feet, was an old nest repaired, and measured 23 inches in diameter, outside, and 12 inches in depth, outside. Nest (*b*) was 45 feet up in a pin-oak tree, was an old nest repaired, and measured 20 inches in diameter, outside. Nest (*c*) was about 40 feet from the ground, in a pecan tree, was a new nest, and measured 16 inches in diameter, outside, 9 inches in diameter, inside, and 9 inches in depth, outside. Nest (*d*) was situated at a height of 38 feet, in a large elm tree, and was 18 inches in diameter, Only one nest examined had a deep cavity, in all others they were rather shallow. Early last spring a young man presented me with a live specimen of the Florida Red-shouldered Hawk, with its wings badly injured. I kept it confined for several days in a large lynx cage, but although it was not at all pugnacious and I frequently handled it, it refused all food. I tried on several occasions to induce it to fly, but its wings were too badly injured, and knowing that if I let it go free it would be tortured by boys or dogs, I despatched it to put it out of misery. During its captivity the cage that the Hawk was confined in was near a Dove cote, and whenever the Doves would fly near the cage it would fly against the bars as though attempting to capture them. When I would approach the Hawk it would slightly raise its wings, gaze wonderingly at me, and crouch low in a corner of its cage. The flight of this species is usually easy and graceful, but if harrassed by foes, such as a pair of Crows or other Hawks, they fly awkwardly and aimlessly around. not appearing to defend themselves as much as to attempt their escape. I have frequently seen them pursued by Crows, and on one occasion, on February 17, 1894 ,I observed one fleeing before a little Rusty-crowned Falcon (*Falco sparverius*). I made madə mention before of the almost invariable habit these Hawks have of breeding near water, and this year I was presented a striking illustration of the truth of this. In 1894, a point about ten miles to the west of Waco was visited. Here I found a very thick, though rather long and narrow, strip of woods bordering a running stream, and a number of Florida Red-shouldered Hawks were observed here, as well as several of their nests. In 1895 the same place was visited on several occasions, and the stream was found to be perfectly dry, there not being even a trace of water found. Audubon's Caracara, the Vulture, and many other species of both large and small birds which are usually found here, were seen quite commonly, and the nests of some species were examined, but not a single individual of the Florida Red-shouldered Hawk was seen. As the birds are never molested here, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that this species deserted the locality for one near a running stream.

JOHN KERN STRECKER, JR.

Waco, Texas.

A. W. ANTHONY, of San Diego, Cal., is to leave shortly on a cruise to Lower California, accompanied by Horace A. Gaylord, of Pasadena, as his assistant, and James Gaylord as botanist. They will be absent about three months, visiting the islands of Guadaloupe, Cerros, Natividad and others.

The American Bittern.

READ BEFORE THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

THE American Bittern, or "Thunder Pump," as it is usually called, is a common bird in suitable localities all over the state of Illinois, though very few, except enthusiastic collectors, have ever met it, and few of them have anything like an intimate acquaintance with it. To me it is by far the most interesting of my feathered friends.

Since a small boy I had looked in vain for its nest, until the spring of 1893, when on a visit to the large swamps in the northern part of this county (Henry) I struck it rich, though in '92 the same ground had failed to afford me a single nest.

About the 15th of May of '93 I received a letter from "Ikey," saying he had found a nest of the "Thunder Pump" with one egg. So on the 21st I found myself in the swamps filled with great expectations.

These "swamps" are two in number, each about four or five miles long and from one to three miles wide, separated by a strip of sand hills and low ground, perhaps a mile wide. This strip of low land contains a number of ponds, and in these I found most of the nests.

The first set was taken on the 22nd of May. It was of five eggs, nearly fresh. The nest was by far the best of any I saw. It was about 2 feet long, 18 inches wide, and 8 inches deep, situated in a small open place in a pond with over 4 feet of water, and supported on the tops of a clump of dead rushes—broken to the top of the water. The nest was of the rushes taken from about this clump, leaving the open space. The birds were both near the nest.

This pond was covered, like all the others, with a dense growth of cane rushes and grass. The second nest was found in a large pond a short distance away, and contained six eggs, nearly fresh, only one or two showing signs of incubation. I had been well content with sets of ten Coots and thirteen of the King Rail, but when I waded out to where Keener was waiting for me, he took my breath away by saying he had not done very well—"only a set of fifteen King Rails and six of those 'Tilla-ma-loo' birds' eggs." The nest was a shallow platform of dry rushes in a thick clump of green rushes, over about 18 inches of water.

This pond was covered with grass and rushes and was about ten acres in extent, with water about 18 inches deep. At this time Coots, Gallinules, King Rails, Bitterns and a few Ducks made it their home.

"George" found the third set of Bittern's in a small pond near the main marsh, some days before, when it held but one egg. As usual, it was in a thick clump of rushes over water. It was a very flimsy affair, just sufficient to hold the eggs, which were about 4 inches above the water.

The evening before, while out with the hounds after a wolf, I had seen a pair of Bitterns chasing each other about in the edge of the swamp, and judged from their actions they had a nest near by; so George and I went after it. We had given it up and George had started for home when I heard him laughing. I hurried to him, and when I got there I laughed too, for there was the old Bittern on her nest, and no old hen could make more fuss than she—scolding, her bill open to its widest extent, head drawn back and feathers all ruffled. She was a comical sight. Holding out my basket for her to bite, I caught her by the neck and gave her to George. We were disappointed, as she only had two eggs; so George carried her to the house and put her in a barrel, where we got one more egg next day, but that was all she would lay.

I would advise anyone to grab quick if they are going to fool with live Bitterns and to keep a good grip on the neck, as they can strike an awful blow.

This nest was in the edge of the main swamp, about 100 yards out, and over but 3 inches of water. It was the only nest I found in the main swamp.

My next visit to the swamp was on the 14th of June, but I found it rather late for Bitterns. Most of the eggs found were ready to hatch, so I got only two sets of four each, one from the large pond and the other from the pond where the set of five was taken. They were perhaps by the same birds.

The first nest was found by the bird "scolding" a dog, and she remained on the nest until I was ready to pick her up, when she flew a few feet away. This nest was well concealed in the grass and rushes, by this time grown to a height of two or three feet above the water. It was merely a shallow platform.

The other set was taken near the spot where the first set was taken, and probably from the same birds, but the nest was the usual slight platform, while the first was a very well made affair.

During the succeeding season the swamps were very dry, only one or two ponds containing any water, and perhaps for this reason only a very few Bitterns were to be seen. Two nests only were found. The first was in the edge of the main swamp and held but two eggs, which were left, but only one more was laid. This nest, if nest it could be called, was beside a tussock of grass and the eggs were on the bare ground, with a few pieces of dry rushes to keep them together.

The other nest was in the large pond spoken of before, now dry, and held four eggs, the nest consisting of a few pieces of dry rushes laid on the ground among a lot of dead rushes. Cattle had fed all about the nest until very few rushes were left. These sets were taken on the 22nd of May.

In color the eggs range from a dead grass to the green sometimes found in grass dried in the shade, and both shades may be found in the same nest. Others are of a dirty cream color, but as all sets of this color were taken late in the season they may possibly have been second sets, from birds laying darker eggs at first. In any case they are very near the color of the rushes used for the nest.

In size the eggs run from 1.90 to 2.08 in length, and from 1.41 to 1.51 in width. The average measurements of twenty-three eggs were 1.97 x 1 45.

The nests will average 15 x 10 x 4 inches. When placed over water a few rushes are bent flat on the water, and on these the nest is laid. They seem to prefer ponds as nesting places, and are not particular as to depth of water or how open the pond may be, provided it has plenty of dead rushes. One or both of the old birds are usually to be found near the nest, but in no case did I find more than two birds near the nest, even when the set was incomplete. When several birds were observed near each other no nest was to be found, and none of the nests were nearer each other than 100 yards. A platform much like a nest is built by the birds to stand on during the day, except that green rushes are more commonly used in its construction.

The call of the Bittern is not unlike the sound made by driving a nail in a board. It is much faster than a blow could be given by a sledge. Sometimes it ends with a bellow very much like that of a bull, and sometimes this bellow is all that is given When frightened it has a hoarse croak, much like that of the Herons.

A. C. MURCHISON.

Kewanee, Ill.

Raptores of Maryland.

BY WM. H. FISHER.

Cathartes aura:—Turkey Vulture.

THE Turkey Buzzard, as it is commonly called, is an abundant resident. On account of its habits as a scavanger it is protected by the law, a penalty of $5.00 being imposed for killing one. I have many times seen dozens of them about the carcase of a horse or cow, and others perched in the neighboring trees waiting their turn at the feast. On one occasion I saw a circle of them around the remains of a calf, and perched on it, eating his fill, was a Bald Eagle.

The eggs, two in number, are deposited from the middle of April to the middle of May, in a hollow log or under a ledge of rock.

Elanoides forficatus:—Swallow-tailed Kite.

This beautiful southern species, occasionally, in the summer, strays as far north as the state of New York.

In either July or August 1889, one was shot near Catonsville, Baltimore county.

Circus hudsonius:—Marsh Hawk

The Blue Hawk is resident the whole year, except during severe winters. It is fairly common, but not abundant excepting in the lower counties, and in Baltimore county, and the adjoining counties, is generally seen in the spring and fall. This Hawk can easily be recognized by the white feathers of the upper tail coverts, which are plainly discernible as it skims low over the meadows and marshes in quest of mice, of which it destroys immense numbers.

The nest is placed on the ground, in marsh or meadow.

Accipiter velox:—Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Resident, but not at all common, especially during the summer months.

The Sharp shinned Hawk although small in size, is not lacking in courage, and frequently kills birds much larger than itself. Some years ago one of these Hawks was seen every morning about one of the Northern Central R. R. elevators in this city, chasing the pigeons which congregated

there to feed on the grain, and it rarely missed getting one for its breakfast.

When in pursuit of their quarry they have very little regard to their safety. Once, while walking through some bushes where a flock of Tree Sparrows were feeding, a Sharp-shinned Hawk dashed into their midst and captured a bird not twenty feet from where I was standing.

In nesting they generally seem to prefer a pine tree or a cedar,and occasionally they will make use of a hollow. They are very noisy when one approaches their nest, and nearly always make known its location by their anxiety to drive one away.

A nest I found May 29, 1892, was in a pine tree, thirty-five feet from the ground, and resting at the base of a limb, close to the trunk, and contained five eggs, slightly incubated. The birds were very tame and remained perched within a few feet of me, frequently darting quite close to my head.

In Somerset county this Hawk on account of its predaceous habits is called "Privateer."

After being robbed of the first set of eggs it will occasionally deposit a second set.

Accipiter cooperi.—Cooper's Hawk.

The "Long-tailed Chicken Hawk" is one of our most destructive Hawks as far as the poultry yard is concerned. It is also a terrible enemy of our game birds. I have often seen them "beating" over a field which I knew one or more covies of Partridges were in the habit of frequenting.

This Hawk is one of the late nesters, the eggs, four or five in number, being deposited about the middle of May.

It is resident except during very severe winters.

Accipiter atricapillus:—Am. Goshawk.

The Goshawk inhabits principally the more northern portions of the eastern half of the United States; at times, during the winter months, they are found, sparingly, as far south as Maryland, one being killed at Sandy Springs, Montgomery county, Dec. 27, '87. (Dr. A. K. Fisher, "Hawks and Owls of U. S.").

They are very destructive to the farmer's poultry yard as well as to the wild game birds.

Buteo borealis:—Red-tailed Hawk.

This well-known "Hen Hawk" is a fairly abundant resident, being more common during the winter months. Although called a "Hen Hawk, the name is inappropriate, as it is seldom that it disturbs the poultry yard. Still, it occasionally does, and I once saw a Red-tail strike one of our old hens, striking so hard that it was unable to extricate its talons, and as the weight of the fowl was too much for it to carry, it was unable to escape, and was killed with a stick.

Its principal food consists of rabbits, squirrels, rats, mice, snakes, frogs, insects, etc.

They will remain perched for hours at a time on a favorite limb,but if a person tries to sneak a march, he will soon find that Buteo is wide awake, in spite of his seeming apathy.

The nest, which is resorted to from year to year, is generally built in a very tall tree, and the eggs (usually two) are deposited about March 20.

This Hawk especially delights in soaring, and it is not an infrequent sight to see a pair sailing about, so high that they look like mere specks in the heavens.

Buteo lineatus:—Red-shouldered Hawk.

Resident, and next to the preceeding species the most abundant of our larger Hawks. Whilst it is also called a "Hen Hawk," it is very lowly in its diet, and out of two hundred and twenty stomachs examined by Dr. A. K. Fisher, at Washington, D. C., only three contained remains of poultry. It is especially fond of frogs.

In nesting it generally chooses a lower situation than the Red-tailed Hawk; the eggs, two to four in number, being deposited during the latter part of March.

Buteo latissimus:—Broad-winged Hawk.

A very tame and inoffensive Hawk, and is generally found about heavily timbered bottom lands. Frequently, while wandering along a trout stream in the solitute of the woods, my attention has been drawn to one of these birds by hearing its shrill whistle within a few yards of me, and looking up I would see it perched in a tree looking at me. There it would remain, totally indifferent to my presence, until through with its scrutiny of me, it would fly a few yards and alight in another tree.

It nests late, usually depositing three, sometimes two and rarely four eggs, about the third week in May. A nest found by my brother, May 23, 1892, was sixty feet up in a chestnut tree, and contained three slightly incubated eggs.

Resident except during severe winters, but at no time abundant with us.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti johannis:—Am. Rough-legged Hawk.

This handsome Hawk is rare in this state, at times being seen during its southern migrations. It is harmless, as well as beneficial, most of its foods consisting of mice, moles, frogs, etc.

Aquila chrysaetos:—Golden Eagle.

Rare straggler; occasionally one will be recorded in the state; in all I have seen about half a dozen records. One from Gaithersburg was under date December 8, 1889 ("Hawks and Owls," Dr. A. K. Fisher.) In March 1894, one was shot near Port Deposit.

The latest record I have was one shot by Mr. Chas. H. Boone Jr., of this city, and recorded in the Baltimore "Sun" of Nov. 30, 1894. It was killed at the mouth of Atter Creek, Harford county, and measured 3' 4" in length and seven across the wings. This specimen I saw shortly after it had been skinned.

Haliæ etus leucocephalus:—Bald Eagle.

Resident, and not rare in the neighborhood of Baltimore, several pairs nesting annually within a few miles of the city. It is seldom I have been in the vicinity of any of our large rivers without seeing one or more of these birds, and on one occasion (July 16, 1891) I saw three together. In the immature plumage it is commonly supposed to be a distinct species, and is called the "Gray" or "Black" Eagle.

It is very fond of fish, many of which are taken from the Fish Hawk, although I have seen it capture them for itself. It will also eat carrion, and is occasionally seen consorting with a flock of Turkey Buzzards.

In this neighborhood they generally begin nidification by March 1. Another date being March 29, 1893, two eggs, incubation about fresh. In this latter case the ♂ was shot two days before the eggs were taken, and the ♀ was incubating there alone. There nests I visited with my friend, Mr. Kirkwood who ascended to both nests. The nest of 1893 was an immense affair, measuring 5' 6"x4' on top, and was 4' 5" high. It was eighty feet from the ground, in a red oak. The birds made no pretense at defending their nest in either case, only flying about overhead or perching some distance off in a tree and "cackling."

Scattered about in the vicinity of the nests were the feathers and remains of numerous Ducks that had been eaten by the birds.

Falco peregrinus anatum:—Duck Hawk.

The Duck Hawk, or Great-footed Hawk, as it is sometimes called, may be considered as very rare in this state. While in a ducking blind on Gunpowder river, March 5, 1887, my attention was attracted by a Hawk which I took to be this species, but having no glass with me I was unable to positively identify it.

It is exceedingly destructive to Ducks, game and poultry, and when in pursuit of them, it is said to fly with the swiftness of an arrow.

It is said that for years past several pairs have nested on the rocky cliffs of "Maryland Heights," across the Potomac river, opposite Harper's Ferry. They are there known as "Rock Hawks."

Falco columbarius:—Pigeon Hawk.

This species is very rare in Maryland, and personally I have never met with it.

In the "Ornithologist and Oologist," Vol. VIII, September 1883, Mr. Chas. D. Gibson stated it to be a resident of Marylaud, and to breed in the state.

Falco sparverius:—Am. Sparrow Hawk.

Our smallest Hawk, and resident but most abundant during the summer. The ♂ is a beautiful bird. They are easily tamed and make very interesting pets; one I once possessed would answer my call and follow me about in the field.

Their food consists of small mammals, and birds, but principally, during the summer, of grasshoppers. I have killed them when their stomachs were gorged to the utmost extent with 'hoppers alone. A favorite perch is the pole of a haystack, or the ridge of a barrack, from which they make frequent forays over the field, hovering in search of their prey.

The eggs, four or five in number, are usually deposited on the bare wood in either an old Flicker's hole, or a natural cavity in a tree, although occasionally they will make use of the dark corner of an open hay barrack. Their eggs can be found from early in April until the end of May. May 26, 1894, I found a set of four fresh eggs in a Flicker's hole in an old chestnut tree, about thirty feet up. The Hawks had evidently driven off the Flickers soon after they had finished the hole, as along with the eggs of

the Hawk I took one of the Flicker's.* About ten feet up, in the same limb, was a hole occupied by a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers.

The same day, from a natural cavity in a chestnut tree, about twenty-five feet up, I took a set of five eggs, one about half set, four rotten.

They become very much attached to one place, and resort to the same tree from year to year, even though they be repeatedly robbed of eggs or young. After being robbed they remain about the tree for a long time, and occasionally deposit a second clutch.

As a rule no nesting material is used, although they are said to sometimes partially fill up the hole with dead leaves and grass.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis:—Am. Osprey.

The Fish Hawk is a common summer resident along our sea coast and about the larger rivers and Chesapeake Bay, arriving about the middle of March and leaving in September or October.

Their nests, which are rebuilt and used from year to year, are generally placed near the top of a large tree, although at times they build quite low and in a small tree. The eggs are generally three in number, sometimes only two, and scarcely ever four.

They feed almost exclusively upon fish, which they take alive.

Strix pratincola:—Am. Barn Owl; Monkey-faced Owl.

A rare resident; more abundant in 1893 than in any other year of which I have record.

It sometimes breeds; Mr. A. Wolle took five young birds from a hollow tree in Anne Arundel county in May 1893. For several years a pair have been breeding in one of the towers of the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, D. C.

May 20, 1893, whilst hunting nests of the Purple Grackle in Kent county, I flushed one of these Owls from the top of an apple tree where it was perched within a few feet of a Grackle's nest. As soon as it flew it was immediately set upon about a dozen of Grackles, and was followed by them for some distance until I lost sight of them in a willow swamp.

Their food is principally rats and mice, of which they destroy immense numbers.

*This was rotten and the Flickers had a new nest in a stub about 50 feet off.

Asio wilsonianus:—Long-eared Owl.

Resident, but not at all common. In nesting it is said to use the old nest of a Crow, which it patches up to suit, then deposits from four to six eggs.

In November 1892, a party of hunters in Howard county came across a flock of about ten individuals, which were flushed from the ground in a sedge field. (Reported as *wilsonianus* but may have been *accipitrinus*.

Asio accipitrinus:—Short-eared Owl.

This one of our winter visitors. The only time I have personally met with it was April 1, 1892, when I flushed and shot a ♂ as it flew from a cedar tree.

During the day the commonly remain on the ground in the tall grass of the marshes, and are sometimes shot by sportsmen hunting Snipe.

Syrnium nebulosum:—Barred Owl; Hoot Owl; Booby Owl.

Resident; and next to the Screech Owl our most abundant species. It is commonly supposed to be very destructive to poultry, but from examination of stomachs made by the U. S. Agricultural Department at Washington, D. C., it has been shown that this supposition is an error, although they do occasionally visit the barnyard.

They are partial to heavily timbered land, during the mating season are very noisy. Frequently, in March, I have heard them hooting during the day, especially in cloudy weather.

In nesting they generally choose a hollow tree. not using the open nest so often as the Great Horned Owl, although they do occasionally make use of one. The eggs, two, sometimes three, are deposited during the latter part of March.

May 5, 1894, I flushed a Barred Owl from a hollow about fifteen feet up in a large chestnut tree, and climbing to it I found two young, seemingly about three weeks old. This tree was on the edge of a public road and was almost grazed by the wheels of passing vehicles. March 16, 1895, in same nest I found one fresh egg, but one week later when I went after the set I found the egg was broken, and as the bird was missing I think she must have been found and killed by 'coon hunters.

In Somerset county this species is commonly supposed to be the ♀ "Booby Owl" (Great Horned Owl).

Nyctala acadica:—Saw-whet Owl.

This, our smallest Owl, is not often me

with, and when seen it is commonly during the winter season.

Personally I have only seen it on two occasions, the first time was in November, in Somerset county, when I found one in a small cedar brush on the edge of a marsh. Again, March 4, 1894, while hunting through the woods near the Gunpowder river, Baltimore county, we flushed a Barred Owl from a medium-sized cedar tree and then saw an Acadian Owl on the same limb, about two feet from where the Barred Owl was perched. This had evidently been a roosting place for both birds for quite a time, as beneath the tree we picked up a large number of pellets from both species.

Audubon states that it is found in the swamps of Maryland the whole year.

Megascops asio:—Screech Owl.

This little Owl, variously known as Little Horned Owl, Mottled Owl, Red Owl, etc., is a highly beneficial species, being an abundant resident throughout the state.

Its flight bears much resemblance to that of the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*), and on one occasion whilst hunting "Cock" in an Aldar swamp I shot an Owl by mistake as it flushed from the grass at my feet.

Its food consists of small mammals, insects, fish, reptiles, crawfish etc. January 14, 1894, I found a number of pellets consisting almost wholly of the remains of crawfish.

They generally deposit their eggs in a natural cavity in a tree, or a deserted Flicker hole, laying them on a bare wood. Davie states ("Nests and Eggs of Nor. Am. Birds")that they sometimes deposit as many as nine eggs; here I should say four was the average, sometimes three and often five being found.

Three sets taken by me in 1894, were as follows: April 6, four fresh eggs from Flicker hole on apple tree, five feet up. Eggs on bare wood and covered by Owl in red phase. About three weeks previously my brother felt in the hole and brought out both birds; one was red, the other gray. April 7, four fresh eggs from Flicker hole, fifteen feet up in apple tree; Owl in red phase. With the eggs I found two mouse skulls, numerous small bones, and some Bluebird feathers. On April 21, as I passed the tree I looked in hoping to take a second set, but found none although an Owl was there, this time a gray one.

April 8, three slightly incubated eggs from a natural cavity in beech tree, about twelve feet up, and covered by Owl in red phase. Eggs very much soiled from the damp rotten wood upon which they rested.

I have never kept an account of the relative number of the two phases of color, but think they are pretty evenly distributed in their locality; if either predominates I should say it is the red phase.

Bubo virginianus:—Great Horned Owl; Booby Owl; Hoot Owl; Cat Owl.

This, our largest Owl, is resident, where found. It inhabits principally heavy woodland, and is much more abundant in our lower counties than near Baltimore. Frequently of a winter night, in Somerset county, I have heard one of these Owls hoot, presently to be answered by another and then a chorus would come from all directions.

They are frequently seen during the day, and I once saw one about 3 p. m., making sweeping circles over an open field where shortly before I had scattered a covey of Partridges.

This is our most destructive Owl, killing many domestic fowls, game birds and rabbits. They are very fond of the latter, and almost all pellets examined will show signs of their fur.

They usually nest from the end of February to the end of March, depositing two, and sometimes three eggs.

In this locality the Great Horned Owl is more often found incubating in an open nest than in a hollow tree.

Nyctea nyctea:—Snowy Owl.

A rare visitor, sometimes making its appearance during excessively cold winters.

Baltimore, Md.

R. W. Williams, Jr., of Tallahassee, Florida, took a set of five eggs of the Florida Screech Owl this year.

Mr. C. Barlow, of Santa Clara, finding that his duties as secretary of the Cooper Club occupy much of his spare time, has resigned the Californian editorship of a new publication to which he was appointed.

Volume II of Major Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds," is now in type, after a long delay in the Government printing office. Volume III will commence with the Evening Grosbeak.

A Hawk Diary.
(1894.)

APRIL 21.—While out hunting, I passed by a nest in an oak tree, where I had taken a set of two finely marked eggs of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) on April 29, 1893. Climbing up to the nest, I found it looked as if it had been re-lined, but contained no eggs.

April 28.—Saw a pair of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo latissimus*) around a small grove. They were much less wary than most other Hawks (which is characteristic of the species), and more than once I approached within easy gunshot of one. When scared up, one would only fly a short distance and light in another tree. They probably nested around there a little later in the season, there being a number of old nests visible.

May 5.—When I came near my old Hawk's nest of April 21, I was not surprised to see a large Red-tail fly from the nest. She was soon joined by her mate, and they sailed around overhead uttering loud discordant sounds, something like *scree e e, scree-e-e.* The nest was forty feet from the ground and contained three beautiful, fresh eggs. The eggs were very differently marked, one being very faintly spotted with pale lavendar and very light brown; another was thickly marked over the entire surface with light brown, blurred-looking spots, the markings being thicker towards the smaller end and almost forming a wreath. The third egg had many large, bright brown blotches, chiefly on the larger end, the spots being very clear and well defined, looking like little dabs of paint put on with a brush. They measured 2.27 x 1.98, 2.28 x 1.77, 2.31 x 1.81. This was the only set of Red-tail's eggs which I found that season. Two other places where I found the Hawks building, nests were deserted, the birds evidently disliking to have their housekeeping affairs intruded upon.

The same day I saw a Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) sitting near a large nest in an oak tree about fifty feet from the ground. The nest was an old one which I had noticed the preceding winter, and contained several cottonwood or poplar twigs, with small fresh green leaves on them, looking as if they had been picked today. When I came down the Hawk was sitting in another tree not far away, and allowed me to come quite near before taking alarm.

May 6.—While walking along a country road I saw a pair of Marsh Hawks soaring low down over a patch of hazel bushes and tall weeds near a slough, so I proceeded to investigate. When I came near, the Hawks began to get alarmed, the male bird being especially demonstrative. He would start a short distance away, and seem to be flying straight at my head, but would turn aside when about ten feet from me. On looking the ground over thoroughly, I found the nest, flat on the ground in the center of the weeds. It contained only a single pale blue egg, with a few small spots on it, so I left it for future reference.

May 12.—Saw a Swainson's Hawk sitting in a tree near an old nest that had been unoccupied last year. I started to try and get a shot at it, but just as I was coming up I saw another Hawk approaching, carrying in his bill a stick about a foot long. He lit right in the middle of the nest with it, but soon espied me, flew off the nest, circled around once or twice, and then lit beside the nest. He remained until I had climbed halfway up to the nest, which was in a large oak. Both Hawks then flew around screaming, sometimes swooping down close to my head. I visited the nest again later in the month, but it seemed to be deserted.

A little further on, in the same grove, a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) dashed off her nest and away through the woods, screaming. She soon lit in a tree near by, and dropped at the report of the double-barrel. The nest was in a burr-oak, about twenty-five feet from the ground. It was about 18 inches across, built of small sticks, and unlined, being in the near vicinity, if not the actual nest, from which I took a set of two eggs last year, on May 6. The nest contained five fresh eggs, pale bluish in color, two being unmarked, the others sparingly flecked with light brown. They average 1.81 x 1.45 in size.

May 13.—Visited the Marsh Hawk's nest found May 6, but found it abandoned, and the egg nearly covered up with weeds. Some boys told me of another Marsh Hawk's nest which they had found in the center of a slough the previous week, containing five whitish-colored eggs. Different parties who saw the nest said it was built well up from the water, which was quite shallow. Some young Hawks were subsequently taken from this nest.

May 16.—Started early in the morning to

visit the Swainson Hawk's nest noted on May 5. One Hawk was sitting on a dead tree not far off, but I could not see anything on the nest. After I had climbed up several feet, striking the spurs in hard, the bird flew off, was joined by her mate, and they flew around, screaming high overhead. On a limb about a foot below the nest hung a dead green snake, about fifteen inches long. The nest was lined with fresh green leaves, and contained three fresh eggs. Two of the eggs did not differ materially in color from ordinary eggs of the Red-tailed Hawk, one having heavier markings than the other; but one egg was somewhat unique. It had very pale lavender shell markings over the entire surface, with two large brown blotches on the middle of one side, about one-fourth of an inch in diameter and less than a quarter of an inch apart, also half a dozen large irregular blotches in a bunch near the smaller end. Measurements: 2.13 x 1.75, 22.2 x 178, 2.29 x 1.79.

RUDOLPH M. ANDERSON.

Forest City, Iowa.

Nesting of the Nashville Warbler.

THE Nashville Warbler is quite common here during migration, and a few remain each season in favorable localities to breed. I have always found them in the young growths of small trees and thick bushes, where they keep well hidden, appearing in sight only for an instant as they move quickly from bush to bush. They are shyer than most Warblers and move about so quickly from bush to bush that it is often difficult to identify them, even when they are quite plenty, Arriving the second week in May, they are at once in full song. The song is not loud, and does not resemble that of the Chestnut-sided Warbler. It is quite well described by Langille as "a composition, the first half of which is as nearly as possible like the thin but penetrating notes of the Black-and White Creeping Warbler, while the last half is like the twitter of the Chipping Sparrow."

To my ear the first half of the song more nearly resembles the song of Wilson's Warbler than that of the Black-and-White Warbler. When disturbed, the Nashville Warbler frequently utters a sharp, chipping note. Here their favorite nesting site is rough pasture land covered with "cradle-knolls," and more or less grown up to brakes, bushes and small trees—just such a locality as is preferred by the Yellow Palm and Wilson's Warblers, both of which breed here sparingly.

I have found but two nests of the Nashville Warbler, both of which were located in bushy pastures. The first was found June 5, 1893, in the adjoining town of Detroit. The nest was placed in the side of a knoll, well concealed by brakes and brush; built of grass, with some moss and leaves; lined with fine grass and horse-hair. It contained four fresh eggs, which were white, spotted and blotched with light-red, reddish brown and lavender, more thickly at the larger end. These eggs are rather long, and pointed at the smaller end, measuring .67 x .46, .66 x .47, .66 x .46, .64 x .45. The bird was flushed from the nest.

The second nest was found May 30, 1894. This nest was placed on the roots of a small bush that grew from the side of a knoll; it was composed largely of grass with some moss, lined with horse-hair and and fine red hair-like moss-stems. It contained five eggs, one half incubated, which were white, spotted with dark reddish-brown and lavender, with a tendency to form a wreath around the larger end. They measure .60 x .50, .59 x .47, .58 x 50, .58 x .49, .56 x .49, being more round than those first taken. When a nest of this species is disturbed the birds stay near, but utter few complaints. In the bush the Nashville Warbler has the appearance of a rather small bird with olive back, bluish head and neck, yellow throat and breast, and tail without white blotches. The chestnut crown patch can hardly be seen unless the bird is in the hand.

C. H. MORRELL.

Pittsfield, Me.

Eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak

Rollo H. Beck, of Berryessa, California, and Wilfred H. Osgood of San Jose, have just returned from their successful collecting trip in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Mr. Beck secured a nest and four eggs, with parent, of the Western Evening Grosbeak. The eggs are distinctly different from those of the Black-headed Grosbeak, and make it certain that those secured by Mr. Fiske in the *valley*, and which were too far advanced to blow, could not have been those of the Western Evening Grosbeak The taking of this rare set, with description of eggs, will be written up for the September NIDOLOGIST, and if it is found possible to do it correctly, we intend to publish a colored plate of the eggs. Mr. Osgood secured two sets of Calaveras Warbler and one of the Hermit Warbler, with parents, while Mr. Beck also took the nest and eggs of the Dwarf Hermit Thrush.

The Photo Fiend.

BY REV. P. B. PEABODY.

(Concluded.)

A word about "taking" nests, in brush-land—in the woods. Sometimes we leave the stems or stalks that stand between camera and nest; for they are a part of the bird's choice. But, far oftener, they are both accidental and destructive,—and should be cleared away.

For example: A nest and eggs of the Western Grebe lie but a trifle above the water, on a narrow bed of marsh-grass, in a two foot clear space, and surrounded by a dense growth of grass and rushes, into which a boat cannot possibly be drawn. How else in this case, with a five-foot focal limit, is one to secure a negative, than by clearing away the grass and rushes in a "lone" five feet extendent from the nest? This fact, alone justifies the setting of a minimum two-foot focal limit as being the *sine qua non* of a perfect camera for next photography.

For example: in June, 1895, I went, en route, five miles out of my course, taking back eggs collected in May, to photograph a most beautiful nest built by my favorite pair of Krider's Hawks, on the semi-horizontal branch of a small elm with no adequate branches above. My camera has a five-foot limit. The wind was blowing terrifically. I could not come again. From any place whereon I could stand, I could not possibly hold the camera more than two feet from the eggs,—and view, meanwhile, the finder. But it was cloudy, —raining. No snap-shot would avail. The very best that I could do was to strap the camera to a higher branch, three feet away, (having previously strapped myself to the tree), just guessing at the allignment. So, I obtained, a negative, indeed, but aut of focus. The very features of the nest that I wished to preserve—location, material, perspective—all were lost. A two-foot focus would have saved them.

But there are further limitations to be conquered. The photograph of a nest, unusually picturesque, of the Ferruginous Rough-leg, in far-off Calgary, Alberta, shows, as taken from the ground, a huge mass, ensconced in the triple crotch formed by broken-off dead limbs at the very apex of a large cottonwood tree. How, now, could my enthusiastic friend have photgraphed *in situ* the exquisite set of five eggs that he took with a scoop, hanging by spurs and rope, beneath the nest? Some day, some genius will invent a light, rigid, simple apparatus, of aluminum., elevatable and and tiltable, which, being fastened to the tree trunk and used conjointly with the Miller climbing apparatus, will enable the operator, by aid of automatic focus-er and a marvelously simple combination of view finders, to photograph, effectively, the surface and contents of a nest into which he cannot even look, himself.

The Krider's Hawk incident above referred to, and many others I might give, well illustrate the value of marking nests of rare birds, at the time when eggs and negatives are taken, "for future reference." The negative may be spoiled, or perhaps the eggs were taken at dawn or at dark. But one can always "(pack) and come again." A similar and equally valuable precaution is, to duplicate, perhaps with change of positions, the negative that registers a rare find. Among my many mistakes has been that of using two great a vertical angle, in taking views of eggs *in situ* in case of ground nests, in the grass. Why a mistake? First, because the point of view is unnatural; second, because the environment of the nest cannot properly thus portrayed; and third, because, for some unexplained reason, the resulting negatives are not likely to be good. One most happy exception has been for me, the nest of a Prairie Horned Lark, only two feet from the highway wheel tracks, among dense three-inch rag-weeds, photographed with a substituted set of eggs, (the young having been removed for that purpose,) at high noon, in brilliant light, on a windy day, the operator standing on a box that surmounted another box that rested on a rickety wheel-barrow.

We may now suppose our roll of film to have been exhausted; and we are ready to develop; having learned not to let the factory "do the rest." Admitted that the skilled operative might do the work better, we still begrudge their employers the *cost*, and we begrudge *them* the *fun*!

But first, as to "continuous film." One fails to see what possible ordinary advantage there can be in a roll of over fifty exposures. Certainly, there can be none that would justify the manufacturers in charging an additional price, just for that continuousness. A film properly measured and autom-

matically stopped between the exposures need not waste over two inches in a twenty-five exposure-roll, or three inches, if properly set to the reel, in one of twice that length; and certainly, the gain in avoidance of frequent loading vanishes before the annoyance and expense of being compelled to buy, out of season, a fifty roll; when you only wish to take a dozen or twenty pictures before the film would grow stale. But we are now in the dark room, confronted by many problems. As we cut the films apart, we fall to wondering what is the "front end of an exposure, and where the place,"—one fourth inch in front of "a perforation, at which we are to cut. We wish, ardently, that the perforations had not an uncomfortable way of closing up so that they cannot be seen when the film strip is held up to the light. But we have learned to have beside us a slip of brown paper just the size that the automatically measured exposure ought to be, and so, even if there be a skip of two or even three perforations we can, by unreeling film and measuring forward from the first that can be discovered, beyond, be measurably sure of avoiding the "foxing" of exposures. But much anxiety and delay, in this matter may be avoided by depending upon the sense of touch rather than that of sight. The thumb and forefinger of the right hand are closed upon the film edge, and passed along it rapidly. The dent of the perforation is thus quickly found, without the necessity of holding to the light.

Just on the evening of the writing of this article comes a notice of the camera for which many of us have been waiting—a magazine camera using cut-films. Has it I wonder, been proven a success?

As we immerse the exposures in the water bath, we fall to wishing that the mannuals would lay more stress or the use of ice, telling, that it should be chopped, and have the sharp edges melted away by the pouring of water over it. We are also wondering why we have not been warned against the splashing of anything, even pure water. on the undeveloped film—, warned against the mere touching of the sensitized surface with the hands,cautioned against forgetting to have plenty of clean absorbent cloths ready for wiping the hands after the developing of each negative. But we have learned, by sad experience, the lesson of unremitting neatuess. Our good angel has taught us to use a small cake of mooth ice in holding down the immersed and undeveloped films that will get their backs up; and to use a tin basin in covering the tray of undeveloped films. And we have been glad to find how easy it is acquire the dexterity requisite to the developing of two negatives, or even three at once (best only two, however, for fear of overdeveloping) thus saving half the time. Here, quickness and deftness mean everything.

We are now ready for develop-using, we will say, "Eikonogen," taking one "dose" in the "Seidlitz Powder form", for twenty, or even twenty-five, exposures (that is, if we develop two negatives at a time.) For the amateur, at least, Eikonogen is probably the very best developer on the market. It works quickly, very quickly indeed, with the first half-dozen negatives, and will develop up to twenty-four exposures, provided we have patience to work up the last half-dozen more slowly than the rest.

Now comes the delightful and liesurely "Hypo" stage, wherein we can begin to enjoy the fruit of our labors. Lovingly we watch every negative as the milkiness disappears, testing it both for total blackness as it lies in the bath and for perfect clearness when held to the light; for a cloud on the negative is a permanent blot. We have now come to that part of the manipulation on which the mannals dwell the least, while yet we almost feel they should here say the most. The tempering bath of glycerine, to which is sometimes added at least ten percent of alcohol to make the mixture less glairy should be strained when re-used, through close-fibred cloth. In all the drying process as in the printing of the photograph) avoidance of lint is the requisite of clearness. When the negatives are re-taken from the tempering bath a camel's hair pencil should remove even the least speck that adheres to the sensitized surface; and the whole face of the forty-eight by twelve inches soft and smooth pine board on which the negatives are to be pinned should be carefully wiped. We set the negatives on edge to drain. This done, the lower edge of each is slowly drawn across the back of the hand to remove the free moisture, and each is pinned down separately. Pins are cheap; and we don't want even the waste margins sticking together. "Frayed edges?" Yes, they're there, sometimes, in the best of film. But they'll be less, by ninety per cent, if we have kept adding bits of ice to the developer as fast as we dared,

and not risk undue weakening. But if the "frill" exists, there is but one rule: "Hands off"—till it dries. The pine board with its precious prisoners is now laid away in some safe and dust-free place. In the morning we liberate the negatives. On one or two there are specks, dried to the chemical side. But we have learned to leave there scrupulously alone. The negatives roll up, of course. But there is a trick worth knowing:

A "ponderous volume" is taken, not; of course the Family Bible, but; perhaps, that long disused Greek Lexicon, quarto. It is laid on a table, before us, the back from us, the back cover, with a few leaves, being opened down before us. Both hands are used to spread the negative, flat and well back from the outer margins, on the open page. The left hand holds the negatives in place, while the right brings down, and over, a dozen leaves of the book. As the left hand is slipped out, toward the operator, the right follows it above the leaves. The left then holds down this portion of the book, while the right places another negative, and so, *ad finem*.

In a few days the negatives will be seasoned. They may then be trimmed, with a sharp pen knife, by laying them under a metal edge ruler on a soft pine surface—care being taken to hold them in place firmly to avoid fraying the film or making a rough edge. And now we print, waiting for a clear, bright sun, having glass perfectly clean, keeping dust and lint wiped away, reading something not to engrossing while the beautiful sun-god does its work. Our thin negatives develop in twenty seconds—our dark ones in twenty minutes; thus the thin ones bear watching.

Herein lies both the end of our labors and the happy reward of our hopes; for "fate" is always better to us than our worst fears, and the soft, beautiful "aristo" or "Kloro" print is often far better than the negative would ever have allowed us to expect. My brother-amateurs will surely pardon me if I have seemed didactic. I have not written for them, but for those poor larval fellows, that are, today, just picking out a camera to begin, next April, the study of our art. A warm sympathy with them makes us unwilling that they should fall into our mistakes; and, moreover, we shall often still, be one of them, ourselves!

I found a Brown Thrush's nest, on a wooded prairie hill-side that bordered a lake. The top of a choke-cherry bush had broken sheer over, so that the prongs of two main stem-branches pointed downward. The bush, or more properly, sapling, was overgrown with wild grape vines. The nest, fully concealed, lay just behind the crotch, and was found by the flying away of the sitting bird The nest was exceptionally perfect, and the set a rare one; the only set of five I have ever seen or heard of, and the eggs all uniformly stippled, on a pale ground with specks as "red" as are ever found on eggs of the Texas Thrasher. But the whole lay in the shade. One month later, I brought back the eggs under a brilliant sun, at eleven A. M. just in time. A little careful breaking or bending away of leafy twigs or stray leaves, and the nest and eggs lay bare to the sun. And then I mounted the step-ladder which momentarily threatened to tumble with me down the hill. But I went up carefully, squirmed my body out of my light, and *did the rest*.

An aquatic picture gives me lively satisfaction in the reminiscence. It proves a number of things, among others, that the presence of "Mamma" and that growing young Ornithologist are by no means prejudicied to camerizing, and that six o'clock P. M. of a June day in Southern Minnesota, on the water, in none too late for snapshots, at least, with certain environments.

Rowing, rapidly among sparse growth of rushes, with here and there a Coot's-nest, having just done photographic justice to nests of Forster's Tern, and Night Heron, Coot, Florida, Gallinule, and Yellow-headed Blackbird, I noted, fifty feet away, a small patch of refuse lying on an open bit of water, among the Tern-eggs-laden musk-rat houses.

"Mamma," said I, "there's a nest." "Where?" "Right there," (pointing.) In answer to her quizzical look I sent the boat flying along side the uninteresting bit of mass. Instantly off came a glove, and the gingerly examining fingers laid bare. —"Well, of all things!" A set of six eggs of the Pied-billed Grebe. Such sets are not found in every nest. And, so while two trim gloved hands held the boat in place, and the boy, who might have been seen, ten minutes later, with one Night-Heron's egg in each fat fist, the contents of two more trickling down the front of his shirt, while I say, the boy looked on ap-

provingly, the camerist slid out of the boat into three feet of slime and water, in his cast-off clothes, carefully centered the nest in the finder; and snapped into being a negative that records a dozen delightful memories. I owe it to "Mamma's" modesty to say, that she mildly protested against the appearance of her chin upon the negative, but I have told her that one must really draw the line somewhere. So she and the boy helped to illustrate the Grebe nest. And this is the chief delight of Ornithological and photographic study; that they whose companionship gives to life its greatest happiness should join the delightful pastime that enables us to take up again, with new ardor and courage, the ravelled shred of care.

Cahto Birds.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

[A list of birds observed in northern Mendocino county, California, during the spring of 1889]

CAHTO is a village of the sort characterized by two saloons, store and a blacksmith shop. It is reached by a stage line from Ukiah, the county seat, and is about fifty miles north of that place. The nearest coast town is Westport, fifteen miles away. Mendocino City is on the coast, twenty miles south of Westport.

Cahto is in the northern end of a series of small open valleys, surrounded by low hills. Along one side of the valley is a small water course, which in the spring becomes overcharged with water, the result of heavy rains,and forms, by overflow, a small marshy area, just suited for Song Sparrows, Marsh Blackbirds, Rails and the like. Thick brush areas on the hill-sides afford pleasant retreats for Pipilos, Partridges and Thrushes, while the large pines and firs give a splendid opportunity for Woodpeckers to exhibit the cabinet building turn of mind, and the Chickadees and Warblers may display their ability as collectors of entomological specimens.

The locality seems specially suited to Warblers. Their abundance is truly remarkable both as regards individuals and species. Nine species were observed and a great many specimens collected.

The period from April 24 to May 1 we were at Ukiah; from May 2 to June 18 at Cahto. A star in the list indicates that the species was seen at both localities.

The following also were observed at Ukiah, but not seen at Cahto:

Ardea virescens.
Actitis macularia.
Ereunetes occidentalis?
Myiarchus cinerascens.
Chordeiles virginianus henryi.
Passer domesticus.
Tachycineta bicolor.
Tachycineta thalassina.

So short visits were of necessity productive of incomplete lists, but I believe they will be interesting as showing the summer residents of these localities. Dr. T. S. Palmer and myself collected together at both the localities under consideration. The names used are those found in the A. O. U. Check List. ‡

1.—*Ardea herodias.** This bird could find but little of attraction in the valley.

2.—*Ægialitis vocifera.** Was present with his usual distracting cry and numbers.

3.—*Orcortyx pictus.* Shy, keeping well to the ground. Seen a few times.

4.—*Callipepla californica.** Abundant. A nest containing fifteen eggs was collected in June. Specimens from here are easily distinguished from San Diego county birds.

5.—*Bonasa umbellus sabini?* I presume this is the species of Grouse reported to me. None were seen during my stay.

6.—*Columba fasciata.* It is reported that during the winter large flocks of this bird visit the valley.

7.—*Zenaidura macroura.** Abundant. Many eggs found.

8.—*Cathartes aura.* Abundant.

9.—*Accipiter cooperii.* One bird seen.

10.—*Buteo borealis calurus.** Seen on a few occasions.

11.—*Falco sparverius deserticolus.** Common species.

12.—*Bubo virginianus subarcticus.* A single specimen taken.

13.—*Dryobates villosus harrisii.* Rather common.

14. —*Dryobates pubescens gairdneri.* Rather commou. A nest containing five

‡ Check List of North American Birds. Second and Revised Edition. New York. American Ornithologists' Union. 1895.

eggs was in an aspen, whose stem was less than six inches in diameter.

15.—*Sphyrapicus ruber.* A single pair taken.

16.—*Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi** Abundant through all this country, spending most of their time in chasing one another round the live oaks or decorating the trunks with acorns, thus depriving the Indians and *Tamias* of their stores; or is it that they object to seeing the acorns on the ground, so put them on the trees again?

17.—*Colaptes cafer.** Abundant. Favorite food consists of the disagreeably smelling ants so abundant in parts of California. I could find no reason for referring specimens to *C. saturatior*, or even to an intermediate form, as I had expected possible.

18.—*Chætura vauxii?* A number of Swifts were seen in the air, which may have been of this species.

19.—*Calypte anna.* Rather common.

20.—*Selasphorus alleni.* Less common than the other Hummer.

21.—*Tyrannus verticalis.** Abundant.

22.—*Sayornis nigricans.** Abundant.

23.—*Contopus richardsonii.* One of the most abundant birds. Seen every day, calling from some high branch or darting with nervous accuracy for a fly or other small insect.

24.—*Empidonax difficilis.* Rare.

25.—*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis.* Very abundant. Two specimens (May 8 and June 3) are easily distinguished from Beaverton, Oregon, specimens (February), as follows: Lighter back, crest less black, tinged with blue to the tips. I cannot make out any difference in the coloration of secondaries and tail, nor in the blue streaking of the forehead.

The following are hardly distinguishable from the Cahto birds:

Monterey. July 4 and 14.

Red Point, Placer county. June 24. Slightly darker.

Madrone Springs, Santa Clara county. December. Back very dark, but still a little lighter than Oregon birds.

26.—*Aphelocoma californca.** Rather abundant.

27.—*Corvus americanus.** Seen once.

[CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH]

The Coloration of Eggs.

[Extract from a paper read before the Nebraska City Naturalists' Association.]

BY J. R. BONWELL.

SOME of the work laid out for the present season was to ascertain by observation whether there was any regularity in the coloration of eggs; that is, was the coloring heaviest in the first of a set and lessened towards the last, or was it irregular?

Several sets of the following species were examined: Bronzed Grackle, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Catbird and Wren.

It took a great deal of time to visit these nests daily until the sets were completed, but there can be no mistake in the order of laying, as they were marked each day as laid.

The first egg of a set is found to be not always the heaviest in marking, but is the heaviest in ground color. The greatest irregularity of markings occurred in the sets of the Grackles and Thrashers. The most uniform in coloration were those of the Wood Thrush and Catbird. Two sets of the Bluebird were watched, and in both cases the ground color was heaviest in the first egg, gradually fading towards the last of the set.

The Blue Jays had greater regularity in markings. Three sets were noted. The markings were heaviest in the first eggs. The last egg in each set was faded and faintly marked.

In the sets of Grackles the markings were most irregular; sometimes the heavier marked were in the middle of the set, and in two cases the last egg laid contained the geater markings. The observations on this species were more complete than in the others, as nine sets were examined.

From the observations made the following conclusions are drawn: That it would be impossible to tell without observation the exact order in which the eggs are laid; that the coloration varies so much with the different species that no law could be applied governing the coloration; that there is less difference in the ground color of solid colored eggs than in those with markings; that the coloration of an egg, uniformly or not, depends upon the system and condition of each individnal birds. Notes from other observers would be greatly appreciated.

The Oven-Bird

Seiurus aurocapillus

IN writing about this bird we treat of one of our most interesting Warblers.

Too much cannot be said about this little fellow, as he is always in the front rank, either on dress parade or under fire. I will not try to describe his dress, as he is probably well known to most of our readers. His song resembles the American Redstart's very much. I have often been deceived in them before I became familiar with the two species.

But I think the song of the Oven-bird, is longer and sharper than the Redstart's, as a rule. How many times I have been out in one of my favorite pieces of woodland, in the middle of May, and quietly seated myself at the foot of some convenient tree, to rest, and listen to the bird concert taking place all around me. It would not be long, before the familiar note of my friend, the Oven-bird, would be heard; and it is quite a difficult job to locate him.

The note is very deceptive—it is hard work to tell whether he is twenty or a hundred feet away, and, after looking in all directions, you would probably locate him right overhead not twenty feet high; and there he sits, singing away, as if he were the only bird in the woods, and shaking all over with the exertion.

But now let us come to the nesting habits, and to commence with, let us say, that it is quite a hard nest to find unless you are familiar with the birds and know how to look for them. You might start in, and go through a piece of woods and scare half a dozen of them from their treasures and be none the wiser for it when you got to the other side, for the simple reason, that you are looking for anything in the shape of eggs, and nothing in particular. It has been my experience that such collecting does not "pan out" very heavy. By a mere accident, you may find something of value, but the chances are, that when you get home you will sit down, tired and hungry, and wonder why you did not find more, considering the ground you have covered. Well, I think I can explain that in a few words. You covered *too much* ground and none of it thoroughly. But to get back to the subject, it has been my experience that you will not meet with much success in hunting this little ground Warbler, unless you let everything else alone and pay strict attention to him, for the nest is a hard one to get your eye on, covered with leaves, as it is, and you might step on it and not see it; for they do not usually build at the foot of a bush or tree, as most of the ground birds do, but right out in the open, among the leaves, where a person would naturally walk in going through the woods.

So you must keep your eyes open, and watch the bird as she quietly walks away from her nest. She will not make any noise, but just simply get away from that locality, as quietly as possible, creeping under sticks and leaves, and keeping as close to the ground as she can, and will not take wing, until she gets some distance off, especially if you see, and try to follow her.

For the benefit of any reader who may be in that position, I will tell you what I do. I just stick something in the ground, where I first saw the bird, (if I did not notice the species) then I carefully follow up the bird until I am sure of the identity, when I go back and knew about where to look for the nest. But to make a long story short, I will just mention a little incident, that happened last season, to show how easy it is for even a person who has made them a study to overlook the nest.

I was out in the woods one Sunday in June, with my son, a young Nimrod of ten years, who wanted to see a bird's nest with eggs, in the woods. We had got about into the center of a piece of woods, where the trees seemed to be alive with birds, and the most conspicuous of them all was the Yellow-throated Vireo. As I had found a nest of this species in the same woods last season, I cautioned the youngster to keep quiet, and leaned up against a tree with the intention of watching a pair of the birds that were near, hoping they would show me their nest. Well, I was just imagining about how that nest looked, with the lichens hanging all over it, and the four speckled beauties lying snugly inside, when my dreams were interrupted by Butters, Jr.. "Oh, papa! look at that nest of eggs." I immediately looked in the direction he was pointing, and there on the ground, not five feet from where I was standing, and had been for ten minutes, was as handsome a nest of the Oven-bird as I ever expect to find.

CHAS. S. BUTTERS.

Haverhill, Mass.

Collecting in Florida.

DECEMBER 18, 1895, while on the Indian River in Florida, I took sets of Bald Eagle which would have hatched in two or three days. In one set in particular the chicks were peeping loudly.

I stopped at St. James City, on Pine Island, two weeks and a half. I found six Eagles' nests within a mile and a half of the hotel, five of them being tenanted. From one nest, on December 23, I obtained one badly incubated egg; the others contained young. All of these birds must have laid their eggs in November, and it must have been quite early in the month when they first began thinking about housekeeping. On the north end of Lacosta Island are about one hundred pine trees. In one of these pines I found a nest on December 30. Some fishermen had killed one of the birds about two weeks before. Thinking I would find eggs, I shinned up to the nest and got a nice set of two. They were covered up with dry grass. I think this must have been done by the other parent after its mate was killed.

During the winter I saw a good many Eagles, and all, with but three or four exceptions, had the white head and tail.

February 4, 1896, while on Observation Island, in Lake Okeechobee, I went through a rookery of Florida Cormorants. The nests were in custard apple trees which stood in two or three feet of water. A number of nests contained young nearly as large as the old birds, others had young the size of a Quail, and a good many were less than a week old. Many of the nests had eggs so far advanced that I did not take them. The sets ranged from one to four. A single egg in a nest would be as badly incubated as a full set. When the young attain some size the stronger must push out the weaker ones, for there were only one or two birds in a nest. By visiting every nest I managed to secure about fifty fresh eggs.

One generally experiences some pleasure in taking new eggs, or specimens of any kind for that matter, but this day was an exception. The nests and trees were white with excrement, and the water below was black and filthy; and, besides, it took a little nerve for an unseasoned Yankee to wade around in such a paradise for snakes and alligators.

In this same rookery I took a set of three of American Egret.

On the east side of the island were three nests of the Osprey, 12 to 18 feet up in stunted cypress trees. When I first landed on the island I visited these nests and found them empty. They had had fresh material added to them recently, and three pairs of Ospreys were hovering about. I intended to leave the island on the morning of the 5th, but was obliged to stay there until the 7th on account of a heavy wind. Just before leaving I visited the nests once more, and from one I obtained one egg. Afterwards, while in Myers, I met a gentleman who informed me that he had visited the island about a week before me, and that he had taken a set of three eggs from one of the nests.

The distance from Fort Thompson to Lake Okeechobee is twenty-four miles, and except in crossing Lake Hicpoehee the current is exceedingly swift. I rowed this distance in a small skiff, most of the way against a head wind. From my experience I would suggest to your readers that if any of them ever build a row-boat to use on swift water, to make it as narrow as is prudent and give it the required capacity by additional length.

February 11 I found a set of two fresh eggs of the Black Vulture. There was no nest whatever; they were on the ground under the trunk of an upturned oak, in a small hammock out on the big prairie.

February 15 I hired a man and rig and went out on the prairie north of Fort Thompson for Burrowing Owls. We drove a number of miles and got seven birds. The ground and the grass were still wet from a heavy rain, so we could not make a good burn, although we spent a good deal of time in setting fires. I am quite confident we could have got more Owls if we could have burned off the tall grass, but at no place did we find the burrows near together. I dug into the burrows that were

inhabited, hoping to find eggs. Upon dissecting the females I found the ova undeveloped. My excavating was labor wasted, for they would not have had eggs for a long while.

I notice in the May NIDOLOGIST that Dr. Gibbs reports the Turkey Vulture as gradually working north in Michigan. About ten years ago I saw one fly over here. I was almost directly under the critter, which was about 200 feet up. I could readily distinguish the red beak and forehead, and the characteristic flight rendered a wrong identification impossible. Allow me to add a little to Mr. J. H. Bowles' article in the May number. A number of years ago a boy who climbs for me found a nest of Red-shouldered Hawk with one egg, in the top of a tall hemlock. He waited seven days and then shot the female, when she flew off the nest. On climbing up he found the same egg that was there a week before, which he brought to me with the female. From the female I took a perfect egg.

The people in Southern Florida have a good many local names for the common birds, the following being samples: Chuck-wills Widow—Chip Parlow; any of the Woodpeckers—Woodchuck; Florida Jay—Swamp Jay; Green Heron—Indian Pullet; Snowy Heron—Crimp; Great Blue, or Ward's Heron—Silver-back; American Egret—Long-white; Wood Ibis—Gannet—Iron-head—Flint-head; White Ibis—White Curlew; Roseate Spoon-bill—Pink Curlew; young of Little Blue Heron—Greenleg; Gallinule—Blue Peat; Barn Owl—Pearl Owl; Man-o'-War Bird — Man-o'-War Hawk; Everglade Kite—Snail Hawk; Fish Crow—Jackdaw.

D. D. STONE.

Lansing, N. Y.

***

A HAWK AS A CHICKEN INCUBATOR.

Some time in May, Gilman Winthrop, a friend of mine, found a Cooper's Hawk's nest (presumably). It contained but one egg. He left it and returned four days after. There was but the one egg. He took it and substituted a hen's egg, about twice the size of the Hawk's. A few days ago I went to the nest with him to take, as we expected, some more eggs.

He climbed to the nest and the Hawk flew off. When he looked within, there lay the hen's egg—no others. The egg was fairly incubated, and the two Hawks were very noisy while he was up there. If it were not for the chick's walking out of the nest, I would expect to see a chicken with power of flight, soaring far above. The question is, what became of the other egg?

R. W. WILLIAMS, JR.

Tallahassee, Fla.

***

ON THE DEPOSITION OF EGGS.

In last month's NIDOLOGIST is an interesting article on "Periods of Deposition of Eggs." In collecting this spring I had an instance showing the irregularity of Raptores in this respect. On May 1 I took a set of five fresh eggs of the Sparrow Hawk which had been deposited within a week. On June 13 I again visited the nest and took five more eggs, but when I went to blow them I found that four of the five contained young birds just ready to hatch, while the fifth egg was *perfectly fresh*. It was not so heavily marked as the rest and not so large, the measurements being: 1.37 x 1.12, 1.36 x 1.13, 1.33 x 1.13, 1.35 x 1.12 and 1.30 x 1.09.

CLARENCE C. BASSETT.

Green Castle, Ind.

IN THE FOREST

(WRITTEN FOR THE NIDOLOGIST)

DEEP in the forests tangle
Away from the haunts of man,
Where gently the waving branches
The fragrant perfumes fan,
The shyest birds are singing,
Their songs so low and sweet—
All are happy and are making
Nature's solitude complete.

What a treat to listen
To this carnival of song
As perchance you may be walking
Some quiet stream along.
It makes one's heart feel lighter,
Makes a darkened life look fair,
When the bird songs of gladness
Soft float upon the air.

Life is worth the living,
When Nature's treasures rare
Make time a fleeting vision,
And drive away dull care;
Sweeter our thoughts go flowing
Down life's rivulet divine,
More sweet our deeds—and round us
Purer thoughts entwine.—J. R. BONWELL

Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

G. E. SHELLEY, F. Z. S., F. R. G. S. *The Birds of Africa.* Vol. I. Lond. 1896. [From the author.]

Count TOMMASO SALVADORI. Viaggio di Lamberto Loria nella Papuasia Orientale. Nota quarta. Uccelli della Nuova Guinea Meridionate-Orientale. [From the author.)

OLIVE THORNE MILLER. *Four-handed Folk.* With illustrations. Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1896, 12 mo. pp. I–IV, 1–201. Price $1.25. (From the publisher.)

Report of the Council of the Zoological Society of London, for the year 1895. April 29, 1896. London. (From the Society.)

Bulletin of the British Ornithologist's Club. No. XXXV. (From the Secretary.)

Shelley on the Birds of Africa. Our ornithological confreres in Great Britain are bringing out in these days not a few very excellent works upon birds and their eggs. Part III of Mr. Frank Poynting's *Eggs of British Birds* has appeared, and by this time Part IV is doubtless also issued. In two handsome Royal 8vo volumes, Lord Lilford gives us his most interesting "Notes on the Birds of Northamptonshire and Neighborhood," volumes that are destined to be read far beyond the limits of the locality where they were written. The IVth Part of Newton's "Dictionary of Birds" will soon be in our hands, and now comes a formidable work upon the Birds of Africa, and one that will be welcomed far and wide among the students of ornithology in general and that of the Dark Continent in particular. Nearly thirty years have passed since Captain Shelley first began the study of the birds of Africa, and during this time he has made many superb collections of them at various points in that country. And, although the present "List" gives no less than 2534 species, its author says in *The Introduction* to it that the "ornithology of Africa is by no means exhausted, and we are daily extending our knowledge of the Ethiopian Region and only just beginning to appreciate the vastness of its treasures." This work will consist of a series of handy volumes in themselves and the first one, now before us, comprises a list of all the species known to occur in the Ethiopian region up to the date of its publication, with a reference to a good figure and to the page and volume of the Catalogue of the British Museum where the species is mentioned.

Vol. II will be devoted to the classification and diagnosis of all the species. Much upon the geographical distribution of the birds of Africa is given us here, and ornithologists will look with interest for the completion of the other parts of this estimable work, wishing its author every success in his laborious task.

Count Salvadori has given us (Est. d. Ann. del Mus. Cio. d. Stor. Nat. d. Genova. Ser. 2. v. XVI (XXXVI) 17 Feb. e 10 Mar. 1896) a very excellent List of 187 species of birds collected at various points on the great island of New Guinea. The birds described are from the eastern Papuan districts, and many of the species are new to science. Unfortunately for most American ornithological students, the work is in Italian, though nevertheless, those who are interested in the ornis of New Guinea, and who are familiar with the immense list of Count Salvadori's publications in ornithology, cannot afford to he without this valuable account in their libraries.

Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller has proven in her entertaining little volume on "Four-handed Folk," that she is fully capable of rendering the popular history of mammals co-equal in interest with that of birds. In most all large cities we find several establishments that deal in many kinds of living animals that are bought and sold as pets. Such places are daily frequented by those interested in natural history, and, indeed, these houses often exert the same educational influence that a small zoological garden does, and in that particular are fully as useful. These "bird-stores" are not entirely given over to the feathered-ones in nature but in them we meet also with living examples of monkeys, lemurs, armadillos, rabbits, squirrels, and a miscellaneous collection of the mammals. The chapters in Mrs. Miller's little book describe in a very fascinating and instructive vein the more common and prominent of these mammalian captives from foreign lands, and in so doing she has rendered the youth of our cities a positive service, to say nothing about the pleasure she has afforded her host of other readers of maturer years.

The Report of the *Council of Zoological Society of London*, shows that that famous institution enjoyed a very prosperous year for 1895. The report, a small pamphlet octavo, prints 60 pages, and gives all the operations of the Society for the period indicated. Some of the statistics are extremely interesting, especially when we take the extraordinary size of the institution into consideration. For example on the 1st of January 1896, the number of Fellows and Fellows Elect of the Society was no less than 3027, and the sum received for admission to the society's gardens was £15,639. There having been 665,326 visitors during the year. One thousand and ninety-two deaths took place among the animals, while 2369 additions were made, of which 1267 were birds. Donations, works published, contributions to the library, and, indeed, all else is conducted upon the same grand scale. It is to be hoped that the National Zoological Gardens at Washington may grow to the same proportions some day, but it is not likely until our nation becomes more homogeneous in composition, and is controlled by a very different form of government.

From the minutes of the 34th meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club, held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford street on the 15th of April, 1896, I take the following notes:—"Dr. Bowdler Sharpe made some remarks on recent papers by Dr. J. A. Allen and Mr. Frank M. Chapman on the changes of colour in the plumage of birds without moult. Dr. Allen especially disagreed with the conclusions put forward by the late Edward Blyth and other English and German naturalists. As regarded the points in which Dr. Allen differed from the conclusions of Dr. Sharpe, the latter reaffirmed his conviction on the subject, and could not endorse Dr. Allen's views."

"A discussion followed, in which the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Mr. Howard Saunders, Mr. John Young, Mr. Hartert, and others took part, but owing to the lateness of the hour the debate was adjourned until the next meeting of the club on May 20 when Mr. Ogilvie

Grant, Mr. J. G. Millais, Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, and Hon. Walter Rothschild, and other ornithologists, have promised to bring specimens to illustrate their opinions on the subject."

Doubtless the meeting will be a very interesting one, and it is only too bad that some of the material that has been gathered in this country might not be brought forward in support of the views of those entertaining opinions at variance with believers in a change of plumage in certain birds through a pigment circulation in the feathers.

The *molting* of birds is, at this time, attracting most closely the attention of ornithologists in all quarters, and it will be for the highest interests of the science that collectors, instead of taking *male* birds in *full breeding plumage*, devote their attention for a time, to *molting plumages*, of both *sexes* at *all ages and every season* of the year. The literature of this subject is likely to be very materially increased within the next twelvemonth.

A correction:—In the Review Department of this journal for February (1896) I made the statement that the Smithsonian Institution intended publishing the biography of Dr. Giglioli of Florence,—this was a slip,—as the biography of Dr. Sclater was intended, and the matter has all been set up in type, and will appear in due course, and will likewise prove an extremely useful publication for American ornithologists.

R. W. S.

"Thoughts On The New Check List."

To the Editor of the "Nidologist":

DEAR SIR:—In Mr. Palmer's review of the new Check List under the above title the statement is made that "there are many lapses in the habitats as given under the head of geographical distribution" mentioning one instance specifically. Having seen no criticism of this portion of the List in other reviews it may be well to draw attention to it more particularly, especially as one of the Committee has recently stated (see "Science," May 22, 1896, page 777) that "its main purpose was the revision of the matter relating to the geographical distribution of the species and sub-species."

Premising that I have no desire to make any captious criticism of the work of my friends, and believing that such collations of facts can be better and more uniformly prepared by one man, who can be held personally responsible for the results, rather than by the labor—necessarily more or less irresponsible and uneven—of any committee, I would first draw attention to what Mr. Palmer has alluded to as "the impossibility of depending on the wording as found under the name of each form, even as regards their general distribution." For example, the phrase "Northwest Coast" or "Pacific Coast" as applied to some species means west of the Coast range or Pacific seacoast; as applied to others it means western part of the Great Basin to the Pacific. Again, the expression "To the plains" is used in the sense of as far as the plains or to their eastern edge and also as meaning across the plains to the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains. It is little help to a student if his supposed guide is so ambiguous as to require other guidance in his use of it.

Another class of infelicities of expression, showing the need of the one man power of final editorial revision, is seen in such cases as *Zonotrichia albicollis* which is said to breed from "Montana, Northern Wyoming and northward." Now this statement is perfectly correct in itself, but if the bird breeds from northern Wyoming northward it may safely be assumed to breed in Montana also if the reader is aware of the relative position of these states. Of errors of omission and commission I will limit my remarks to a few cases which, from my own experience and from the records, I have reason to think require modification to correctly express our present knowledge.

Chen rossii. "East to Montana in winter." I do not know the authority for this statement; if it implies an habitual winter home, as the expression is elsewhere used, it is certainly incorrect, though an occasional individual may possibly winter there in permanently upon water near falls, as I have known the Canada Goose to do. The species is a not uncommon spring and fall in the north-western part of the state.

Chordeiles virginianus. The range as given is hardly consistent with recorded statements.

Molothrus ater is stated to inhabit the "United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific" but no mention is made of the fact, perfectly well-known for many years, that it is decidedly rare in or absent from most parts of the north-west beyond the Rocky Mountains. To add another to the many records to this effect I may say that in eighteen months collecting in Northern Idaho I have seen but a single specimen—which was shot for identification—and in the many dozens of nests of small birds examined during two seasons I have found neither egg nor young of the Cow Bird.

Ammodramus sandwichensis has been recorded from southern Oregon and northern California to which its winter range might well have been extended.

Amphispiza bilineata. "From western Texas and Oklahoma west" etc., ignores the fact that this sparrow breeds commonly along the lower Rio Grande, which can by no means be considered as in western Texas.

Parus rufescens. "Coast district of Oregon, Washington," etc. Twenty-seven years ago Dr. Cooper recorded this species in "the dense forests of the higher Coeur d'Alene Mountains." I find it to be a rather common resident species about Lakes Coeur d'Alene and Pend'd'oreille in the same part of northern Idaho.

Regulus satrapa. "North America generally." I do not know of authentic records of the occurrence of this form within the regular range of its sub-species *olivaceus*—which, by the way extends considerably further east than the List states—other than the early ones of *satrapa* before the recognition of its northwestern sub-species.

Hesperocichla naevia. "Pacific Coast," etc. The same criticism is applicable to the distribution of the Varied Trush as to that of the Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Dr. Cooper in the same paper states that he found it "common near the summit of the Coeur d'Alene Mountains about September 10, frequenting the exceedingly dark and damp spruce forests, which seemed to be its favorite summer residence as at the mouth of the Columbia River." I have found it to be a common spring migrant of northern Idaho and have no doubt that it breeds there as Dr. Cooper supposes.

These few species were selected for especial mention but the present letter might be extended to include a good many others in regard to which statements are made that are open to criticism if one were writing a formal review of the List. This is not my intention, however, but to show that it cannot be accepted as an *ex-cathedra* summary of our present knowledge of the geographical distribution of North American birds, although as to the official statement of the American Ornithologist's Union it might very naturally be received as such.

J. C. MERRILL.

FORT SHERMAN, Idaho.

THE NIDOLOGIST.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE

DEVOTED SOLELY TO

ORNITHOLOGY

With Special Reference to the

NIDIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

H. R. TAYLOR, Editor and Proprietor

DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, of Smithsonian Institution, Associate

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & CO., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

JOSEPH MAILLIARD, of Nicasio, Cal., is collecting at Sitka, Alaska.

WALTER RAINE, of Toronto, is announced to have gone to England to dispose of a large collection of eggs. He will be sure to sell.

THE "North American Naturalist" of Newark, N. J., got out one number, and is now moved to Nowhere—N. G.

THE meetings of both the Northern and Southern Divisions of the Cooper Club for June were postponed on account of absence of members in the field.

"I AM glad you have taken the NIDOLOGIST back to California, for I think it will prosper better in that land of birds and flowers.
Penn Yan, N. Y. VERDI BURTCH."

IS NOT September a little late for "Ospreys" to hatch?

Better 'zamin dem aigs frew de light, Brudder Johnsing!

IT is said the former editor of "Avafauna," Los Angeles, which disappeared "up the flume," after issuing some big promises and two numbers, is now the proprietor of a coffee house in that city.

THE present number is a double one, thirty-two pages and cover, to "catch up," as so much time was unavoidably lost by our removal. The subscribers get just as much matter, but we lose one issue's advertising by the combine.

HAVING become personally acquainted with Prof. A. J. Cook, who was severely criticised in No. 5, Vol. 1, of this magazine, in connection with his book, "Birds of Michigan," we are convinced that we were misinformed at that time, and in justice to Professor Cook make this statement.

THE advancement of the study of Oology in America of late years is truly notable. Collectors are exploring Alaska, and over the southern line into Mexico, and penetrating fields within our boundaries which but few expeditions have touched. A great deal of research has been made in both the Ornithology and Oology of Lower California, while there are now active collectors each season in Idaho, the Dakotas and in the rich country to the North-west.

The next few years will probably see half a score of collectors of eggs in the far North, and the natural tendency will be to give Oology such a boom as it has never seen before. The importance of the science in its relation to Ornithology is now recognized, and the publication by the Government of Major Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds" has given the study a prominent place in literature, and an impetus which will be felt for years to come.

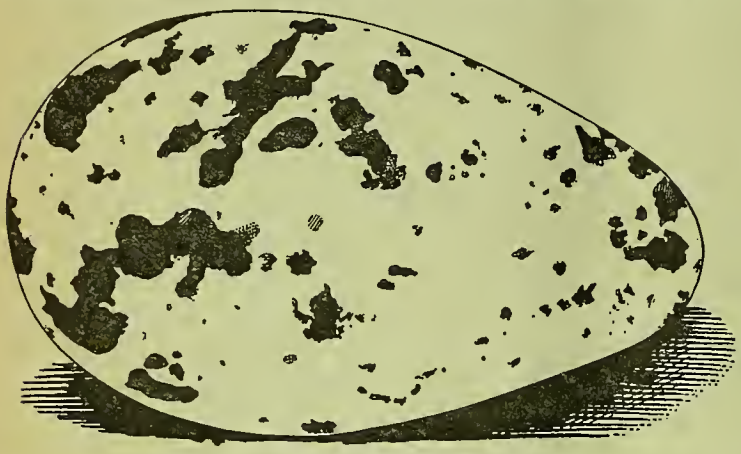
THIS magazine (allow us to remark very confidentially) has secured a large circulation, considering the hard times which have dominated the three years of its existence. It took enterprise, patience, hard work and the expenditure of no small amount of capital to achieve success and win the high standing which we shall hold for years to come. We could publish a list, covering a page, of ambitious bird journals that never lived to see a half-year out—died in the suckling stage, in fact. The printers' bills have an aggravating way of growing faster than the subscription list. We have been there and know all about it, and we had no competitor. As a purely business venture most Ornithological journals are a flat failure. Shoveling sand is more profitable, for the paper requires all the grit, and the money too. We estimate that THE NIDOLOGIST (and it's not so big as to size) has *cost* us in time and money about $5,000, and now that it is a paying success and a scientific success, we are satisfied to run it for the next fifty years. But just from a business standpoint, there are other ways of expending that capital. The above remarks are gratis, but we do not expect any young publisher to pay the least heed in the world to them—at present.

AN infinite variety of data blanks are used by Oologists, and it seems impossible to originate a form which will be adopted by all, and perhaps the diverseness serves some useful purpose after all, as the data belonging to eggs from a particular collection may be readily separated We object, however, to the printed form "From the Collection of" (John Smith, or whoever he may be) on data blanks used with eggs for exchange or sale. Sometimes "from" is omitted, and Thomas Jones, it may be, who has received the data and eggs into *his* collection, rests under the imputation of having purloined them "The John Smith Collection;" especially if the legend be printed in scare-head type. It would certainly seem that data that never was really in the "collection" of said John Smith should not be adorned so prominently with his name. Of course, there is room here for a difference of opinion.

A plain piece of paper may sometimes answer to write data on, but don't *ever* use a lead pencil. Ink becomes illegible soon enough. It is a good plan to be doubly safe by adding the scientific as well as the common name of the species, for in the course of years old names sometimes go through a course of evolution and are lost and forgotten.

PREMIUMS FOR 1896

IT HAS been the custom of THE NIDOLOGIST to offer premiums each year to old and new subscribers not but that the magazine could and does stand alone, giving in its pages far more value than its price, but as a small remembrance to our friends who have done so much to make this unique venture in Ornithology and Oology so pronounced a success.



EGG OF CALIFORNIA MURRE

New subscribers, attracted by our premiums, will soon concur in the judgment of are readers that mere monetary considerations do not affect the wealth of valuable illustrations and articles we present to them in a full year for the *low subscription* price of *One Dollar*.

The uniformity of high-class matter in fact, make our back volumes equally indispensable with succeeding ones.

Anticipating the demand for Taylor's "Standard American Egg Catalogue," (accurately pricing nests and eggs) we had an edition printed especially to *give away as premiums* with this magazine. We are therefore ready to send *with every dollar subscription or renewal, post free*, **TWO** of these valuable Catalogues, one of which will come handy to check off your collection.

For an egg offer we have chosen the beautifully marked, pear-shaped eggs of the California Murre, not rare, but so large that they are seldom secured in exchange on account of the heavy postage These eggs are wonderfully showy. Ours are worth more than those ordinarily sent out, being all choice *picked specimens*.

We could easily have offered a series of Egg prizes, aggregating hundreds of dollars, for the most new subscribers sent in, but have found that plan unsatisfactory, as but a very few would secure the prizes.

We will send, carefully boxed, *post free*, two oppositely marked eggs of California Murre with every dollar sent as subscription or renewal, *when 4 two-cent stamps* are enclosed for packing and boxing only. Boxes are made especially to order to insure safety.

Always state which premium you prefer.

Important—Applications for eggs should be in *early*. Present subscribers whose renewals fall due during 1896 may remit as soon as suits them, and receive premiums at once.

None of these eggs are for sale.

Give the magazine a lift by telling all your friends of these offers and securing some new subscribers for us.

Remit in any form to

THE NIDOLOGIST, or H. R. TAYLOR,

Alameda, California

THE NIDOLOGIST

HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

VOL. III

No. 12. AUGUST

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
ALAMEDA,
CALIFORNIA

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. III. NO. 12 ALAMEDA, CAL., AUGUST, 1896 $1.00 PER YEAR

CHIMNEY SWIFT ON NEST—Photo from Life

Nesting of the Chimney Swift.

BY C. W. AND J. H. BOWLES.

THE Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) is altogether too well known to require much space as to its characteristics. Yet there are a few minor details in its habits that have escaped our notice, if ever fully described, which may make the less important details more endurable.

The nest is composed of dead twigs and a few feathers, which are glued together by the saliva of the birds in the form of a shallow cup, placed against the inner walls of a chimney. Originally, the birds are said to have nested in hollow trees and against cliffs or high rocks, and in some places reports come from time to time of nesting in buildings.

In this locality the twigs preferred for the nest are those of the willow and elm, which the birds break from the trees while in full flight, with scarcely any hesitation, seeming to select the ones they wish as they approach.

From six to sixteen feet down the chimney seems to be the favorite location, the latter distance being nearer the average than the former.

Two sets of eggs are laid in a season, one in the latter part of May, another in early July. These consist of from three to four eggs; some writers say five, but we have never seen that number. They are most persistent in domestic duties, always building a new nest as soon as the other is destroyed. This is very often the case for numerous reasons, such as falling bricks and mortar, rain or another cause which is hardly necessary to mention.

Smoke seems to make but little difference to the birds as we have known them to continue incubation in a regularly used chimney, although an unused one is more often chosen. In this way they sometimes cause considerable annoyance by driving the smoke down into the room in their journeys to and from the nest.

Collecting the eggs is, at best, uncertain but we have found the most successful apparatus to be a small stone wrapped in cotton. This is covered with glue and lowered at the end of a string onto the eggs which will naturally stick and may then be drawn up all at once like a fish.

The illustration shows the bird on the nest.

This we photographed down the chimney of our house on July 10, several previous attempts having proved unsuccessful.

The Check-List Again.—A Rejoinder.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NIDOLOGIST:

DEAR SIR:—I feel gratified that so eminent a gentlemen as Dr. J. A. Allen should agree with me on ten of the twelve points raised in my first communication. I wish briefly to present reasons for still disagreeing with the List on the other two.

No. 738 is given as *Parus gambeli*, Ridgw. I fail to see that the authority is correct, under the Code for the following reason. *Parus montanus* being preoccupied, Mr. Ridgway furnished the committee with the manuscript name *gambeli* for substitution. According to the Code, until published this is a *nomen nudum*. Now who is the author of the List of 1886 where the name first appears? Mr. Ridgway? No. Is the committee? Yes. How then, as Mss. authorities are rejected, can Mr. R. be cited in the 1895 List as to full authority when he is but one-fifth of the committee? Is not a Mss. name here credited unwittingly?

Now take the Ground Dove. See Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. H. IV. 1892, p. 292. The name *terrestris* is proposed on page 293 (not 292) where Mr. F.M. Chapman says, "and I suggest, therefore, that the Ground Dove of *Eastern North America* be known as *Columbigallina passerina terrestris*." In this paper Mr. Chapman expressly says he has compared "some twenty" Floridan and "some forty" Jamaican specimens and then "concludes" on the same page, "It is evident then that the name *passerina* can no longer be accepted for the bird from *eastern North America*."* As he cannot "affirm (p. 292) the identiy of the Bahaman (*bahamanensis*) and Cuban forms, and calls this latter "*passerina*, subsp." where can we place *terrestris* but in the Southeastern States? Besides this name is proposed in place of *purpurea*, Maynard, who distinctly says "I propose the name *Chamæpelia purpurea* for the *large continental Dove*!" For definition of "North American," see Code p. 14, 1. Also in his recent Handbook of Birds p. 190, Mr. Chapman gives the range of *terrestris* as "South Atlantic and Gulf States north to North Carolina, west to Texas" etc. Mr. Ridgway in the new 1896 Manual gives (p. 591) for this bird "Hab. South Atlantic and Gulf States. Not a word about the West Indies, yet these two gentlemen have specially investigated the different forms and examined much material. The new List gives "Geog. Dist. —South Atlantic and Gulf States, *West Indies and northern South America*!* Breeding, in the United States, from South Carolina to Louisiana, chiefly coastwise." Thus, the name *terrestris* is absolutely based on the larger Floridan form and this name is accepted but not the habitat given for it! If Mr. Chapman is right in the habitat, as I believe that careful observer is, and intergradation is only assumed, as appears to be the case, why under the Code is this not a species?

My use of the word unscientific is misleading. As the Union has but recently changed from a ten years use of Mss. authorities (without explanation) and the practice is by no means universal, I may perhaps be pardoned. Until a consistent

international basis is decided upon for such questions, one or the other of those who use diametrically opposite views will be considered inconsistent if not unscientific. WILLIAM PALMER.

* Italics mine.

Wild Pigeon and Dove.

UNTIL about 1880 the Wild Pigeons were seen regularly almost every season, generally migrating in September and October in flocks of from about fifteen individuals to large ones of several hundred. From about 1880 up to 1893 very few birds were seen, but in the latter year they made their appearance in various parts of the state, the following having been reported to me:

August 27, three birds in Dulaney's Valley, Baltimore county (Kirkwood); September 17, "a flock of from 50 to 60 birds 8 miles from Ellicott City [Howard county] flying north about 10:30 A. M. They flew to a piece of bottom land "grown up with pin oak" (Ridgely). In September a flock of about forty were seen near Lake Roland, Baltimore county (Cottman); and some time during November "a good sized flock" was seen feeding in the woods in Long Green Valley, Baltimore county (Schenck). This latter flock was reported as being very wild.

Personally I have only seen three birds in the last fifteen years; in September '88 I shot one near Bradshaw, Baltimore county, flying alone; in September '89 I shot one from a flock of about ten Doves in Dulaney's Valley, and March 8, '94, one was seen alone near Harewood Park, Baltimore county.

The following notes refer to this species as they were in Howard county about 1840–1845.

"Large flocks would be seen reaching as far as the eye could see. In roosting they always used a piece of pine wood, and would begin coming in about four P. M., continuing to do so until long after it was too dark to see, and they would leave at sunrise. They would never fly direct to the roost, but would always first stop in the heavy timber and then fly down to the pines. At times they would crowd on a tree until their combined weight would snap the limbs.

"In feeding on the 'mast' on the ground they would keep up a rolling motion, those behind continually arising and flying ahead of the ones feeding in the front rank.

"No nests were ever seen, the birds making their appearance in the fall and generally remaining until about Christmas, although at times a few would winter with us." (Ridgely),

MOURNING DOVE; DOVE.

This species is a common resident, but in the last three years I have found them to be decreasing in number in the neighborhood of Baltimore, possibly on account of the "blue thistle" fields, where I have commonly found them feeding in the fall, being plowed up and put under cultivation.

They begin nesting early (about April) and when most of the young birds have left the nests, the old and young collect into flocks, sometimes numbering several hundred, and feed in the thistle, stubble, and corn fields. In 1890–1–2, I had great sport with them during August and September, flushing them from the ground in the thistle fields. We would frequently hunt them with dogs, the dogs "drawing" on them as on a covey of Partridges.

Late in the evening after eating their fill, they visit the bank of some small stream and lay in a supply of gravel to aid their digestion.

I have frequently tried to find their roosts but only came across one, and walked into that quite unexpectedly. It was in a small clump of low pines, and as I was passing through them one evening after dark, it seemed as if all the Doves in the State started up from about me. The next night I went back to see if I could find them, but they were not there, and judging from the manure on the ground they had only used the roost the one night.

If taken young, Doves will become very tame, and will mate with the Ring Dove, breeding in confinement.

WM. H. FISHER,

Baltimore, Md.

A Good Advertising Medium.

Eugene S. Rolfe writes: "My daily mail is heavily charged with inquiries for fine sets of Ferruginous Rough-leg, and these inquiries are from the *best collectors*, scattered all over the country, which to my mind establishes two things —first, that THE NIDOLOGIST is a good advertising medium; second, that the best collectors are not as yet supplied with a satisfactory representation of sets of this fine species."

Nest and Eggs of the Calaveras Warbler.

(*Helminthophila ruficapilla gutturalis.*)

DURING the months of June and July of the past summer I made the acquaintance of this little bird while on a trip through the Sierras. It was first met at about 3,500 feet elevation on the road from Placerville to Lake Tahoe. At 3,700 feet we camped for several days, and there found it more common, and thence on over the summit and down to the lake, we heard its cheerful notes nearly every day. As I have had very poor success in describing bird notes I will not attempt this, but will only say that its bright, sprightly song did much to enliven our trip through the mountains. At 5,000 feet we found them most common, and from 7,000 to 9,000 feet they gradually disappeared, apparently going as high up as the black oak, in which trees they were generally seen, skipping about in search of insects. From Lake Tahoe we returned to Placerville, and from there went south to Yosemite, crossing the ridges of the lower Sierras, and cutting directly through the counties of El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne. All the way where we were at 3,000 feet or more elevation we caught occasional glimpses of the Calaveras Warbler and heard its song from the tops of the oaks. At Big Trees, Calaveras county, it was seen frequently, and in Yosemite Valley was quite common even around about the tents of the many campers there.

Near Fyffe post-office—elevation 3,700 feet—I found my first nest, on June 5. I had watched several pairs of the birds at different times with little success, and, as I was almost certain that the nest would be on the ground and well hidden, I had small hopes of finding it. One day, as I was returning from a morning's shooting, walking along the side of a hill, and scanning the lower limbs of the black oaks for nests of Cassin's Vireo, a Warbler fluttered out a few yards in front of me and then scuttled away over the leaves, feigning a broken wing for a short distance, and then flying away. I stopped in my tracks and looked, and looked again, but I saw nothing but dead leaves and refuse covering the ground. I stood there for nearly five minutes, meanwhile inwardly resolving to find that bird's nest if I had to turn over every leaf within fifty yards. I knelt down and immediately found myself looking into a nest of five handsome fresh eggs. I turned round, and now saw the parent hopping about above me in an excited manner in the top of an oak. In another moment I had picked up my gun and shot, and a female Calaveras Warbler fell almost into the nest. The nest was situated among the dead leaves near the foot of a cedar stump, on the side of the hill facing the east. A little sprig of cedar grew from the upper side of the nest, but save this it was surrounded by nothing but dead leaves which covered a small open space on the side of the hill, elsewhere thickly carpeted with the so-called "mountain misery."

The front and outer edges of the nest are composed of dead leaves and leaf stems. Save one or two bits of dead grass, the rest of the nest is of a peculiar brown fibre resembling horsehair. Its outside and inside diameters are respectively 3½ and 2¼ inches. The eggs are creamy-white, spotted with cinnamon-rufous, somewhat wreathed and blotched on the larger ends, where they are mixed with pale lavender. They measure as follows: .58 x .47, .59 x .48, .56 x .47, .59 x .50 and .59 x .47.

About ten miles from this place I found a second nest near the American River on June 10. I was walking up a hill about 200 yards from the river when I noticed a pair of Warblers in the top of an oak. It is often very disappointing to watch a bird for a long time and then find it to be a male. This time, however, I had a sure thing, for both birds were in easy view, hopping about catching insects, occasionally stopping to burst into song and at short intervals indulging in little amorous frolics with each other. For some time I watched them thus, often with some difficulty as they passed rapidly from tree to tree, when all at once, as if suddenly remembering a forgotten duty, both birds quickly flew across a little gulch and lit on the ground among the dead leaves. Here I presume the female gave her mate to understand that his services were no longer desired, as he immediately left. Keeping my eyes fixed on the spot, I hurried across the gulch and soon flushed the bird from the nest, which, like the first, contained five fresh eggs. The nest was situated much like the first, in a thick bank of dead leaves on the southern side of a hill, almost bare of trees. The leaves formed a canopy overhanging one side of the nest, and from one corner grew a little tuft of "mountain misery," and as the

rays of the western sun glinted on the eggs, the whole presented a very pretty picture. I walked back to camp and got the camera, but when I returned the sun's position had changed just enough to put the nest in dark shade, and I didn't get a good photo of it. While I was taking the eggs the female hopped around in the trees on the other side of the gulch, chirping excitedly. After a short time the male joined her, but though I concealed myself and waited nearly half an hour, neither offered to go near the nest.

This nest, like the first, was fronted with a thin coat of dead and skeletonized leaves. It was composed chiefly of fine, light-colored grass and lined with fine shreds of the same and a few white hairs of some rodent. The outside and inside measurements are 3 and 2 inches respectively. The eggs are similar to those of the first set, but the markings are finer and confined more closely to the larger ends. They measure .59 x .48, .56 x .50, .56 x .48, .59 x .48 and .56 x .48.

On June 19 I again found myself at our old camp near Fyffe. While walking on the hill a short distance above the location of the first nest, I found a nest containing five young a few days old. This nest was much better concealed than either of the others. It was situated in a thick patch of "mountain misery," well embedded among the roots of this little shrub, and shaded by its thick leaves—the last, but the neatest and cosiest nest of the Calaveras Warbler which I found.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD.

San Jose, Cal.

(Read before the Cooper Ornithological Club, August, 1896.)

Cooper Ornithological Club.

THE Southern Division met May 30 at the residence of F. S. Daggett in Pasadena. Mr. F. Stephens of Witch Creek was appointed to fill the vacant position on the migration committee. Two letters from Mr. W. B. Judson and party in Arizona were read. The June and July meetings were postponed.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

July meeting was held at R. S. Wheeler's in Alameda, with a large attendance. Mr. Taylor was appointed on the program committee to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Koch. A portion of the evening was given to short talks by those present, touching on a number of interesting takes of the season, including Western Evening Grosbeak, Calaveras and Hermit Warblers, and others. The Evening Grosbeak set and nest were exhibited. Mr. Cohen read some extracts from letters from Mr. H. B. Kaeding, who has been on a trip through the Sierra Nevada mountains. A set of five eggs of Thurber's Junco was taken from a nest built in a small cedar eight feet from the ground, the identity being positive. A set of four eggs and nest together with the female of Water Ouzel was taken. In a week the male had secured a mate and started a new nest on the former site—a beam of a bridge. By actual observation he built the whole nest, except the lining, in twelve hours. Two pairs of Harlequin Duck were located, and a pair hatched out a brood, no eggs being secured.

AUGUST MEETING.

The Northern Division met at the residence of C. Barlow, in San Jose, August 1. W. H. Osgood was added to the committee which is to compile a list of the birds of Santa Clara county. The following were appointed as a committee to prepare a similar list of Alameda county birds: Walter E. Bryant (Chairman), W. O. Emerson, H. R. Taylor and D. A. Cohen. The receipt of a document entitled "Four Common Birds of the Farm and Garden" was reported. Mr. Osgood read a paper on "Nesting of the Calaveras Warbler," which appears in full elsewhere, and exhibited two sets of five eggs each together with the nests.

NESTING OF THE DUCK HAWK IN CALIFORNIA.

Mr. R. H. Beck presented a paper describing the taking of a set of four eggs of the Duck Hawk, being in substance as follows: "While on a tramp through the hills on April of this year a Duck Hawk was seen flying about a rocky cliff, occasionally screaming and alighting on various points of the cliff. On the 18th the cliff was visited and a number of rocks were thrown over the top, but the bird left the nest without being seen and was noticed flying about a short distance away, where after circling about and screaming for a short time she retired from view. On the 20th the cliff was revisited and the Duck Hawk left in response to a stick thrown

over. After sailing and screaming for a long time she returned to the nest, alighting on the ledge and after looking about for a few minutes walked up to the nest. The following day the descent to the nest was made, it being twenty feet from the top of the cliff, placed on a narrow ledge three feet wide, under overhanging rock. There were a few small dry sticks on either side of the eggs but no real nest. The male was sitting on a cliff seventy-five yards from the nest at the time of the visit, the only time he was seen. The female flew across the canyon and lit on a dry limb of an oak and screamed but little, in contrast to former visits.'' The set of four eggs is of the dark type, evenly marked.

Mr. Cohen read a paper describing the experiences of Roswell S. Wheeler and himself with a pair of Duck Hawks the past season. The first visit was made April 4. ''We were now almost on the highest point of the surrounding country, but before crossing the last canyon had sat down to take in the sights, and while gazing at the 'nest rocks' saw a Falcon fly from a small ledge. When half way up the incline we saw another bird fly from a small cave in the rock nearest to us. This bird proved to be the female, and the first one was the male, who had evidently been keeping vigil from the ledge on the adjoining rock about twenty-five yards away, and from his position of vantage had seen us long before we could have seen him, as his post commanded a view for miles over the neighboring country. We were soon on top of the 'nest rock,' a large, sugar-loaf shaped affair. A rope was soon adjusted and Mr. Wheeler began the descent down the sloping rock. The female Falcon was by far the more aggressive, while the male kept much farther away, sometimes flying out of sight and finally to a perch on a dead oak across a gully. The nearer the nest was approached the more enraged did the female become, screaming lustily and making frequent swoops at the collector. The wing beats of the birds were short and rapid, much after the manner of the Swifts.

The cave was about 5x3, and about three feet high inside. No attempt was made at a nest. The eggs, four in number, reclined on the sandy floor in the middle of the cave, three being in the depression and highly incubated, while the fourth lay near the opening of the cave, partially covered with fine gravel and excrement. This egg had not been incubated and was more richly colored than the others, being of a pinkish shade below and rich brown on top, with marblings around the center. Another egg was very rich dark brown and the other two were rather plain by comparison. The eggs are quite round in shape. On April 30 the locality was again visited. Before the base of the hill was reached the male flew from the original sentry box and over the 'nest rock' for a few moments and then flew from view. The female finally flew from a hole behind the ledge where the male was accustomed to watch, and dashed past the collector several times. Twice she mounted aloft and turned half a back somersault and pitched headlong downward with incredible swiftness, keeping up a continual screeching. The male kept high in the air, diverting his rapid wing beats several times to a sailing or gliding motion, and his notes, uttered three or four times, were less harsh and distressed than those of the female, in fact entirely different in tone.

The hole containing the nest was about ten feet from the top of a perpendicular cliff, and was about two feet in diameter by about the same in height. The eggs, three in number, lay on a small pile of bones of small quadrupeds on the sandy floor. Doubtless many a luckless rabbit and squirrel fell prey to these swift-winged, sure-footed birds. The eggs were almost fresh, being slightly incubated and of the same shape and size as the former set, but richer and handsomer.''

The Northern Division meets Sept. 5 at Mr. Osgood's residence in San Jose.

A "Full Set of Rail's."

On June 9 I was exploring a little inland swamp in St. Clair county, Michigan, and ran across a Rail's nest that puzzled me greatly. I flushed a King Rail off the nest, but imagine my surprise when I found it to contain 17 eggs—9 of the King Rail and 7 of the Virginia Rail, and to cap the climax, one of the Sora Rail.

The nest was unusually large, and flattened down. Could all three Rails use the nest as their own or had some one of them deserted it while the other Rails hatched out the batch of eggs? I would like to have some explanation on the subject.

B. H. SWALES.

Detroit, Mich.

THE take of a set of four Hermit Warblers recorded in our last number, was credited, by mistake, to W. H. Osgood. The good fortune came to Rollo H. Beck.

NEST AND EGGS OF THE WESTERN EVENING GROSBEAK.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

MONTAGU BROWNE, F. G. S., F. Z. S., etc. *Artistic and Scientific Taxidermy and Modelling*. Macmillan & Co., New York, 1896, pp. I-VIII, 1-463, 22 half tn pls, 11 illus. in text, price $6.50. (From the Publishers.)

Of late years it has become evident to those interested in museums, in museum-methods, and especially in the art of the preservation of animals, that there has been a a lively and general awakening to the fact that a new school of taxidermists were gradually replacing the old time "stuffer" and his apprentices. Ancient taxidermic methods and the production of animal effigies no longer satisfied people of taste or those who had any conception whatever of the natural appearance of natural objects in nature. Biologic knowledge and artistic skill entered into the field and the exhibition cases in our museums containing specimens or groups of specimens of preserved animals soon felt the difference. With this growing improvement in the technique of taxidermy, came, *pari posu* a new literature of the art, and the high-priced booklets containing but little or no information, gave way before the incoming of sizable volumes replete in detailed instruction, and minute accounts of the new methods employed. In this last category the recent work of Mr. Montagu Browne, curator of the Leicester Museum in England asks for a place and favor. So far as the present reviewer has been able to judge from notices of the work seen by him in print, and communications he has received in regard to it, from both foreign and American taxidermists, it has not been accorded, as a volume, either of these much desired marks of recognition. And why? Not that there is to be found any fault with the literary execution of the book, or with the beauty of the volume and its plates as a whole, for both Mr. Browne's just claims to authorship, and the long recognized skill of the publishers would place anything of this nature at once beyond the pale of adverse criticism.—No, for on the other hand, its peculiar faults are of a far graver character, and the very fact that it is held at a high price, comes from a famous printing house, and the production of the pen of a distinguished contributor to the literature of the taxidermic art, will for a long time lead many of the new recruits to the profession to believe that its methods are not only af the best, but are all that modern skill represents them to be. This however, is by no means the case, for an advanced student of taxidermy of the present time, after a half an hour's perusal of the volume, cannot fail but appreciate the fact as he places it aside, that in the matters of usefulness and instruction, it is a long way behind the age. They are Mr. Browne's methods at Leicester, and the most of his methods are very bad ones indeed. Many, it is feared, will spend much time in mastering them, only to unlearn, later on, practices that can never lead to the best preservation of animals in their most natural attitudes and forms. Thus this pretentious manual can but retard the best progress of taxidermy, at the very time it most needed a helpful volume; and it can only be hoped now that as a remedy for this, it may soon run through its first edition, and that afterwards Mr. Browne will visit the taxidermical workshops of other lands and cities, and by so doing gain the opportunity (to be availed of in another edition) to point out really some of the solid advances in the art in which he justly takes so much professional pride. His "tools used in taxidermy and modelling" (Plate II) give one the idea that possibly they may have been picked up in a taxidermical workshop during the 17th Century; and the nearly 100 formulae for killing and preserving animals is quite as archaic, especially as we read of red pepper, alum and musk being used as preservatives in the place of white arsenic. His chapter on 'Collecting' will be surely read, by American collectors at least, with more amusement than profit, for its author has apparently never so much as heard of the "Cyclone trap" for small mammals, nor the 22 cal. "collecting canes" and "auxilliary barrels" for birds. These oversights taken in connection with Mr. Browne's lengthy and time-absorbing method of putting up a bird skin, are simply extraordinary. Surely it would be a revelation to him to witness the performances of an expert American collector in the field in these days, where in a month, if fortune favors at all, he will collect and put up upwards of six hundred small mammals and bird skins, and these prepared and labeled in the best and most scientific manner. Just why Mr. Browne ignores the methods of making *mammal skins* it is hard to understand for he does not even refer to the matter anywhere in his book and surely it is a very important one for the taxidermist to know something about.

To speak in the briefest terms possible, our author's method of setting up a large mammal, say a tiger for example, is to cover a paper cast of the *dead* and *flayed* body of the animal with its preserved skin; and one of the results of this practice is shown in his Plate VI, where the ruination of two fine tigers and an elephant is graphically represented. Nothing in the entire range of taxidermy can be worse than to expect to reproduce the appearance of a live, fighting animal by adjusting its skin over a cast of its *dead* body. It is no wonder that Mr. Browne has no use for photographic pictures of living animals, nor works upon their anatomy. As to his mode of *mounting skeletons* he is simply in the rear-guard of those knowing anything of this, extensive and difficult subject, nor does he propose to enlighten his readers by what little he does know, for we are informed that the "actual methods of wiring the bones together, and the preparation of ligamentary skeletons, are so much matters of individual expertness that they need not be described, coming easily with a little experience." (p. 162.)

Passing all this we find many useful suggestions in his rules for the preservation of fish, and many marine invertebrates, while the chapters on the casting and modelling of flowers and plants generally, is a refreshing treat succeeding so much that must be considered as bad in the first part of the work, by any taxidermist at all familiar with the modern accomplishments of the science. At the close of the volume, a truly valuable Bibliography of Taxidermy etc. is given, for which many a student of the subject will be grateful.

Erratum—In last month's "Recent Publications," last paragraph, read bibliography for "biography."

R. W. S.

The unexpected death of Lord Lilford occurred in England June 17, in his sixty-fourth year. Lilford Hall has a remarkable collection of living birds. Lord Lilford's additions to the literature of Ornithology were numerous and of great value.

"Brought to Book."

BY EUGENE S. ROLFE

THERE are fashions and fads in collecting and the tendency of Oological collectors is to run to specialties. The general favorite, probably, is the great family of Raptores—with the Warblers, perhaps a close second; while the Grouse, the Waders and others have their devotees. In the gathering together of great series of sets the selection of favorites is, doubtless, practically necessary and in this selection our Ducks have been generally neglected. Very naturally so, too—when the average number constituting a set and the consequent expense and space required is considered, and fortunate indeed is the collector who is able to make sets of this great family his specialty. For the family itself is worthy of the closest study and, in addition, if beauty and attractiveness of display in a collection are worthy of consideration, it would be difficult to produce a finer effect than that offered by a display of Duck sets arranged with reference to their finely contrasting shades and tints in their respective nests with natural down lining. And, of course, any general collection to be representative must contain characteristic examples of this as well as of other families and if funds for purchase are not available and field collecting impracticable, so long as exchanges are so readily accomplished the disposition of some collectors to ignore Ducks entirely is not to be commended.

But they insist that identification is so difficult and uncertain as to make imposition easy and that the only safe course is to abandon the Ducks to their fate and turn to other lines less dangerous—and I have wondered if at some time they have not sought the books with a set of Duck's in hand and failing to find the tint accredited by the books to that species sorrowfully ended the examination right there. And yet I believe that experienced field collectors will agree with me that identification from the *eggs alone* even, is scarcely more difficult than in the case of most other species and certainly not more so than with eggs of the Grouse and many of the Raptores. And in field collecting where the collector works year after year the same limited area and among only a limited number of species, he becomes so familiar with the appearance, tricks, manner and *gait* of the few Ducks of his acquaintance that he will in almost every instance be able to identify the female flushed without the use of the gun, and this even though the male, generally so easy of identification, may not be at hand and though the females of the different species vary so much less—the one from the other—than females of the Wader family for instance. And when to the evidence of the bird flushed, (generally speaking, this flushing is necessary to the finding of every Duck's nest on land) he adds that offered by the nest, eggs and their surroundings, he is in a position to name his find with as close an approach to absolute certainty as in the case of almost any species lacking conspicuous individuality of appearance or producing eggs that do not positively identify themselves. As illustrating this statement I might say that I have had occasion to shoot for identification but twice this season and in each case I simply proved my first impressions to have been correct. And of fully two hundred sets of Duck—covering those of ten species—taken here by myself and others this season, I consider that but one set really remains in doubt, and this was a case where the female was unexpectedly flushed and, in getting away, offered no view of herself more than sufficient to prove her Duckship, and the nine eggs in a nest apparently not distinctive were of a rich light tan color, about a match for the sheep binding of a law book. But probably this Duck was breeding out of its ordinary range and perhaps this—to me unusual coloration—*though not described in the books*, would be the very feature that would make this set easy and sure to some field collector really familiar with the species elsewhere.

For, surely, the books are, at times, a sore trial,—who that has had occasion to refer to two or more for help in identifying eggs has often found them agreeing, except where one simply quoted the other? And what, for example, is one to think when he finds one really high authority describing the eggs of a certain species of Duck in a single statement as "drab colored," and another equally critical and accurate author pronouncing them unreservedly "ashy-green"? Of course it is right in the sense that his statement is true of specific sets, and each is wrong in that his statement is misleading as a general proposition. Another respectable authority, and one that, judging by my limited experience, errs less seldom than some of his fellows, assures us

that eggs of the Mallard are easy of identification because of their "elegant green tint." And yet I feel certain that very many sets of this species have been taken that show little or no tint of green—"elegant" or otherwise, and, indeed, no less a writer than Dr. Cones is content to dispose of them simply as "dingy, yellowish-drab."

The last named writer makes the flat assertion that eggs of the Baldpate are "dull, pale buff" and I believe this, too, but I venture the assertion that there are to-day in many collections in this country absolutely authentic sets of these beautiful eggs that, if taken fresh, are as nearly *white* as Duck's eggs ever get, with the pearly, translucent appearance that belongs to what we call white porcelain.

And so might instances be multiplied of authoritative book statements, regarded so widely as standard, that appear to seriously conflict, and undoubtedly cause much doubt and perplexity.

That these half-truths told by the writers may possibly cause injustice will be illustrated by a personal experience that may not be wholly uninteresting or uninstructive.

In a lifetime spent, principally in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota I have, as a student of birds and an ardent sportsman, become pretty familiar with the Sandhill and Whooping Crane, and a goodly number of both have fallen to my gun. The one, roughly described, is a great bird standing, when erect, over three feet in height, and brownish-gray all over. The other is still greater, but with gleaming white body and black primaries. No man in his senses and in broad daylight at short range would by any possibility mistake the one for the other. I had never succeeded in taking a nest of either till this spring. On May 2, while at a lonely cattle ranch far from the haunts of man, a herd boy, some eighteen years of age, rode in and told me he had that morning, while wading his pony across a flooded meadow traversed by a coulee, flushed a Sandhill Crane from her nest containing one egg, and that she had permitted approach within thirty feet before she suddenly rose up and flopped away. I was afraid that his handling of the egg might have caused abandonment of the nest, but on the next morning just before noon, and under a brilliant sun, the lad and Itoiled away on foot to the locality of the nest, and divesting ourselves of trousers waded the chilling waters with its tangle of rank grass and weeds toward the spot which he had roughly marked, when up rushed the great bird just out of gun range and flew to the hillside bordering the coulee, where she was speedily joined by her mate and they stalked back and forth nervously in full view uttering their peculiar cries and did not leave the vicinity until we waded out and toward them, practically driving them away. The nest was a crude affair, not necessary to describe here, and contained the now completed set of two eggs—perfectly fresh, of course, with hard, *smooth* shell, and the ground color of one might be described as yellowish-drab and that of the other as *greenish*-drab. No man, without shooting for identification, probably ever took a set of eggs of this species under more satisfactory circumstances as to authenticity, and it is to emphasize this feature that I have given the details at greater length than might otherwise be deemed necessary.

But when I sent these eggs to one of the best known collectors in the United States the greenish ground of the one didn't tally with other Sandhill sets in his collection, but did with some examples of the Whooping Crane, and on consulting the great book authority he discovered there a statement to the effect that Sandhill's show yellowish ground, Whooper's greenish, and so my eggs, though not definitely rejected as yet, are under suspicion, and my correspondent, while considerately absolving me from any attempt at intentional imposition, is still fearful that I have mistaken eggs of the Whooping for the Sandhill Crane. It is true the book gives the Sandhill a smooth shell and the Whooper "warty elevations" and mine didn't have the latter but the ground color of the one was so inconsiderate as to show greenish, which the book doesn't allow in the Sandhill, and there you are! Now if my eggs should be suspected of being a "made up" set because one is yellow and the other green I think I could bear the imputation with much more equanimity than I can to have a mistaken identification proved on me by a simple reference to the half-truth told by this well-meaning book.

Surely books covering so great a field cannot be infallible, but they could be more guarded and less arbitrary and positive on points so difficult of exact determination, and so be less misleading and of much greater value scientifically.

Latitude Affects Nidification.

IT is as yet not clearly understood why latitude should have any material effect upon the number of eggs laid to the set by certain species of our North American birds. Yet the fact has been presented to us time and again. One is apt to forget or lose sight of this unless an incident showing the correctness of this statement is brought within the scope of our own work.

A case which I shall briefly outline is that of our common Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*), a species whose breeding range extends from Mexico, across our northern border and well into British America. In the north, sets of eggs of this bird are rarely if ever less than six, oftener seven, and not infrequently eight eggs are found in a nest. My own experience with this species in Colorado, years ago, where a day's travel along the scant growth of willow bordering the streams might reveal a dozen or more nests, was that the usual number was seven eggs, frequently six, and rarely eight.

During the spring of the present year, while pursuing Ornithological work in the vicinity of Phœnix, Arizona, I frequently met with the Shrike; in fact, the desert scenes would be quite incomplete without several of them in sight. The first Shrike's nest was discovered one morning in March, after which I saw nothing of it until five eggs were deposited. As my series of this species was quite complete, I did not care to collect the eggs. Happening in the vicinity of the nest a week later, from mere curiosity I peered into it, only to find the set had not increased. Another nest which I had found some days previously was next made an object of examination: it, too, contained a complete set of five eggs. Others were found, in which incubation was well along, with but four eggs.

In all, probably twenty Shrike's nests were examined. Half of these contained five eggs, the rest but four eggs to the set. None were seen with six eggs. By way of illustration I collected and prepared four of these small-sized sets to place along side of my series of sets of larger size taken in Colorado. The few sets taken of Gilded Flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*) each contained but four eggs.

A well known naturalist, who has done much Ornithological work in Sinaloa, Mexico, tells me that it is not uncommon in that region to find the Red-shafted Flicker setting upon three eggs. From a scientific standpoint I am not prepared at present to say what is the direct cause of the decrease in size of sets with decrease in latitude. At Phoenix the food supply was abundant, and heat at that date was not excessive. This rule, be it understood, does not apply to all species whose range is equal or not equal to that of the Shrike. For from a nest of the Western Red-tailed Hawk I took three eggs, and in two instances of the White-winged Dove I found more than the usual number—each contained three eggs.

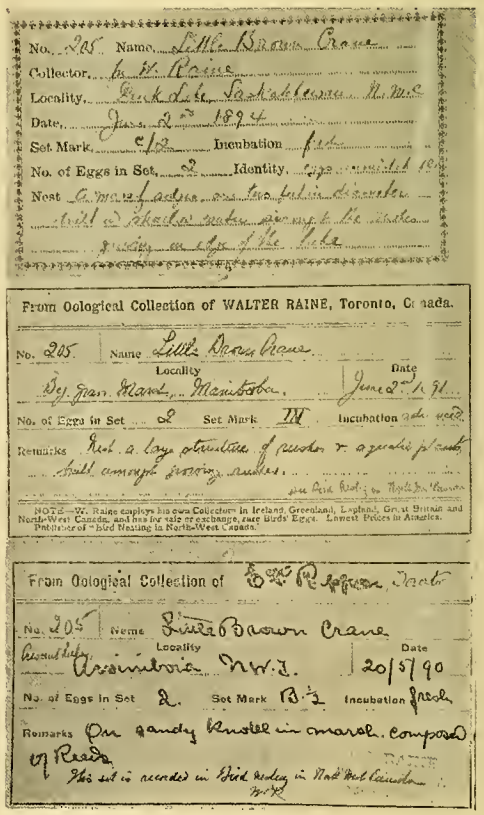
G. F. BRENINGER.

Santa Cruz, Cal., July 2, 1896.

Raineism.

RAINEISM is a new word for an old trick, and it could be spelled, I suppose, by omitting the awkward "e" in the middle of it, but then there would be a risk run in many quarters as to exactly what the word meant; and I do not wish to incur that risk. It is proposed to dedicate this new word to any fraudulent practice that may be committed in any part of the world in avian Oology or other departments of science; and it derives its origin from one Walter Raine of Toronto, Canada, who is now probably the best expert in the field in such practices.

It will be remembered by the readers of THE NIDOLOGIST that not long ago this Mr. Walter Raine was concerned in a very unprincipled transaction, wherein a large number of Grebes and Cormorants' eggs were collected for him, and to make these look pretty and sell well they were all mixed up together and then sold in "sets," either for Grebes' eggs or for Cormorants' eggs, as the demand required. But all this has been fully pointed out in a former issue of THE NIDOLOGIST. Recently we have come across some very lively



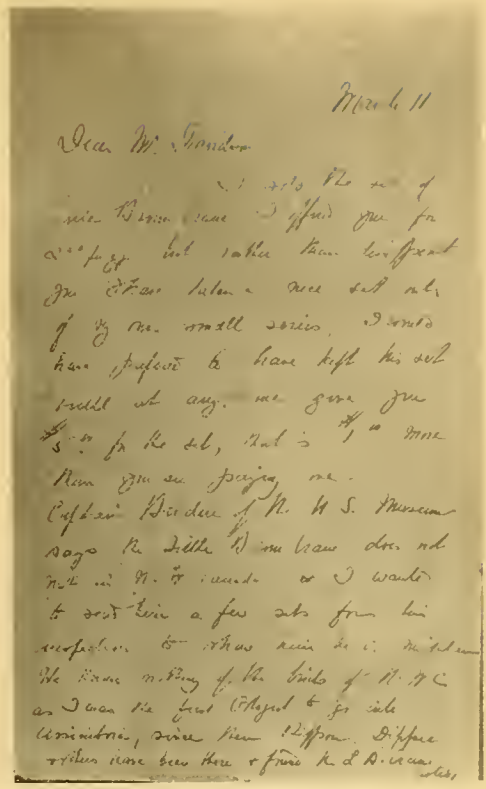
cases of Raineism—the Simon pure article—all having been perpetrated by Mr. Walter Raine (of Toronto, Canada) himself, and covered all over with his "trade-marks."

As representative of perhaps not the worst class of cases we have this: Mr. Raine sells a set of eggs of the American Scoter to Mr. E. R. Schrage of Pontiac, Michigan, accompanied by the original label in Raine's own handwriting, stating that these eggs were collected on the south-west coast of Greenland on June 19, 1889. The question is: Were they? Up to the present time it is not known to naturalists that the American Scoter ever bred in Greenland, and in his work, "The Birds of Greenland," Mr. Andreas T. Hagerup does not give that Duck as occurring there, and his memoir appeared in Boston in 1891.

This is an example of Raineism, wherein a false locality is attached to the specimens with the view of having them sell better as an unusual set, or at least as a set collected upon an extralimital range.

But I now come to a class of cases of a far bolder and at the same time of a more flagrant type. These are cases of downright fraud, and as such are fully deserving of the most severe denunciation that American Oologists can mete out to them. Every one of these cases are easily traced directly to Raine's own personal fraudulent operations, and are of comparatively recent occurrence.

During the early part of last April (1896), Mr. Raine sold to Mr. E. Arnold of Battle Creek, Mich., two eggs of what he represented to be eggs of the Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*), the set being accompanied by a large data-label filled out in Mr. Raine's own handwriting. A photograph of this label is here given, and it will be seen that these eggs are purported to have been collected at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Northwest Canada. Upon measuring these eggs at the United States National Museum, with an instrument of the most recent and improved pattern, divided to one-hundredths of an inch, I find them to measure respectively: 3.49 x 2.08 and 3.32 x 2.01.



Now in the collections of the United States National Museum at Washington, D. C., there are at this writing sixteen specimens of eggs of the Little Brown Crane (*G. canadensis*), and these are all from Northern Alaska and Northern British America, none having been found breeding south of Great Slave Lake.

Upon carefully measuring these eggs, the following results were obtained, viz.: 3.68 x 2.26, 3.66 x 2.16, 3.47 x 2.26, 3.96 x 2.23, 3.64 x 2.17, 3.41 x 2.28, 3.65 x 2.30, 3.54 x 2.26, 3.26 x 2.35, 3.54 x 2.25, 3.83 x 2.10, 3.54 x 2.33, 3.73 x 2.24, 3.73 x 2.18, 3.45 x 2.31, and 3.75 x 2.29—which it will be seen gives an average of 3.61 8-16 x 2 24 13-16, or practically 3.61 x 2.25.

So that the eggs sold to Mr. Arnold by Raine as eggs of the Little Brown Crane are considerably below the average for the size of the eggs of that bird. In his "Bird-Nesting in North-west Canada" Mr. Raine gives a colored figure of an egg of the Little Brown Crane, not stating where the specimen was obtained, and it measures 3.65 x 2.27, and it probably represents an egg of that species. But now to the egg he sold Mr. Arnold again. They are very small for eggs of the Little Brown Crane—so small, indeed, that the suspicion arose that possibly they were eggs of the Little Demoiselle Crane of Europe, the species well known to science as *Grus virgo*. There are three specimens of the eggs of *Grus virgo* in the collections of the United States National Museum, and they measure respectively 3.29 x 2.16, 3.37 x 2.14 and 3.16 x 2.02. Seebohm, in his "History of British Birds" (Vol. II, 1884, p. 577), says of the eggs of *Grus virgo* that they "vary in length from 3.8 to 3.1 inch; and in breadth from 2.2 to 2.0 inch." In short, of the nineteen species of Cranes now known to naturalists, none lay eggs as small as those laid by *Grus virgo*,—or, in other words, it lays the smallest eggs of any known Crane.

The doubt that arose from an examination and comparison of these eggs in the Arnold collection was greatly enhanced when another set of two was sent to the National Museum for identification. These also came with Raine's original data-label, in his own handwriting (see photograph herewith), and claimed to have been collected (June 2, 1891) at Big Grass Marsh, Manitoba. He is also careful to point out on the label that they are the set known as "Set IV," and described in his "Bird-Nesting in North-west Canada" on page 167. These eggs were received at the Museum early in May (1896), and belonged to Mr. Albert H. Frost of New York City. One of them measured 3.48 x 2.11, and the other 3.39 x 2.15. Upon comparing these figures with the measurements given by Raine in his book for the same eggs, we find there that he states that they measure 3.47 x 2.09 and 3.38 x 2.18. In any event they are considerably smaller than the average eggs of *Grus canadensis* for which they were sold, and my examina-

tion of them by no means allayed my doubts, and to me they looked more like the eggs of *Grus virgo* than they did as ever having been laid by a Little Brown Crane. However, there was not long to wait before additional evidence came to light. This time it was a set of two more eggs claimed by Raine to be those of the Little Brown Crane, accompanied by his original data-label, and sold to Mr. W. A. Davidson (68 Woodbridge street, N. W. Detroit, Mich.) On the label Raine is careful to write that "This set is recorded in 'Bird-Nesting in North-west Canada.' W. R." Turning to that description, we find on page 167 that it is "Set II," and the specimens are alleged to have been collected at "Crescent Lake, Assiniboia, May 20th, 1890," and measured "3.60 x 2.30 and 3.64 x 2.32." These eggs, however, measure nothing of the kind, for they only measure 3.32 x 2.04 and 3 26 x 2.00. In other words, they are not the eggs of *Grus canadensis* at all, but they *are* the eggs of *Grus virgo*, and *markedly small* eggs even for that species.* Moreover, I am perfectly safe in saying that these two eggs never were found in a "nest made of rushes on a sandy knoll in the marsh, at Crescent Lake, Assiniboia," but they were doubtless purchased at a very moderate sum from some European dealer, by Mr. Walter Raine of Toronto, Canada, and sold for a good stiff price to Mr. W. A. Davidson of Detroit, Mich. A photographic copy, made by myself, of a letter of Raine's to Mr. Davidson, herewith reproduced, will throw additional light upon this subject. In other words, Mr. Raine buys eggs of *Grus virgo* cheap from dealers in Europe (mks. 2.25) and sells them to American collectors, dear, as the eggs of the Little Brown Crane, stating at the same time that they were secured either by himself or his collectors in North-west Canada, in localities where the Little Brown Crane is not known to breed.

You have been caught napping again, Mr. Raine, but this time I believe it to be the sleep of death, —that is, death to your fraudulent practices and your successes in deceiving, all over this country, the collectors of eggs of North American birds.

R. W. SHUFELDT.

9th July, 1896.

Special

We have a small surplus of two especially valuable back numbers, and offer one of each, for 30 days, or until extra stock is exhausted, to every renewal or new subscriber. These are in addition to other premiums, and may be had by those who speak early for them and enclose two 2-cent stamps extra. November '94 number contains, among other features, a fine *colored plate* of a set of White-tailed Kite's eggs, natural size. May '95 number includes numerous valuable articles: "Apparatus" (*illustrated*); "Hints for Egg Collectors;" New Method of Blowing Eggs" (*illustrated*); "Hints to Campers and Cruisers" (*illustrated*), etc.

* I have received a letter from Hermann Rolle, a dealer in eggs in Berlin, Germany, dated July 9, 1896, which throws light on this subject. The following extract is quoted verbatim: "Very likely I have send Grus virgo to Canada (Mr. W. Raine), but I am not quite sure of it. Certainly they are specimens of this European Grus in your country. If you desire, I can send you also clutches or singles of it."

Cahto Birds

BY RICHARD C. McGREGOR

[A list of birds observed in northern Mendocino county, California, during the spring of 1889.]

(*Continued*)

28.—*Agelaius gubernator.** A large number of these birds took up their quarters on the marshy flat as soon as the creek overflowed. For record of partial albino *vide ante* p. 94.

29. — *Sturnella magna neglecta.** Abundant.

30.—*Icterus bullocki.** Abundant

31.—*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus.* very abundant—large numbers always found about the cow yards.

32.—*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.** Very abundant.

33.—*Pinus tristis.* Abundant.

34.—*Spinus psaltria.* Rather abundant.

35.—*Spinus pinus.* Taken on two occasions.

36.—*Ammodramus sandwichensis alaudinus.* A single bird taken.

37,—*Chondestes grammacus strigatus.** Fairly abundant.

38.—*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli.* Abundant.

39.—*Zonotrichia coronata.* Abundant.

40.—*Spizella socialis arizonae.** The most abundant of all the *Fringillidae.*

41.—*Junco hyemalis oregonus.* A male taken May 20, resembles very closely a specimen in my collection from Salem, Oregon. The Cahto specimen has a lighter back and slate upper tail coverts. Mr. Anthony pronounces it intermediate between *J. thurberi* and *oregonus.*

42. — *Melospiza fasciata samuelis.** One specimen taken. Identified by Mr. Ridgway.

43.—*Pipilo maculatus oregonus.** Fairly abundant. Specimens from here are typical of neither *oregonus* nor *megalonyx* but seem to resemble more nearly the former.

44.—*Pipilo fuscus crissalis.** Abundant.

45.—*Habia melanocephala.** Abundant in the willows along the creek.

46.—*Passerina amœna.** Rare.

47.—*Piranga ludoviciana.* Abundant in the taller pines.

[CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH]

LATE in July, when the fields are brown, and the Meadowlark hides from the sun, and the song birds at noon are mostly silent (saddened that the merry love season is past, perhaps) I betook me to the hills in search of verdure—green vines and chapparel—some wistful reminders that might be of the beautiful spring, which had gone on regretfully but inevitably to cheer the myriad life on the other side of the earth.

There was nothing to be seen or heard in all the hills of California like the riotous exuberance of the songsters on a day in April. Hidden in a growth of brush and vines, over running water, a Thrush whistled low, a note full of questioning. A lonely Ground Wren, in some cool retreat, surprised me by uttering its sweet song, but it was not the loud, clear note of spring-time.

Some Goldfinches there were that sang sweetly, and saucy California Jays could be heard occasionally screeching in the shrub oaks as usual, as though to declare that neither time nor seasons could alter their audacity. Then, also, a Spurred Towhee cried out querulously from a brush tangle where a dog had been delving for rabbits, and I strongly suspect that it had a second brood of young hidden somewhere in those vines and briers.

Truly the wooded hills were a delight after coming from the confines of the tiresome city, but they were not as once they were; and as I made my way up a tiny canyon the wind blew in my ears a strange sort of sadness. I searched for a little brook through the ferns, but no water ran, and I thought, like the grass in the path, it was dead—killed by the sun's intensity.

Where do the bird dwellers in the woods go now to drink and bathe, 'I queried? Just at that moment I heard a noise clear and regular—unmistakably it was water, dripping into an unseen pool. What sound is more grateful and delightful to the ear of the thirsty! In one leap I was down on the gravelled floor of the miniature brook, its steep sides dense with ferns, weeds and vines, which formed almost a protecting canopy of green. I stooped and peered, and there I beheld a most pleasant sight.

An elfin waterfall, not tumultuous, but a cluster of quick drops, formed a reservoir in a sylvan grotto. Here, indeed, was the birds' water supply. My question was answered. Although I had discovered it by accident only, so well was it hidden, all the winged dwellers of the brush, I have no doubt, had known it long.

Lying there, looking upward, I thought, as I have often thought, how the birds must enjoy the scenery of the corpses, the weeds and the ferns. It is easy to see from such a spot with the eyes of the ground bird, pausing after his drink, perhaps, before he flies. The abrupt, creviced walls of the miniature river-bottom, with their clinging vines, transports he who gazes thus, to a land of unreality, while shutting out the sky above, droops that stupendous forest of ferns.

So it must appear to the Wood Warbler or the Wren, if they are sensible of such matters, and who is there that dare say that birds have not thoughts of their own?

Alameda, Cal. H. R. TAYLOR.

Killdeer Plover at Hartford.

While out collecting June 6, 1896, I found a nest of the Killdeer containing four eggs, situated on a small hammock, with small bits of grass and moss for a nest lining. It was in a pasture near a pond. The eggs are light drab color, thickly blotched with black and umber, and pyriform in shape. This is the first set taken near Hartford. I should judge by the size of the embryos that they were laid about May 20. The Killdeer is not at all a common bird near Hartford.

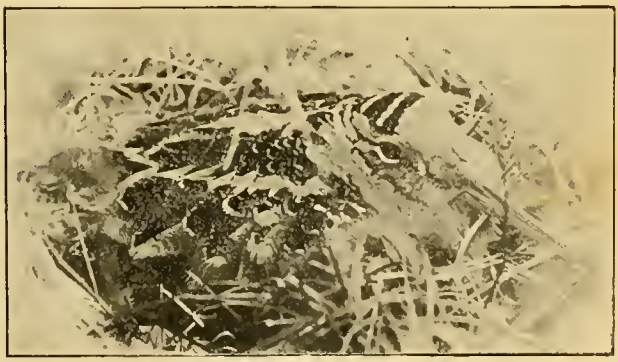
CLIFFORD M. CASE.

Hartford, Ct.

A CORRECTION.—A typographical error in W. E. Sherrill's article on the White-necked Raven in the last number gives the time of laying as between three and nine o'clock. These hours should be corrected to "between *eight and nine* o'clock."

Woodcock on Nest.

Through the courtesy of the "Maine Sportsman" we present the accompanying remarkable photograph to our readers. It is of the same class as the excellent picture from life of Grouse, Wood Pewees, and others which have been published in THE NIDOLOGIST, and as a snap shot of this particular bird we are safe in saying that it is unique.



THE NIDOLOGIST.

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE

DEVOTED SOLELY TO

ORNITHOLOGY

With Special Reference to the

NIDIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

H. R. TAYLOR, Editor and Proprietor

DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, of Smithsonian Institution, Associate

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & Co., 1-2 Bonverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

Publisher's Notices.

While our regular Fall renewals of subscription, with new ones also, are coming in fast, we would remind all that this magazine is not mailed after subscriptions expire. The rule implies no distrust or disrespect to any, being simply the impartial application of a necessary business principle, which we have followed since No. I, Vol. I.

A very fine photograph has been taken for us of the nest and eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak, and the rare find will be pictured in a colored plate now in preparation for the September number, opening a new era with Vol. IV in the history of this publication.

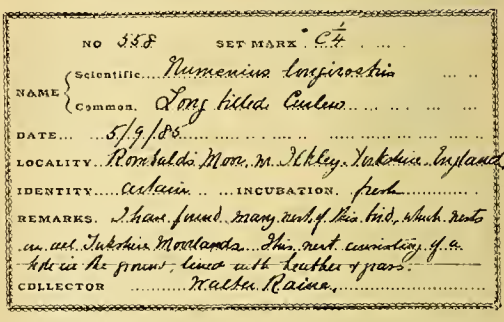
A complete index to Vol. III, kindly prepared by Mr. Richard C. McGregor, will be issued with our next number.

IN publishing, for the information of Oologists, the facts regarding certain sets of eggs from Walter Raine, we are willing to print a reply from him, if he chooses to write one, provided it is a proper and respectful rejoinder, and devoid of any attempt to "bluff."

Send us news and records of interesting "takes" during the past season.

Pseudo Eggs of N. Longirostris.

A few months ago the editor of this magazine came into possession, by purchase from a dealer in the East, of a set of four eggs, alleged to have been collected personally by Walter Raine in Yorkshire, England, as appears from the data in his own well-known handwriting, of which a


NO 358 SET MARK C4

NAME { Scientific.... Numenius longirostris
Common. Long billed Curlew

DATE... 5/9/85

LOCALITY.. Romaldo Moor, nr. Ilkley, Yorkshire, England

IDENTITY.....certain .. ...INCUBATION. fresh

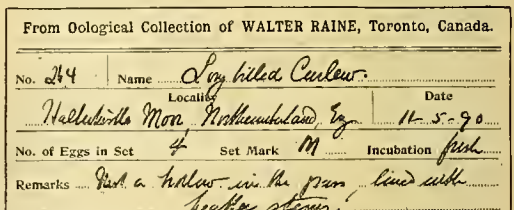
REMARKS. I have found many nests of this bird, which nests on the Yorkshire Moorlands. This nest containing 4 eggs is the present, lined with feather & grass.

COLLECTOR ..... Walter Raine.

faithful photographic copy is presented herewith. It will be seen that the eggs are declared to be those of our Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius longirostris*, and that Raine stated that he "found many nests," whereas, according to Seebohm and other of the highest authorities on British birds, this Curlew was *never known to breed in England.*

The Common Curlew, however, whose eggs are catalogued at 15 cents, is found breeding there, and as the eggs of the two are much alike, Raine's are probably Common Curlew's, and are certainly not Long-billed Curlew's.

There are, no doubt, many other of these so-called Long-billed Curlew's sets, taken by Mr.


From Oological Collection of WALTER RAINE, Toronto, Canada.

No. 24 Name Long billed Curlew

Locality Helkehills Moor Northumberland Eng. Date 11-5-90

No. of Eggs in Set 4 Set Mark M Incubation fresh

Remarks Had a hollow in the pan lined with feather stems.

NOTE.—W. Raine employs his own Collectors in Iceland, Greenland, Lapland, Great Britain and North-West Canada, and has for sale or exchange, rare Birds' Eggs. Lowest Prices in America. Publisher of "Bird Nesting in North-West Canada."

Raine or his collectors *in England*, scattered over the country. We have seen two others, and the data accompanying one of these, in the collection of Mr. C. Barlow, of Santa Clara, Cal., is here reproduced in fac simile.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS:—ONE CENT PER WORD. No notice for less than 25 cents. Address printed free.

WANTED—First class skins, Warblers especially desired. Also any good sets of eggs—many common ones wanted, with nests if possible. Have some good skins to exchange. Send in your lists. I want at once a good rifle, 22 caliber; will pay cash.
ERNEST ADAMS, 300 E San Salvador st., San Jose, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE—Back volumes of Museum, Oologist, Popular Science News, Natural Science News, etc. Scientific; Natural History and other books and birds eggs. Wanted. First class skins A. O. U. 285, 300, 332, 478, 521, 621, 701, and others.
G. N. UPHAM, Coffeyville, Kans.

WANTED—A second-hand copy of either Coue's Key or Ridgway's Manual, for which I will give birds eggs, nests, bird and mammal skins. Parties having either to dispose of will please co respond with
ALBERT LANO, Aitkin, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE—Fine nests of Am. Goldfinch, Traill's Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Yellow Warbler etc., for common eggs in sets.
FRED MALTBY, Olathe, Kansas.

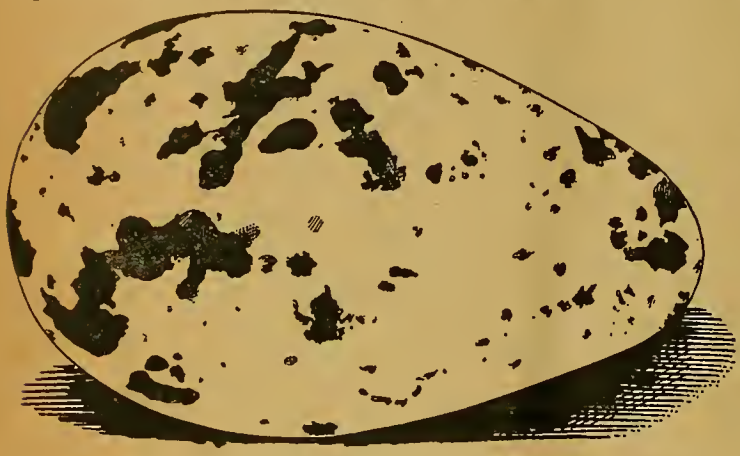
TO EXCHANGE — Buff Cochin and White Leghorn eggs for good sets. $1.00 per setting.
RUSSELL GRAY,
70th and Haverford st., Philadelphia, Pa.

NOTICE—I have a few fine sets of Cassin's Purple Finch, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, etc., to exchange for desirable sets. Also lessons in Hypnotism and Mesmerism for sets. Send lists of strictly first class sets. Isador S. Trostler,
4246 Farnam st., Omaha, Neb.

WANTED—At once, a nice set each of Purple Finch and Slate-colored Junco, with nests if possible. For same I will give good exchange in other eggs and pay some cash. I also have full sets to exchange for others not in my collection. Send list and receive mine. Letters answered.
ERNEST MARCEAU,
869 Iowa st., Dubuque, Iowa.

PREMIUMS FOR 1896

IT HAS been the custom of THE NIDOLOGIST to offer premiums each year to old and new subscribers not but that the magazine could and does stand alone, giving in its pages far more value than its price, but as a small remembrance to our friends who have done so much to make this unique venture in Ornithology and Oology so pronounced a success.



EGG OF CALIFORNIA MURRE

New subscribers, attracted by our premiums, will soon concur in the judgment of are readers that mere monetary considerations do not affect the wealth of valuable illustrations and articles we present to them in a full year for the *low subscription* price of *One Dollar.*

The uniformity of high-class matter in fact, make our back volumes equally indispensable with succeeding ones.

Anticipating the demand for Taylor's "Standard American Egg Catalogue," (accurately pricing nests and eggs) we had an edition printed especially to *give away as premiums* with this magazine. We are therefore ready to send *with every dollar subscription or renewal, post free*, **TWO** of these valuable Catalogues, one of which will come handy to check off your collection.

For an egg offer we have chosen the beautifully marked, pear-shaped eggs of the California Murre, not rare, but so large that they are seldom secured in exchange on account of the heavy postage These eggs are wonderfully showy. Ours are worth more than those ordinarily sent out, being all choice *picked specimens.*

We could easily have offered a series of Egg prizes, aggregating hundreds of dollars, for the most new subscribers sent in, but have found that plan unsatisfactory, as but a very few would secure the prizes.

We will send, carefully boxed, *post free*, two oppositely marked eggs of California Murre with every dollar sent as subscription or renewal, *when 4 two-cent stamps* are enclosed for packing and boxing only. Boxes are made especially to order to insure safety.

Always state which premium you prefer.

Important—Applications for eggs should be in *early*. Present subscribers whose renewals fal due during 1896 may remit as soon as suits them, and receive premiums at once.

None of these eggs are for sale.

Give the magazine a lift by telling all your friends of these offers and securing some new subscribers for us.

Remit in any form to

THE NIDOLOGIST, OR H. R. TAYLOR, Alameda, California

THE NIDOLOGIST

HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

VOL. IV

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
ALAMEDA,
CALIFORNIA

No. 1. SEPTEMBER

EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY

I WANT at once any of the following eggs in *complete* sets with original data, and also single of those preceded by (*); A. O. U. Nos. 1, 2, *3 to 74 inclusive, 77, *80, *81 to 107, 112, 118, 120, *125, *126, 128, any of the Ducks, 172, *183, 191, 194 281, *202 to 310 b, 320, *325 to 373, *375, 378, 379 a, 385, 393, *416 to 443, 452, 461, 463, 474 b, *475, 478 a, *482 to 497, 505 to 511 a, 512 to 528, 542 a, 546, 552, 554 b, 567 to 580, *587 to 591 b, *593, 595, 597, 598, 601, 604 to 615, 617 to 622, 627, *628 to 650, 654 to 682, *687 to 703, *713, 715, 718, 724, *726 to 723, 754, 758 a to 760, 766. All eggs must be strictly first class. Exchanges of less than ONE DOLLAR will not be bothered with. All exchanges must be based on Lattin's "Standard Catalogue" rates. For these, I will allow any of the following supplies, specimens or publications at prices quoted. Sent PREPAID.

Instruments and Supplies

Eye Instrument for Taxidermist	$ 1 10
12 inch Scissor Handle Stuffer	2 50
4 inch Nickel plated Caliper	2 00
6 Inch Steel Rule (mm and 100ths)	1 75
Hand Blower, complete, for Oologists	3 25
Water Blower, " "	3 50
Hone Stone	50
Brush for Cleaning Feathers	45
Folding Butterfly Net, complete	3 20
14 inch Telescope, with Leather Case	5 00

Minerals

"Student's Junior" Mineral Collection, 53 Varieties, all labelled	$ 2 50
Carnelian Agate Polished, 3 inch	1 00
Chalcedony in Zinc	15
Geyserite	15
Muscovite	10
Herkimer County Quartz Crystal	15
Hot Springs " "	25
Carborundum	20
Calcite, Mexico	10
Onyx, Arizona	15
Pearl Spar, Niagara Falls	10
Satin Spar, England	10
Opalized Wood, California	15
Fluorite, New York	10
Magnesite, Greece	10
Sphalerite, Mo	10
Graphite, New Zealand	10
Sulphur, California	10
Selenite Crystal, Ohio	15
Gold-bearing Quartz, Montana	15
"Little Gem" Collection of semi-precious Stones, 19 Varieties, all Labelled	1 50

Showy Shells

Turks Cap	$ 75
Pearl Trochus	50
Green Snail	75
Harp Shell	75
Mitre Shell	25
Cow-tooth Shell	15
Bleeding tooth	10
Black-mouth Strombus	15
Magpie (large)	75
Scallop (small)	10
Scallop (large)	25
Florida Tree Snail	15
Cuban Tree Snail	20
The "Leader" Shell Collection, 61 species, all Labelled	5 25

Fossils

Orthis Biforata	$ 10
Rhynconella Capax	10
Zaphrentis Bilateralis	10
Orthoceras Duseri	25
Scaphites Nodosus	15
Pentremites Godini	15
Fossil Crinoid Heads, two Varities, mounted and named	3 00
Collection of Twenty Varieties Named Fossils	2 50

Echinoderms

Sand Dollar	$ 10
Club-Spined Urchin	50
White-Spined Urchin	75
Black-Spined Urchin	1 00
Mammoth Bahama Sea Beaver	2 50
Spider Star Fish	1 00
Deep Sea Star Fish	1 25
Black Star Fish	50
Atlantic Star Fish	35
California Star Fish (large)	1 00
Basket Star Fish (poor)	50
Glass Rope Sponge (rare)	5 00

Curios

King Crab	$ 40
Fiddler Crab	20
Acorn Barnacle	15
Sea Horse	25
Chinese Horn-nut	10
Liver Bean	10
One half Dozen Assorted Sea Beans (4 colors)	25
Egg of Skate	10
Alligator Tooth	10
Lucky Tooth from Cod	10
Irridescent Pottery from Mexico	25
" " " " ½ doz	25
Assorted Shapes	1 00
Sea Pen (small)	1 00
Sea Pen (large)	2 00

Indian Relics

Arrow Point, Ky	$ 12
" " Ind	18
" " New York	20
Spear Head, N. C	40
" " Ind	30
Drill, Ind	85
Celt, Ind	$ 2 25
Celt, New York	2 00
Sioux Arrow, S. D	50
Sioux Beaded Awl Sheath	1 00

Birds' Eggs (singles)

Western Gull	$ 40
American Herring Gull	20
Caspian Tern	45
California Brown Pelican	85
American Eider	35
White Ibis	25
Killdeer	20
Sooty Grouse	85
Chacalaca	60
Prairie Hen	25
Red tailed Hawk	60
Florida Red-shouldered Hawk	60
Pine Grosbeak (with data)	2 50
Logger head Shrike (with data)	10

Foreign

Partridge	$ 20
Caper Caille	75

Books

"Notes on the Natural History of Labrador," by Stearns	$ 75
"Birds of Michigan," Cook	75
"Birds of Western New York," Short (2d edition)	35
"Our Birds in Their Haunts," Langille	4 00
A. O. U. Check List (abridged)	1 00
Mainards "Butterflies of Eastern North America," colored Plates of all Species (2d hand)	20 00
Bird's Eggs, Lattin's	35

All eggs must be sent PREPAID at sender's risk of breakage. Any other sets not listed, and all singles, (except No's 316, 495, 498, 540, 560, 581), taken at one-half list rates. Address plainly,

ERNEST H. SHORT, Albion, New York

A GREAT PROPOSITION!

THE NIDOLOGIST is always ready to meet its friends more than half way on any plan to please, and to advance the interests of Ornithology. Three years of unqualified support from the best class of bird students warrants us in counting on their hearty co-operation in a new piece of enterprise devised for their pleasure.

The Farallone Islands, the "Paradise of Oologists," and the greatest Ornithological wonder in America today, have never been fully described or illustrated. Farallon Island has been visited by but a hand full among the thousands of collectors who have read of the marvelous myriads of the bird tribes which make it their summer breeding home. We purpose to tell *The Story of the Farallones*, in an elegant souvenir, with artistic cover, to include at least *30 or 40 Superb Illustrations*, printed on heavy coated paper, the finest half-tones that can be made, graphically presenting the picturesque features of the Islands, with their countless Gulls, Cormorants, Murres, Puffins, Petrels, Pigeon Guillemots, etc., as they are seen in life, accompanied by photographs of their nests and eggs.

One large illustration will be a panoramic view of South Farallon Island showing it complete from Fisherman's Bay and Arch Rock to South Landing, and extending to the "bridge over Jordan"—a most ingeniously conceived picture from unpublished photographs, giving the first complete idea of the wonders of their densely populated city of the birds.

"The Story of the Islands and their bird life" will be from the pens of

C. Barlow and H. R. Taylor

who have each made three or four expeditions to South Farallon and will describe it from a collector's standpoint, as a bird observatory, and from a historical point of view, giving concisely the results of the observations of other Ornithologists and publishing

MANY NEW AND INTERESTING NOTES

on the ways of its feathered clans.

The Illustrations alone will cost a large sum, and in order to carry the undertaking through, we must have an immediate recognition of its worth and importance from every reader. To insure some of the expense of the mechanical part alone we ask that *you* send us at once 10 2-cent stamps, or the cash, to pay your part for one copy of the superb *Souvenir*. You then are a partner in the enterprise, and are priviledged to order *now* 2 extra copies at the same rate. The memoir will undoubtedly sell later at least *twice* or *trice* this amount, but our main object is to issue it as a gift to our subscribers, with this small assessment, which alone makes it possible. The illustrations alone will be more than would appear *in a full year* in most Ornithological magazines.

We usually carry out all we undertake, but this is your enterprise, now that we leave it in your hands. Stamp it at once with your approval, and we promise you your 20 cents or more, will bring returns in 300 per cent. The minimum price (20 cents) subject to conditions, expires *within 30 days*. Write us at once.

Respectfully submitted,

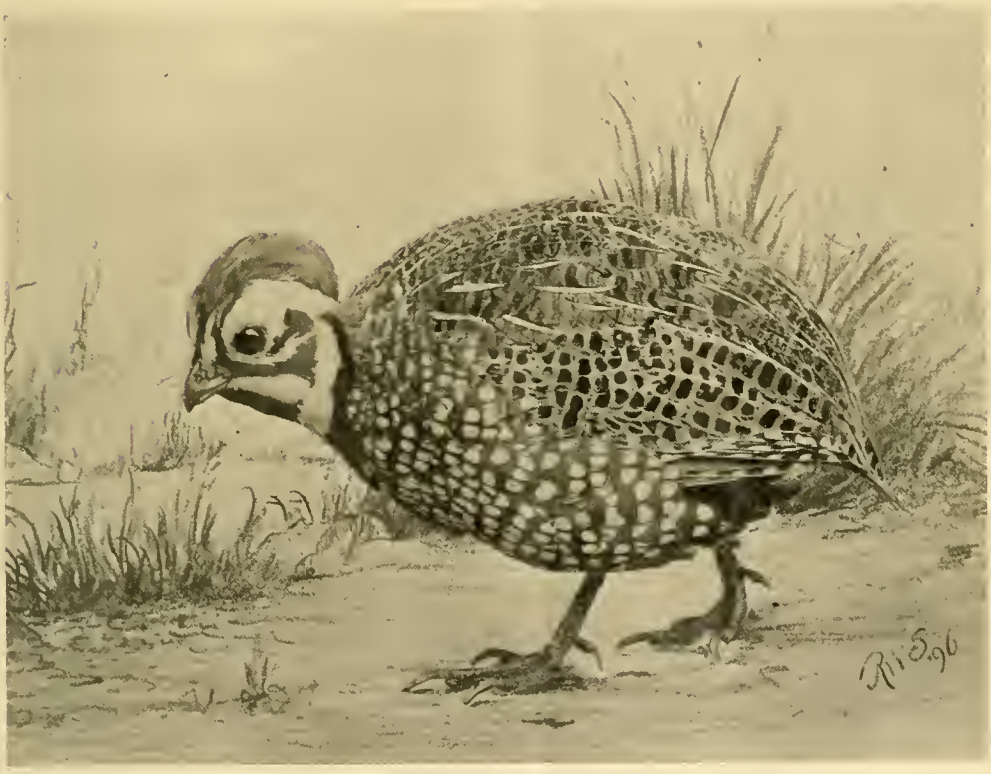
H. R. TAYLOR.

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. IV. NO. 1 ALAMEDA, CAL., SEPTEMBER, 1896 $1.00 PER YEAR



THE MASSENA PARTRIDGE (*CYRTONYX MONTEZUMAE*)

RATHER MORE THAN ONE-HALF NATURAL SIZE

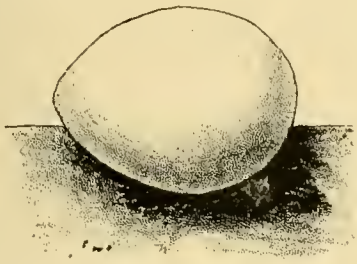
The Eggs of Cyrtonyx.

BY DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

Cyrtonyx montezumae, known to us in the vernacular tongue as the Massena Partridge is one of the very handsomest and at the same time one of the most conspicuously marked of the smaller gallinaceous game birds of this country. All over Arizona this bird is known as the "Fool Quail," while in Texas the gunners call it the "Black-bellied Quail," or, for short, the "Black" simply. It was originally described as *Ortix montezumae* by Vigors in the 'Zoological Journal' in 1830, and consequently has been known to science for a period of nearly seventy years. So far as at present reported, the geographical range of this particular Partridge, seems to extend so as to include the Mexican tablelands from the capital city of that country north to the western part of Texas, thence westward through New Mexico and Arizona, being most frequently met with in the southern parts of these districts. In the summer time it resorts to the mountains, often being found at a height of 8000 to 9000 feet, but as winter approaches it again seeks the lower lands, and the foot-hills at their bases.

When Bendire published his account of this bird in the first part of his *Life Histories of North American Birds*, he remarked of the present species that "nothing absolutely reliable was known about the nest and eggs of this bird up to the season of 1890. Not a single positively identified egg was to be found in any of the larger and well-known Oological collections of the country and up to the time of this writing, no description of them has been published. This is rather remarkable when the extensive range which this species occupies within our borders is considered, and also the fact that in many localities it is by no means rare. Nevertheless the Massena Partridge, next to the Lesser Prairie Hen, *Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*, is still one of the best-known game birds of the United States. When I published my *Comparative Oology of North American Birds* this fact was set forth in the Table on page 473. This was in 1894, when Coues had given no description of the egg of *Cyrtonyx* at all; Ridgway's *Manual* had it that the identification was very doubtful (1887); and Bendire had given a description of both nest and eggs. As Bendire's work is by no means accessible to every one, and as it is highly desirable that more should be known of the nesting habits of this species, I take this occasion to publish here a very correct figure of the male of the Massena Partridge, and reprint what Bendire has said of the nest and eggs of the bird, with the hope that in the future those that have the oportunity will make especial effort to add to our knowledge of this interesting subject. Bendire's description is of a clutch of eggs of the Massena Partridge in the collection of Mr. Thomas H. Jackson, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and "they were taken by Mr. G. W. Todd, near the head of Turkey Creek, in Kinney county, Texas; June 22, 1890, and are, as far as I am aware, the first fully identified eggs of this species that have been found." The largest egg of this set measures 33 by 24.5 millimetres and is *white*. Mr. Todd thus describes his find: "The only nest of this species I have ever seen was situated under the edge of a big bunch of a coarse species of grass, known as 'hickory grass.' This grass grows out from the center and hangs over on all sides until the blades touch the ground. It is a round, hard-stemmed grass, and only grows on the most sterile soil. According to my observations the Massena Partridge is seldom seen in other localities than where this grass grows. I was riding at a walk up the slope of a barren hill when my horse almost stepped on a nest, touching just the rim of it. The bird gave a startled flutter, alighting again within 3 feet of the nest and not over 6 feet from me; thence she walked away with her crest slightly erected, uttering a low chuckling whistle until lost to view behind a Spanish bayonet plant (yucca) about 30 feet off. I was riding a rather unruly horse, and had to return about 30 yards to tie him to a yucca, before I could examine the nest. This was placed in a slight depression, possibly dug out by some animal, the top of the nest being on a level with the earth around it. It was well-lined with fine stalks of wire-grass almost exclusively, the cavity being about 5 inches in diameter and 2 inches deep. At the back, next to the grass, it was slightly arched over, and the overhanging blades of grass hid it entirely from sight. The nest was more carefully made than the average Bob-white's nest and very nicely concealed.

"The eggs, ten in number, were fresh when found, pure white in color, rather glossy, and the majority of them are more elongated than those of the Bob-white. A few of these eggs resemble those of the latter somewhat in shape, but the greater number are distinctly ovate and much more glossy. Some are slightly granulated, and corrugations converge from near the middle to the smaller end."



AN EGG OF CYRTONX

The notable feature about the eggs of *Cyrtonyx* is that they are distinctly ovate in form thus differing from the egg of every other representative of the genus *Cotinus* which are, according to Bendire, "usually rounded ovate or subpyriform." (p. 38).

From the figure given by this authority I have made a sketch of an egg of the Massena Partridge, and this is given here, in order that an idea may be gained by the reader of its form and size.

Western Evening Grosbeak.

(COCCOTHRAUSTES VESPERTINUS MONTANUS)

I STARTED out from our camp in the Sierras on the morning of June 8, with the vain hope of rediscovering a beautiful Cassin's Vireo's nest I had discovered a couple of days before. It contained four fresh eggs and was attached to a small pine four feet from the ground. I had left it with the intention of returning and photographing bird, nest and eggs. I thought I had carefully marked the place but on returning with the camera, had failed after a long search, to locate the spot. We had decided to move camp so after bidding good-bye to our jolly, open-hearted host, Jerry Brownell, who had cooked our meals and pastured our horse for several days with old-time Californian hospitality, I left my partner, Mr. Osgood, to pack up and start out, while I made my futile attempt at the Vireo's nest.

After searching an hour or so and finding nothing but an incubated set of Green-tailed Towhee's eggs under a small bush among the leaves, I struck out along the ridge, wishing to find a trail leading to the road a couple of thousand feet below. I soon found a good looking trail and began my descent. While passing through a small glade, surrounded by oak and pine trees, I heard the call of an Evening Grosbeak. This call note—*peeek* or *peet* I would spell it—is very similar to one of the English Sparrow, though much louder, and can be heard for some distance in the pine and oak forests where the birds were usually seen. I looked up and saw two Grosbeaks, a male and a female, in the top of a small black oak 35 feet from the ground. The male was uttering the notes, while the female wandered about the tree catching insects. Presently she came to my side of the tree, fifteen yards from where I stood and I raised my gun to shoot her, but just as I was ready to pull the trigger she flew up a couple of feet into a small cluster of twigs which I took to be misletoe. I raised my gun a trifle and was ready to press the trigger again when I saw her settle down, and open her wings and turn round in the commencement of a nest.

She soon came out and flitted down, breaking off twigs and dropping them until finally she got one of a suitable length. She then moved it along in her mouth until she held it by the center and flew back to the nest where she went through the various contortions 'till the twig was satisfactorily placed. I watched her for some time while the male sat on the other side of the tree uttering his single note. I then jotted down the following in my note book to enable me to find the spot again: "Black oak stump 2½ feet high, 60 feet west, 60 feet from bottom of gulch straight down from corral, 60 yards up gulch from dead black oak stump. Small pine 30 feet toward gulch, 100 yards below ditch."

After looking at the few twigs in the top of the tree again I began my descent once more and reached the road in due time. On the 18th I happened along in this vicinity again, having in the meantime paid a short visit to Lake Tahoe. I started out at 8 o'clock to climb up the mountain, expecting to strike the spot in an hour or so. I wasted an hour trying to scare a Sooty Grouse out of a pine tree by shooting into it. Although I saw him fly in and heard him hooting in it, I gave up beaten while he kept up his little song. I then wasted two hours more trying to find out where I was at, and finally about one o'clock found myself on the top of the ridge where I began my descent on the 8th. I followed down my old tracks and after walking back and forth along a ditch, to find the log I had crossed on, found it and made for the nest with a very "tired feeling." On approaching the tree—there, in place of a dozen or so twigs was a healthy looking nest, and on closer inspection a tail sticking over a little way on one side.

I lost no time in commencing to ascend. Though I broke off twigs and small dry limbs the bird staid on until I was within ten feet of its nest. She then flew off a few feet but staid in the tree until I began climbing down. She twice uttered a few weak notes in a scolding manner, but with these exceptions, the cry was the same as the regular note heard on other occasions and the only one I heard the birds give voice to.

She kept calling for ten or fifteen minutes, but no other Grosbeak came near. The nest was placed in the fork of a small limb, 35 feet up, near the top of the tree, and was readily seen from the ground. On first glancing into the nest I thought of Bicolored Blackbirds' eggs, as the coloration and markings were quite similar though the size

was much less. The position of the eggs was unusual but was probably accidental. The eggs were in two rows, three in one row while the fourth had a row all to itself, with the small end facing the middle egg of the other row. I carefully wrapped the eggs and placed them in a tin can. Wrapping the nest I cautiously climbed down the tree with the nest and eggs. Placing them on the ground I picked up my gun to collect the female. She flew 75 yards to another tree and began to pick insects from the leaves. I then shot her, thereby making identity perfectly sure. The nest is a much more substantial structure than that of any Black-headed Grosbeak I have collected. It is composed of three materials. The foundation is of twigs broken from the tree. Upon this is placed the nest proper—of long moss-like rootlets of a very dark color and very small size. Inside this is the lining of light-colored rootlets and a couple of dry pine needles.

The inside diameter is about three inches and the outside is four and one-half inches The eggs are of a light greenish-blue ground color, spotted and blotched with dark brown and black. They measure .96x.66, .91x.64 and .88x.63 inches. This set of eggs was taken at an elevation of 4,700 feet in El Dorado county, Cal., three miles from the American River. I saw eight or ten birds at this elevation during four days stay. At 3,700 feet, ten or fifteen were seen the first week in June, two or three being in an apple orchard near an empty house. A pair was seen and shot near Lake Tahoe in some willow trees by a small stream. They seemed to stay in the tall thick pines the greater part of the day, though in the mornings they would visit the tops of the black oak trees for food.

Berryessa, Cal. ROLLO H. BECK.

(Read before the Cooper Orn. Club, September, 1896.)

The Pileated Woodpecker.

BY C. H. MORRELL.

LONG AGO, in this part of the state, the great pines, the original tenants of the soil, disappeared before the axe of the pioneer, and now only a few gray, weather-beaten stumps are left, a lingering remembrance of the "forest primeval" which gave to Maine the title, the "Pine Tree State."

Following the pines came the forests of birch, beech, maple, spruce and hemlock, and now these, too, have been cut down until they stand in isolated blocks or are connected by growths of young trees and bushy pastures.

The clearing of the land drove back to less thickly settled localities many birds which were once abundant, and now such birds as the Canada Grouse, Canada Jay and Hudsonian Chickadee are unknown, while birds of a more southerly range, as the Crested Flycatcher and the Meadowlark, have become common or occasional summer residents.

In the secluded portions of these remnants of the forest a few Pileated Woodpeckers remain. Wild, surpassing even the Crow in wariness, they are rarely seen and still more rarely observed. My acquaintance with this bird had been limited to an occasional glimpse in the woods, and to the examination of one or two mounted specimens secured by much labor and valued accordingly. That I should ever chance upon a nest of this species was a thought beyond my most sangine expectations, but we are told "it's the unexpected that happens," and so it was with this.

May 16, 1895, I was returning from a long and unsuccessful tramp through one of the large blocks of woodland, and had reached the outer portion of it—a small patch of large trees free from under-brush, partially separated from the main growth by cuttings—when I noticed a small beech stub with a large hole about thirty feet from the ground, which had the appearance of having been recently made. I had walked but a little way toward the stub when there appeared at the entrance of the cavity the black-and-white striped and scarlet-crested head of a Pileated Woodpecker.

"Just digging her hole," was my mental comment, and I hastened to leave without further investigation. After arriving home I proceeded to examine all the books and papers I had accessible, hoping to learn something as to the probable time when fresh eggs might be expected.

I soon realized that such statements as "first of May to middle of June," while undoubtedly correct, were not as satisfactory as would appear at first glance. As for the papers, there were Pileated Woodpeckers in Florida and Ohio, but apparently there *wasn't* one within five hundred miles of Maine. Left thus to my own resources, I decided that they ought to lay about the same time as other Woodpeckers, or late in May.

On the 28th I visited the nest. A rap on the trunk brought the bird to the entrance, and as I struck my spurs preparatory to ascending, she left the nest, flying directly out of sight without uttering a sound. As I neared the entrance a slight "screeing" noise from the cavity caused a sudden drop in my expectations, and on introducing a little mirror, always carried for such occasions, a glance showed my worst fears realized, the chicks were even then struggling

through the shells of four eggs. I descended, but as I called to mind an overcautious Oologist stealthily leaving a nest of fresh eggs, twelve days previous, my thoughts were more expressive than elegant.

While out gunning October 19 in a locality distant from the nest I came across a fine male of this species and secured him before he was aware of my proximity. He is now in my possession, nicely mounted.

Early in May, '96, I was watching the locality of the nest of '95, but several visits failed to show a single bird, though I saw one in the much larger growth adjoining, and I decided they had retired to the deeper and more inaccessible woods, and reluctantly gave up hope of finding another nest. A Broad-winged Hawk was located in the larger growth, and on the 11th I went there and made a thorough search for the nest. For hours I searched unsuccessfully, and at last gave up, the Broad-wing circling overhead with a derisive "sig-e-e-e-e" as I departed. (And right here I must remark that those Michigan brethren who collect Hawks' eggs in a top buggy ought to visit this section, where we amass a series by finding one nest with infinite trouble and then securing one set from it each year.)

As I was near the nest of '95 I decided to make another search in its vicinity, and was soon rewarded by finding a hole from which a small portion of a head protruded, but not enough to distinguish whether it belonged to the greatest of northern Woodpeckers or only a Flicker. All efforts to dislodge the bird were vain. I pounded the stub and bombarded the entrance with clubs without the slightest effect, so I strapped on my climbers and ascended. I was more than half way up to the nest before the bird, *Ceophloeus pileatus* indeed, with erected crest and expanded wings, sailed from the nest to a tree near by, from that to another, and so on until out of sight. The cavity admitted my arm, and in another instant I was holding in my hand two beautiful translucent eggs. I returned them to the nest, for I was sure the set was not complete. On the 15th I visited the nest and found the male occupying the cavity. He did not leave until I was within ten feet of the nest, when he flew to a tree near by. He did not leave at once as had been done previously, but exhibited perfect indifference to me, staying within three rods of the nest and occasionally moving from one tree to another and tapping in a desultory manner on the trunk. The nest contained three eggs, and incubation had not commenced, so I again left them. I had hardly reached the base of the stub before the male alighted at the entrance, and, after repeated inquiring glances within, entered and disappeared. The 20th I again visited the nest. The bird flew directly out of sight when I was part way up the stub. At none of my visits did the birds utter a note of remonstrance.

The nest hole was in a large dead beech stub thirty-four feet five inches from the lower edge of the entrance to the ground. The cavity was large and roomy, being wider at the top, like a cup, measuring, straight in horizontally, the rule placed on the lower edge of the entrance, eleven inches; depth, fifteen inches; diameter of entrance, four inches.

No more eggs had been laid, so I took the set of three. I was surprised to find incubation considerably advanced, as the eggs were fresh the 15th. The period of incubation for these birds must be short—I think not over twelve or fourteen days. The eggs average larger than the measurements usually given, a common occurrence when the number of eggs in the set is small. One egg is noticeably smaller than the others. The three eggs measure: 1.43 x 1.03, 1.41 x 1.02, 1.20 x .97 in inches.

Ten days later I happened to pass the nest and as I passed I hit the stub, and was surprised to see the male appear at the entrance. I climbed to the nest two days later, but it was empty. The male was probably using it for a roost while the female was preparing another nest elsewhere.

Pittsfield, Maine.

Minnesota Men Organize.

September 4 a meeting was held at the residence of Mr Mitchell in St. Paul to organize a State Ornithological Association. Thirty-two names were enrolled as charter members. Mr. Mitchell was elected temporary Chairman and Mr. Peabody Secretary. A committee was appointed to draw up a Constitution and By-Laws. A communication was read from Rev. P. B. Peabody of St. Vincent and three sets of eggs of the White-faced Glossy Ibis, the first recorded in the State, exhibited. All Ornithologists of Minn., desiring to join the Association should address W. I. Mitchell, 534 Summit avenue, St. Paul.

LLOYD PEABODY,
Sec. M. O. A.

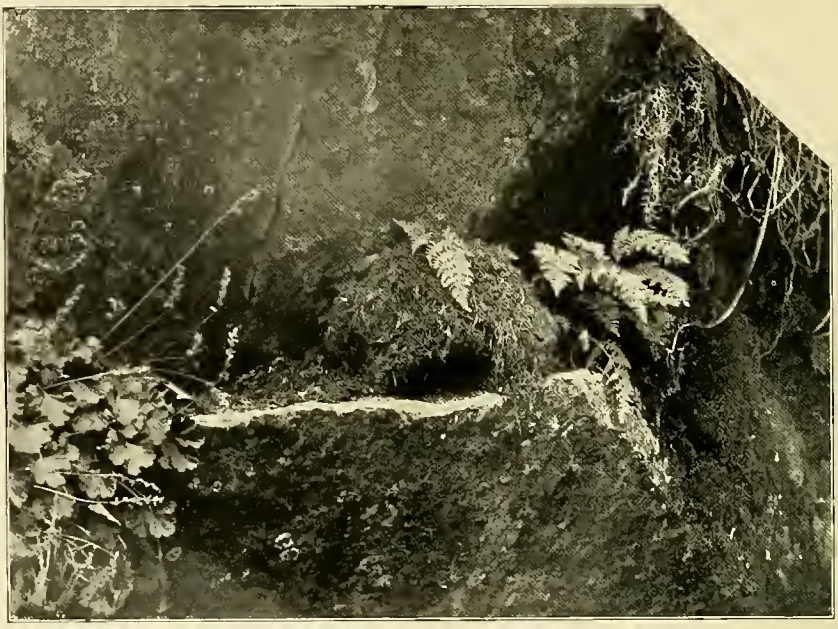


FIG. 1. WATER OUZEL'S NEST (1895)

Intelligence of Ouzels.

THE TWO handsome photographs of Water Ouzel's nests, here presented, have a peculiar interest attached to them. The nests, it will be seen, are quite different, but the *location* is identical. The photographs were taken by Mr. H. W. Nash, of Pueblo, Colorado, near which point the nests were found.

Figure 1 is the '95 nest, and that pictured in figure 2 is a '96 nest. Being, as is clearly shown, in exactly the same spot as the nest of the previous year, the assumption is fully warranted that it was built by the same pair of birds. It is on the identical ledge of rock, and there it will be observed, are the same ferns and vegetation of '95—only grown *a little longer!*

We have in Figure 2, (the '96 home of the Ouzels) a remarkable nest of this species. Notice the numerous pine needles woven in about the entrance, giving it such an odd appearance.

Why this wide departure from the conventional, mossy nest-structure of the Ouzel? Mr. Nash suggests that the pine needles were used to effect concealment, the birds having been so often disturbed. And with the two photographs to back the theory it is not at all improbable, and furnishes a most striking instance of the intelligence of birds. H. R. TAYLOR.

The Twilight Song of the Meadowlark.

AS the winter's snow banks gradually melt before the sly peeps of the approaching summer's sun, and March's chilly blasts scatter the remains of the cold season, our songsters begin to return from the warmer climes.

Among the first to greet us in our rambles is *Sturnella magna*. This beautiful songster, who is generally about the ninth or tenth migrant returning to its summer home, usually arrives between the 6th and 26th of March.

On a clear but damp morning at this time of year, as the observer starts on a tour in the woods, a loud, liquid "Te, te—ou, we—ee," coming from a neighboring field, apprises him of the fact that the Meadowlark has returned.

Soon after its arrival it begins an interesting twilight performance which can be heard throughout the early part of the breeding season.

In 1895, the writer chancing to be in close proximity to a field, observed a bird perched in a treetop. Its position and actions proclaimed it a Meadowlark at the first glance. As I approached it took wing and flew swifty upward, its wings vibrating rapidly as the bird ascended spirally into the air, uttering a hushed but penetrating chattering noise, resembling somewhat the

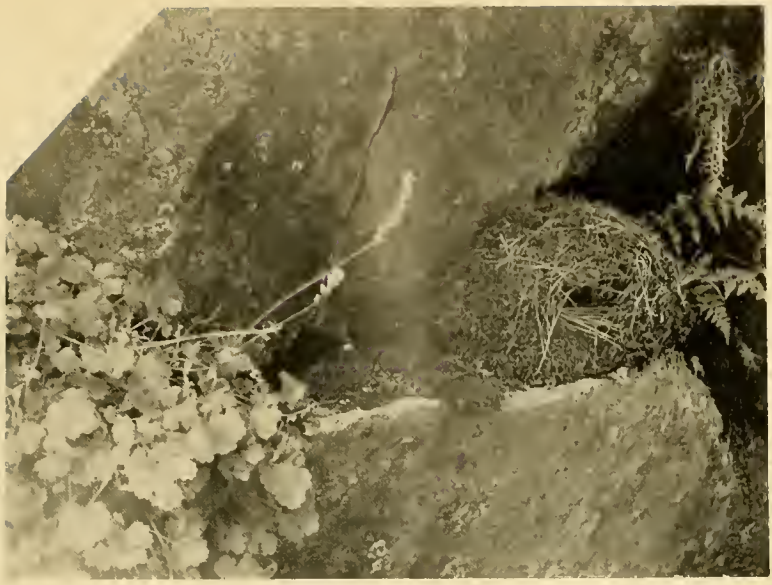


FIG. 2. WATER OUZEL'S NEST (1896)

notes of the *Chætura pelagica*. Suddenly these chattering noises are interrupted by loud "chirps" or "cheeps," like those of a Canary, uttered in quick succession.

The bird flew in almost a circle, slowly descending to the ground again.

It seemed to have great powers of ventriloquism (or else the damp air caused a misleading influence in determining its position by hearing), for the notes appeared to come out of the tree—near which I stood—but every twig was visible and no bird was to be seen, and as I had lost sight of it in its flight I knew not where it could be.

The notes grew louder and louder. I was positive the bird was in the tree. But it was not, for I was still gazing upward, above and partially through it. I was puzzled.

The bird was certainly coming nearer, for the notes continued to grow louder until I almost imagined it would end by lighting on my head.

But the misleading notes did not end here. The noise ceased for a moment, then a sharp and harsh, grating "cheep" came from a point in the field about eighty or one hundred feet distant.

I was vexed the first time this occurred, but realized that either the bird was deceiving me or the air had a hand in the deception.

The loud hoarse call was repeated at intervals, and I could easily determine its position. A few moments later it again took wing, and the chattering began, broken in upon occasionally by the chirping, until it again seemed almost upon me. Then a repetition of the intervals of silence, and once more the harsh, tell-tale "cheep" from the field.

On one occasion, while gazing up, the bird flew directly over my head only about thirty feet above; his voice had so bewildered me that I could not ascertain his whereabouts until I saw him sail smoothly over.

Whether the dampness, the clear, moist air, or the bird itself caused this ventriloquial effect I do not know, but I rather favor the latter supposition.

As the season advances this herald of spring becomes more musical and utters songs resembling the syllables: "Ee—to—weedle" and "Toodle—te, to—ou." This last note he often shortens to a loud, liquid "Toodle—te." And if you observe closely you will occasionally hear his "twilight song," although March is the best time for that.

Although I have never collected any eggs of this species, I am sure it breeds here, as the latitude is favorable and I have seen old birds carrying food.

The Meadowlark is found commonly hereabouts from its arrival until the middle

of June; then they decrease in numbers, though their voice is often heard.

It is a common bird east of the Mississippi, and is known both by sight and song, but I strongly doubt if there are many within his range who know and would recognize this bird by his "twilight song."

ROBERT B. McLAIN.

Elm Grove, W. Va.

Cahto Birds.

BY RICHARD C. McGREGOR.

[A list of birds observed in northern Mendocino county, California, during the spring of 1889.]

(*Concluded*)

48.—*Petrochelidon lunifrons.*—A very abundant bird, breeding in the peak of an old barn, thus avoiding the usual trouble with rain.

49.—*Chelidon erythrogastra.*—Not so plentiful as the last—a few pairs only.

50.— *Stelgidopteryx serripennis.** A single specimen secured.

51.—*Vireo gilvus.** Abundant, breeding in the willows and aspens.

52.—*Vireo solitarius cassinii.* Less abundant than the last. A beautiful nest builder.

53.—*Helminthrophila celata lutescens.** Rare.

54.—*Dendroica æstiva.* Fairly abunddant.

55.—*Dendroica auduboni.* Abundant—birds in high breeding plumage taken in the evergreens.

56.—*Dendroica nigrescens.** The most abundant Warbler observed. Male birds could be heard singing in the larger trees every day, and it was quite a common matter to take both male and female from the same tree.

57.—*Dendroica townsendi.* A single specimen, in company with the next, was secured from a large fir during a shower.

58.—*Dendroica occidentalis.* One male in fine plumage was secured.

59.—*Geothlypis macgillivrayi.* Fairly abundant.

60—*Geothlypis trichas occidetalis.* Fairly abundant.

61.—*Icteria virens longicauda.** A number of fine specimens taken.

62—*Harporhynchus redivivus.* A few specimens secured.

63.— *Thryothorus bewickii spilurus.* Fairly abundant.

64.—*Troglodytes ædon parkmanii.** More abundant than the last.

65. *Certhia familiaris occidentalis.* A few birds seen—two taken.

66—*Sitta carolinensis aculeata.* Abundant.

67—*Parus inornatus.** A few individuals seen.

68.—*Parus rufescens.* Abundant.

69.—*Psaltriparus minimus.* Abundant—unfortunately no specimens were taken so I cannot be certain that this is not *californicus.* Judging from the other species of birds taken it seems that the chances are greater of birds being *P. minimus* from here.

70.—*Regulus satrapa olivaceus.* A single specimens, male, taken during a light shower.

71.—*Turdus ustulatus* A few specimens seen.

72.—*Merula migratoria propinqua.* Abundant.

73.—*Sialia mexicana occidentalis.* Occasionally seen.

Cooper Ornithological Club.

No August meeting of the Southern Division was held, but an interesting meet is booked for September 26.

The Northern Division met at San Jose September 5, with a large attendance. It has been decided to take up the preparation of a complete annotated list of the Land and Water Birds of California. The work will be begun by County Committees in each county in which the Club is represented by members. Information concerning the work will be sent out during the month and Messrs. Bryant and McGregor have been appointed a committee to receive the county lists when completed.

Mr. R. H. Beck read a paper on the nesting of the Western Evening Grosbeak, and exhibited the nest and four eggs described in the paper. The article appears in full elsewhere. Mr. R. C. McGregor of Palo Alto gave an interesting talk on Panama and some of its birds, based on his experience as one of a party who was sent to Panama last December for the purpose of making a collection of the fish. Owing to an attack of fever and time spent upon the fish Mr. McGregor collected but seventy-five specimens, representing thirty-six

species. "The immediate vicinity of Panama is not suitable for good collecting, but if one gets a little way into the interior birds are numerous enough both in species and individuals. Among the large birds, by far the most numerous were the Black Vultures or Carrion Crows. They are a familiar feature of all southern towns and are ever on the watch for a choice bit of refuse meat. During a shower they made no effort to find shelter but sat humped up on the tile roofs until the rain ceased. As the sun came out they spread their wings to dry, making a good imitation of some of the Heron and Gull fire screens which are so common.

"A few of our Turkey Vultures were sometimes seen. The natives say this kind come from Jamaica during the winter but go away during the summer. Probably the next bird in respect of numbers is the Frigate Pelican. I first saw them at Mazatlan, Sinoloa, but of course they range much farther north as the observations of Mr. Bryant show. At Panama they are abundant anywhere along the water front. They are exceedingly graceful in flight, for which their wings are well fitted and as they slowly open and shut their long, forked tails one is reminded of a pair of shears. Mr. Bryant (Nid. I. p. 1.) has already spoken of their Mexican name meaning scissors. In spite of the weak feet, the Man-o'-War Bird is able to perch upon a tree in a very respectable manner, as all of our party can testify. Among the birds observed belonging to our fauna and which are more or less familiar to collectors in the United States were the following: California Brown Pelican, Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Sparrow Hawk, Groove-billed Ani, Rieffer's Hummingbird, Dickcissel, Yellow-throated Vireo, Water-Thrush and Prothonotary Warbler."

The Northern Division meets October 3 at Oakland.

LEVERETT M. LOOMIS of the California Academy of Sciences found a new Petrel on the Farallones this year. He has not yet determined if it is separable from Leach's. Six eggs were found, which are said to be larger than the Ashy Petrel's. Mr. Loomis will leave shortly for another visit to Monterey to work on the migration of Sea-birds.

Enclosed find $1.00, for which continue my subscription Although you are not as easily reached by us Eastern bird lovers as before I shall keep on taking the "NID" even if you should move to Australia. WARREN H. SMITH.

Fairmount, Ohio.

FIELD NOTES.

A New England Heronry.

I VISITED a Night Heronry on May 12, and thinking that my experience might be of some interest to your readers I send you this brief account.

I met my collector friend at the Union Station in Boston and we took the noon train for a station in Essex county. After leaving the train a half hour's walk brought us to the top of a large hill, at the foot of which was a swamp composed of fir, white spruce and maple trees. This swamp although not large in extent, contained 300 or more Heron's nests. This Heronry is not regularly harried and the few eggs taken will not in the least injure its usefulness as a colony.

The swamp was inaccessible from many points but we finally made an entrance by jumping from hammock to bush, but the ground was easily shaken at each step. No nests were enconntered till we had progressed for fifteen or twenty rods, then the familiar "quaw" reminded us that we were in a busy community. We started examining those bunches of sticks that appeared in almost every tree, and out of sixty-two only one of them was without eggs.

In some trees there were two nests, one about two feet above the other. The majority contained four and five eggs, but two nests held six eggs each. The nests were in slim, white spruce or fir trees, and were from fifteen to twenty-five feet high, although there were a few in tall maples.

After climbing several trees my friend Will said, "this is too much shinning," and he began to make trips from the top of one tree to another, until he had visited four trees before he returned to the ground, and he accomplished this feat several times.

We only examined nests within a radius of 150 square feet, but afterwards walked over a half acre or more where the nests seemed to be abundant.

J. R. MANN.

Arlington Heights, Mass.

Notes from Ohio.

ON JUNE 2, 1895, while hunting for a nest of the Indigo Bunting, I flushed a Woodcock from her nest containing two eggs. As the nest was near a path I was afraid to leave the set to be completed, so I took the eggs and substituted two stones as near like the eggs as I could find. I then continued my trip up the small creek I was following. Returning in about two hours I thought I would take a look at the nest to see if the stones had fooled my bird.

Walking cautiously, so as not to scare the bird if she should be on, I approached the nest. She was on but flew up before I was within a yard of her. Imagine my surprise when looking down I saw she had laid the third egg in my absence!

The next day I again visited the nest to take the fourth egg; but in this I was disappointed, although the bird was still sitting on the stones. Two days afterwards I went to the nest again but she had left, so I only secured a set of three.

While fishing on June 10 of this year, a boy across the river from me ran across a young Spotted Sandpiper and immediately gave chase. The bird made at once for the river, ran in and swam out about ten feet. The boy tried to hit it with a pole, but every time he struck the bird would dive. It was about half grown and was as yet unable to fly.

On the 29th of June a friend and I were standing knee deep in water fishing for bass. Bank Swallows were numerous and kept flying around very close to us. One made a dash at an insect, caught it, and then settled on my friend's fish pole. *
It devoured the insect and then commenced to view its surroundings, looking first in one direction and then in the other.

My friend kept perfectly quiet, but all the time moving his pole in nearer to him. At last the bird was in reach—he waited till the Swallow looked in the other direction and then picked him off the pole. After examining him we sat him back on the pole but he did not stay there long. Perhaps he was not surprised when my friend grabbed him, but the "squak" he gave seemed to confirm that idea.

The Red-headed Woodpeckers have been making use of the poles of the local telephone company to build their nests. The poles have not been here more than a year, yet many of them contain excavations, in spite of the fact that there are many dead trees in the vicinity. On July 8 I climbed one of the poles, from an excavation in which a Woodpecker had flown. The nest contained three eggs. I left them until the 11th and then visited the locality again, expecting to take a set of four or six. No more eggs had been deposited and so I took the three. They were very slightly incubated. On July 29 I again saw the bird fly from the hole. Ascending I was soon in possession of *five* more eggs. The excavation had been made several inches deeper. What I want to know is whether to call it a set of eight, or two sets, one of three and one of five?

E. A. DOOLITTLE.

Painesville, Ohio.

***

Infested Nests of Swifts.

Noticing an article about the Chimney Swift in the last issue of THE NIDOLOGIST, I would add to that a little of my own experience. In every case where I have taken the nest of the Chimney Swift I have always found it infested with "bed-bugs;" so much so, that they were difficult to clean for preservation. My experience was in and about Rockville, Conn. The birds also, when caught, have bed-bugs on them, and I came to the conclusion that in this way bugs were often taken from one dwelling to another.

JOS. M. WADE.

Boston, Mass.

***

Phalaropes in the Park.

I noticed 22 Wilson's (?) Phalaropes on the lake at the Park yesterday, they were very tame, and *swimming* about with greatest ease. They were wild birds, as they flew short distances, but didn't care a snap for the crowds.

H. B. KAEDING.

San Francisco, Aug. 22, '96.

That the conscientious work accomplished by the numerous representative Oologists who compiled "Taylor's Standard American Egg Catalogue" has been recognized is demonstrated by its very general adoption by exchangers of nests and eggs, who find it nearer a true "standard" than any list previously attempted.

[* Mr. A. H. Wheatley has described in THE NIDOLOGIST a similar action of a Water Ouzel.—ED.]

Exchanger's Aphorisms.

Eggs with nest are best.

Identity is the tbing,even if you write it "shure".

To pack eggs economically—use plenty of cotton.

A prompt correspondent is a man to swear by. A slow correspondent is a man to swear at.

A "reinforced" box can stand hard knocks, but a flimsy affair will never get there.

No eggs are too common to be well prepared and accompanied by full data.

An "incomplete" set is better than none, but honesty requires that it be so called.

Blessed (nit) is he who leaves off the A. O. U. number.

Science is the religion of patience See that your work shows it.

Raine Bets.

We promised to print a reply from Walter Raine, and he sends the following for publication:

RAINE BETS 2 TO 1.

Special bet—I will bet both Mr Taylor and Shufeldt $200 to $100 as follows:

1. That the set from Cresent Lake came from that locality and not from Europe.

2. That the data is in Mr. Rippon's own writing.

3. That I will produce a set of unmistakable eggs of Little Brown Crane collected as recent as the past season.

4. That this set shall be accompanied by original data with a letter from the collector.

5. That I will produce two letters from the collector besides myself swearing to the fact they have received eggs of Little Brown Crane, from N. W. Canada.

6. That I will produce letters from at least five Canadian Ornithologists,stating they are confident the Little Brown Crane nests in N. W. Canada.

If I prove the above Mr. ———, is to pay me $100 within a month, but if I fail to prove the above facts I will pay Mr. ———, $200.

Signed, W. RAINE.

Accepted by Mr. ———.

Unusual Nesting Sites.

I found last spring, near Sombra, Ontario, the nest of a Chipping Sparrow built on the ground, and a nest of the Vesper Sparrow built in a bush near the house. The occurrence seems unusual in both species

Marine City, Mich. JOHN A. LINK.

Eugene Carlton Thurber died at his home at Alhambra, Cal., September 7, aged 31 years. He was an Associate Member of the A. O. U., and at one time a member of the Linnæan Society of New York. He took a great interest in Ornithology. The common Junco of California was named in his honor, Thurber's Junco.

The Murres' eggs sent as premiums arrived safe, and they are beauties.

M. T. CLECKLEY, M. D.

General Notes.

Five sets of the Duck Hawk were taken this year in California.

Dr. J. A. Allen, editor of "The Auk," has returned from a European tour.

R. B. McLain, formerly of Elm Grove, West Virginia, has removed to Stanford University, Cal.

We have started Vol. IV with a "boom." Cannot you, whose magazine it is, give it a little shove too?

The "Iowa Ornithologist," quarterly, has sustained the reputation of bird students in its State by issuing some very excellent numbers.

J. H. and C. W. Bowles, have removed from Ponkapog, Mass., to Tacoma, Washington, and are much pleased with their new field for bird study.

J. W. Mailliard, of San Francisco reports the finding of a number of nests of Brewer's Blackbird in Marin county the past season which were built on the ground.

A. L. Caldwell, of Santa Barbara, Cal., writes that he took an egg during the past season, of the California Vulture. This would be the only egg, we believe, taken this year.

Oliver Davie's promised new edition of "Nest and Eggs of North American Birds," is not yet out so far as we can learn, although it was billed for publication in January last.

Major Charles E. Bendire's second volume of "Life Histories" is now out after a long delay in the Government Printing Office. The third volume will commence with the Evening Grosbeak.

"Biological Survey" is the new and appropriate name given by Congress to the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Department of Agriculture, of which Dr. C. Harte Merriam is Chief and Dr. T. S. Palmer, Assistant.

Enclosed please find $1.00 for subscription to the "Nid" for Vol. IV. Am highly pleased with the investment.

Lawrence, Kans. G. N. UPHAM.

Please find $1.00 bill for your excellent paper for another year. It has touched a tender spot in the hearts of its nature-loving friends. May its future be as grand a success as its past has been.

Portland, Maine. J. MERTON SWAIN.

Your "Standard American Egg Catalogue" and also the California Murres' eggs received some time ago. Please accept kindest thanks for both. The Catalogue is certainly a much needed booklet and the eggs are beauties.

Aitkin, Minn. ALBERT LANO.

True to His First Love.

Bowles' photo of nest of Chimney Swift is great! Will enjoy reading the "NID" much as ever.

Galesburg, Ill. W. A. JOHNSON.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

SWANN, H. KIRKE. *A Concise Handbook of British Birds.* Foolscap 8vo, cloth, p. i–viii, 1–210. London. John Weldon & Co. 1886. Price 3s. 6d. [From the Author.]

MONTGOMERY, THOS. H., JR. *Extensive Migration in Birds as a Check Upon the Production of Geographical Varieties.* The American Naturalist. June, 1896, pp. 458–464. [From the Author.]

RIDGWAY, ROBERT. *Characters of a New American Family of Passerine Birds.* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XVIII, No. 1076. Pp. 449, 450. [From the Museum.]

LUCAS, F. A. *Osteological and Pterylographical Characters of the Procniatidæ.* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XVIII, No. 1077. Pp. 505, 507.

RICHMOND, CHAS. W. *Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Doctor W. L. Abbott in Kashmir, Baltistan and Ladak, with Notes on Some of the Species, and a Description of a New Species of Cyanecula.* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol XVIII, No 1078, pp. 451–503. [From the Museum.]

RIDGWAY, ROBERT. *On Birds Collected by Doctor W. L. Abbott in the Seychelles, Amirantes, Gloriosa, Assumption, Aldabra, and Adjacent Islands, with Notes on Habits, etc , by the Collector.* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XVIII, No. 1079, pp. 509–546. [From the Museum.]

OBERHOLSER, HARRY C. *Descriptions of Two New Subspecies of the Downy Woodpecker, Dryobates pubescens (Linnæus).* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XVIII, No. 1080, pp. 547-550. [From the Museum.]

RICHMOND, CHARLES W. *Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Doctor W. L. Abbott, in Eastern Turkestan, the Thian Shan Mountains, and Tagdumbash Pamir, Central Asia, with Notes on Some of the Species.* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XVIII, No. 1083, pp. 569–576. [From the Museum.]

JUDD, SYLVESTER D. *Four Common Birds of the Farm and Garden,* and BEAL, F. E. L. *The Meadow Lark and Baltimore Oriole.* [Reprinted from the Year Book of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1895.] U. S. Dept. Agricul. 1896, pp. 405–430. [From the Department.]

PALMER, T. S. *Bird Day.* U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Circ. No. 17. Washington, July 2, 1896, pp. 1-4. [From the Department.]

ANDREWS, CHAS. W. B. Sc. F. G. S. *On the Skull, Sternum, and Shoulder girdle of Æpyornis.* The Ibis (London), July, 1896, pp. 376–389 [1–15] Pll. viii–ix. 3 text figgs. [From the Author.]

ANDREWS, C. W. *Note on the Skeleton of Aptornis defossor.* Ext. Geol. Mag. [London] Decade IV, Vol. III, No. 384, p. 241. June, 1896. Pl. x. [From the Author.]

Swann on British Birds. If one desires a neat, well-printed, authoritative and handy little book that gives concise accounts of the birds occurring in the Islands of Great Britain, this is an excellent volume to buy for the purpose. Its author, the editor of *The Ornithologist*, has also written "The Birds of London" and "Nature in Acadie," which latter we had the pleasure of reviewing in these columns. Turning to the "Preface," it it gratifying to the scientific Ornithologist to find Mr. Swann announcing the following facts, to wit, " The classification and nomenclature practically accord with those of the "List of British Birds" compiled by a Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union (1883), but a number of necessary alterations have been made, particularly in the matter of adopting the specific names of *first* describers as far as possible. An effort has also been made to allow specific rank to valid species only, while sub-species or races, instead of being nameless, are distinguished by sub-numbers and trinomials—after the American style. With the exception of the late Henry Seebohm, no British Ornithologist appears to have openly avowed himself a trinomialist, so that I shall not escape censure for adopting the despised system, yet until some of our Ornithologists can suggest some other way of allowing a name to a recognised race without giving it the rank of a species, I will adhere to trinomials." An avowal of this nature,and a step taken in this direction, speaks more than volumes could do in favor of Mr. Swann's ability to deal with the science of Ornithology as a whole, and it is clear that his studies have given him an insight into avian biology sufficiently far-reaching in character as to bring conviction of this kind to his mind. Upon this he is to be congratulated, and if he ever comes to study such North American genera of birds, or as they are represented in *Otocoris, Ammodramus, Junco, Melospiza, Pipilo, Vireo* and a host of others, he will find what a help, nay, what an absolutely indispensable method trinomialism is. So far as it is possible for them to do so, the law of organic evolution and the application of a trinomial to a sub-specific animal form, go hand in hand,—it is but a convenient method for the mind to appreciate, and fix there by a name, those evident departures from recognized specific types, that the operation of evolution is constantly producing at all times within the realm of nature about us.

Mr. Swann has made use of, for the purpose of measurement, the inch and its fractions, whereas it would have been far better and more scientific had he adopted the metric system. Again, in presenting his classification and arrangement he commences his work with the "Order" PASSERES, and terminates with the "Order" PYGOPODES. This sequence is now considered by most all scientific Ornithologists to be at least unnatural. We should start our Lists with the lowest bird forms known to us, and carry it up through the series, to the most highly organized and most recent forms. The avian tree has come *upward*, and so

we should follow it, that is from Grebe to Crow,—and not *downward*, in the reverse order, from Crow to Grebe. And be it noticed here that Mr. Swann places *Turdus* at the head of his List, and ends with *Fratercula*, although he has both *Corvus* and *Tachybaptes* in the series. In passing these remarks, those birds having the so-called "struthious characters" are not considered, for neither in the avifauna of Great Britain nor of the United States have we any such to deal with. On pp. vii–viii of his work we find a "List of Genera" of British birds, and upon counting these we find there to be 206 of them,—the major portion agreeing with the genera represented in this country, or are rather common to both countries. At the close of his volume we also find in an Appendix the "Provisionally Excluded Species," and quite a number of these are North American, while at different times not a few of the birds of this country have, as stragglers, appeared in Great Britain, and these have been duly admitted in the List. To American Ornithologists it will be interesting to know that among these have been the White-winged Crossbill, the Belted Kingfisher, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the Black-billed Cuckoo, the Swallow-tailed Kite, American Bittern, the Glossy Ibis, and a number of others. We further find this little volume practically brought up to date in nearly all matters of importance, with full descriptions of the majority of the British birds, and in many cases interesting life-histories are given. Among its serviceable features is the numbering of all the genera (i–ccvi) and all the species (1–381), and other convenient and useful data, as descriptions of plumage changes, habitats, dates and authorities for names, and so on. With respect to the classification, we find some of it to be quite in keeping with the natural system, while in other instances it is antiquated and at variance with our present-day knowledge of avian morphology. Other unfortunate occurrences are seen here and there in the adoption of the scientific name for this or that genus. For example, for our Hairy Woodpecker we find *Dendrocopus villosus* to equal *Dryobates villosus* of the A. O. U. Check-List. That is, Mr Swann claims *Dendrocopus*, Kock (1816), against *Dryobates*, Boie (1826), of the A. O. U Check-List. These are matters for an International Ornithological Committee to settle, appointed by an International Ornithological Congress; and be it said here, the sooner that that is accomplished, the better for Ornithology.

In his above cited paper, Mr. MONTGOMERY divides all the North American species of birds into three groups, based on the extent of their migrations, to wit,—(1) Species with exceedingly protracted migrations, but irregular as to the localities traversed; (2) species with more or less regular migrations, of 30° lat. or more in extent; and (3) species which undertake migrations less in extent than 30° lat., or species which do not migrate at all. These three Lists the author compares in a variety of ways with the view of ascertaining to what extent extensive migration in birds has as a check upon the production of geographical varieties, and after a very interesting discussion of the question at issue, formulates the following general conclusion: "It is the rule that the amount of geographical variation in species with more or less extensive breeding areas, stands in inverse ratio to the extent of its periodic migrations." The paper seems to be worthy of careful study and consideration.

The new American family of Passerine Birds created by Mr. RIDGWAY is the family *Procniatidæ* or the Swallow-Tanagers. On another paper (cited above) Mr. LUCAS describes some of the very remarkable osteological and pterylographical characters of this group. This was originally the genus *Procnias* of Illiger, and some time ago it was Mr. Ridgway's intention to establish a new family for it, but it was not published until now. These birds range over the Brazilian, Amazonian, and North-east Colombian provinces. [See Procniactinæ (Tanagridæ), Sclater, Cat. Am. Birds, p. 54, 1862. (Sub-family.)]

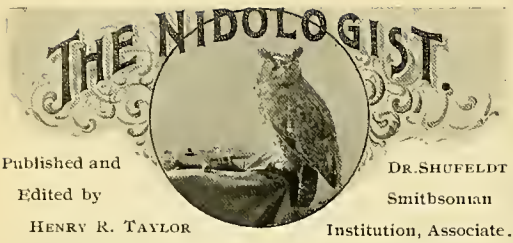
The papers by Mr. RIDGWAY and Mr. RICHMOND describing the very valuable collections of birds made by Dr. ABBOTT are wonderfully interesting, and extremely useful to those studying the Ornithology of the Old World. Dr. W. L. Abbott is an enthusiastic American naturalist from Philadelphia who has been collecting (1890 and on) in various parts of Africa, Central Asia, Madagascar and the off-lying islands. He has sent hundreds of skins to the United States Natural Museum, where they are being described by the above quoted authors. Additional memoirs upon this subject will follow, some of considerable extent. Major Bendire is examining the nests and eggs collected by Dr. Abbott.

In a brief article Mr. OBERHOLSER describes two new sub-species of Downy Woodpecker, viz., *Dryobates p. meridionalis*, the Southern Downy Woodpecker, and *D. p. nelsoni*, the Northern Downy Woodpecker,—the habitat of the first being given as "South Atlantic and Gulf States, from South Carolina to Texas," and the last as "Alaska and Northern British America."

Written from an economical standpoint, the papers by Messrs. JUDD and BEAL are of considerable interest to the American farmers and fruit-growers, giving as they do the foods of the birds treated. The figures illustrating them are sufficiently good, it would seem, for one not an Ornithologist, to identify the species by. It is to be hoped that such publications as these, and similar ones, will at least have the effect of saving some of our birds from destruction. Greedy man can often be appealed to where the words pass through his pocket with far better success than he can where the naked matter of sentiment is addressed, and the words pass only into his ears.

DR. T. S. PALMER has printed an admirable letter advocating the establishment of *Bird Day*, setting forth its object and value. His valuable remarks, however, have been so thoroughly reproduced in the public prints the country over that it would be quite superfluous to re-state them here.

In two very important memoirs PROF. ANDREWS of the British Museum describes the skull and other bones of the fossil Æpyornis from Central Madagascar, and the skeleton of *Aptornis defossor*, another curious fossil bird of New Zealand. On a future occasion Professor Andrews proposes to give a detailed account of the more important characters of this skeleton, and this will be looked for with interest by those interested in the study of extinct birds, many of which have been described lately with great industry by the same author.



Published and Edited by HENRY R. TAYLOR

DR. SHUFELDT Smithsonian Institution, Associate.

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & Co., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

WE get a little late at times, but then we have something worth waiting for occasionally.

OUR subscribers will please note, among the new features of Vol. IV., that we are using 100 pound coated book paper, the best in the market for half-tone illustrations.

THE colored plate we have presented with this number pictures faithfully the peculiar ground color and the shade of brown on the Western Evening Grosbeak's eggs. The results secured by the artist, Mr. P. W. Nahl, surpass our highest expectations, and it is quite likely that other subjects will be illustrated similarly in this magazine from time to time.

MR. CHASE LITTLEJOHN, of Redwood City, California, offers in this number some rarities in sets of eggs and skins from Alaska, collected by himself. Data is complete and specimens are very choice. The prices are low. Mr. Littlejohn furnished the notes for an interesting article by Major Bendire on the Ancient Murrelet which appeared in *The Auk* for July, 1895.

THE readers of THE NIDOLOGIST declare that it is the only up-to-date, reliable, illustrated magazine of bird-life in America. It has completed its third successful year. Its fourth volume is under way, and will be a record breaker. Help on a good cause by subscribing at once and interesting your friends in us also. It takes money to grease the wheels of progress, and all who help us will be fully repaid for their interest.

RAINE offers to lay some bets with us. Replying to his proposition, in the first place we are not running a sporting journal. Webster's Dictionary defines a wager: "A contract by which two parties or more agree that a certain sum of money, or other thing, shall be paid or delivered to one of them on the happening or not happening of an uncertain event." There is too much of chance in this to make it scientific.

Two More Albinos.

IN making up my list of albino birds which was printed in the May NIDOLOGIST, I overlooked two interesting specimens in the Stanford University collection. They are in a small lot collected by Mr. Cloud Rutter and presented by him to the museum. The birds may be described as follows: Grasshopper Sparrow. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus.* Long Pine, Neb. 5-31-'93. Pure white, except edge of wing which is yellow as in normal specimens.

Tree Sparrow.—*Spizella monticola.* Johnstown, Neb., Jan. '91. Colors as usual except one primary in each wing, two feathers of tail and large portion of scapulars pure white.

Another odd specimen in the same lot is recalled to mind by reading of Mr. Heller's crossbilled Yellowthroat (Nid. III. 60.) In this instance it is a Goldfinch whose mandibles are prolonged and crossed in an exact reproduction of *Loxia* in miniature.

I am especially interested in abnormal plumages and will be very grateful to members of the Cooper Club, or other collectors not in California, who will send me specimens for examination. All material loaned will be returned in a short time and full credit given in case of publication.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

Palo Alto, Aug. 28, 1896.

New Publications.

"THE OSPREY," published monthly at Galesburg, Ill., with an editorial staff consisting of W. A. Johnson, of Galesburg, A. C. Murchison of Kewanee, and D. A. Cohen of Alameda as editor of the California department, is the latest venture to appeal to bird lovers for support. No. 1, (September) is a good first number, with an interesting article by E. S. Rolfe, with full page illustration in half-tone of nest and eggs of the Ferruginous Rough-leg. The magazine announces that it will soon start a review department. The title is not new having been used for an American Ornithological magazine published years ago.

"Ebersold's Quarterly," descriptive of natural history in Florida, is a decidedly unique venture, No. 1, appearing with 24 pages and cover. It is published by the Ebersold family of eleven, "on board the house-boat 'The Collector,' while cruising about the coasts of Florida." There are seven full page pictures, gelatine prints, which are unusually interesting. To print these a regular lithographic roller is ordinarily deemed necessary, but not having one, the house-boat publisher used an ordinary clothes wringer, with first-class results! A colored plate is announced for the next number. The price of the magazine is 50 cents per year, or 15 cents a copy. The address of the Ebersolds until June 20 is Oceanus, Brevard Co., Florida.

WE WOULD ask that everyone read at once the announcement, printed elsewhere, of the beautifully illustrated souvenir to be devoted to the "Story of the Farallones." A careful record will be kept of all orders and remittances. Co-operation accomplishes wonders. See that *you* have a share in this enterprise.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS:—ONE CENT PER WORD. No notice for less than 25 cents. Address printed free.

WANTED—A good revolver, Smith & Wesson preferred. Will give singles for same, also have singles to exchange for sets. B. M. GRANT,
1363 Oglethorpe st., Macon, Ga.

WANTED—To correspond with a collector in the South, with a view to exchanging first-class birds' skins this coming fall. Can offer a full list of Santa Clara County species. Also skins to exchange for strictly A 1 set of eggs. C. BARLOW,
Santa Clara, Calif.

WANTED—Fine sets of eggs (both common and rare), and cloth-bound books, also extra fine Indian Relics; for which I offer fine specimens of minerals, duplicate birds' eggs, skins, mounted birds and fossils. GEO. W. DIXON.
Watertown, South Dakota.

WANTED—Partner with $1,000 or more, in a well established collecting and curio business.
Address, Box 447, Orlando, Fla.

GREAT men often make great mistakes! Be sure and not make the mistake of not sending for a copy of "The Osprey." WALTER A. JOHNSON,
Galesburg, Ill.

WANTED—I need a few more copies Sept., Oct., and Nov. "Nid," 1895, and for each in fair condition will send one copy "Standard American Egg Catalogue." H. R. TAYLOR.
Alameda, Cal.

FOR SALE—Fresh skins of the rare Little Black Rail at $3.00 each; send stamp for reply.
ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY,
Hadlyme, Ct.

TO EXCHANGE—A fine lot of gold, silver, lead and copper specimens direct from the mines in Montana. Have just unpacked them and wish to exchange for good sets of eggs and cloth bound books.
GEO. W. DIXON,
Watertown, South Dakota.

WANTED—Second hand copies of Coues' "Key," Ridgway's "Manual," Maynard's "Eggs," hunting and dog books. Can offer A 1 eggs in sets, journals, medical works, or cheap for cash.
DR. M. T. CLECKLEY,
457 Green st., Augusta, Ga.

TO EXCHANGE—For desirable authentic sets of Grouse and others, choice sets in series: Pigeon Guillemot ½, Tufted Puffin 1-1, Cassin's Auklet, Western Meadowlark ¼ 1-5, Long-tailed Chat ¼, California Murre 1-1. Western Gull 1-3. Can also offer for "extra" sets of Raptores, etc.; Avocet ¼, Black-necked Stilt ¼, Green-tailed Towhee n-3, n-4 and others Will give a bonus on extra fine sets Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks.
H. R. TAYLOR, Alameda, Cal.

THE NIDOLOGIST

THIS Magazine has been a constant source of pleasure to its editor (and its readers of course) during three full years of successful publication. We were told at the beginning, by an active member of the A. O. U., that we would do remarkably well if we presented one good illustration in each number—the old "O. and O." and other monthly journals, had had practically none whatever. We started in the time of financial panic, but nothing stayed our ambition, and commencing uniformly with No. 1, we have published in all, 140 original photographs, nearly all fine half-tones, with an occasional colored plate. Our pictures speak for themselves, and we our "going on to perfection."

Hundreds of letters from prominent scientists and lovers of birds all over America, and even from abroad have commended the general style of the magazine, its vigorous prosecution of "frauds," its untechnical, popular but accurate articles, and its unequalled pictures of living birds in Nature's setting and of nests and eggs *in situ*.

Among the many valued contributors in the three volumes, were: Major Charles E. Bendire, Robert Ridgway, Dr. Elliott Coues, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, Dr. J. A. Allen, William Palmer, Dr. W. E. Rotzell, Walter E. Bryant, A. W. Anthony, Leverett M. Loomis, Dr. Emil Holub, C. Barlow, A. M. Ingersoll, J. B. Purdy, Eugene S. Rolfe, Hon. R. M. Barnes, J. H. and C. W. Bowles, Prof. P. M. Silloway, Rev. P. B. Peabody, Richard C. McGregor, Prof. Ludwig Kumlein, Olive Thorne Miller, F. B. Spaulding, L. Whitney Watkins, H. H. Brimley, J. R. Bonwell, E. Arnold, Otto Emerson, A. M. Shields, Wm. L. Kells, Judge J. N. Clark, J. P. Norris, Jr., Wm. H. Fisher, B. T. Gault, J, C. Galloway, Fred'k M. Dille, R. H. Beck, W. H. Osgood, George F. Breninger, Morris Gibbs, R. D. Goss, Rev. C. M. Jones, Dr. A. H. Helme, Dr. J. C. Merrill, B. H. Swales, A. H. Wheatley, C. H. Morrell, Ruthven Deane, and many other able writers and good friends of Ornithology too numerous to mention here.

In closing the pages of Vol. III, we earnestly solicit the subscriptions of yourself and *your friends*, to make volume IV all it should be, can be, and *will* be—if you say the word! Subscription, $1—only and always—Premiums noted elsewhere.

Remit early and in any form, to H. R. Taylor, or The Nidologist,

ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA

SPECIAL TO OÖLOGISTS

DON'T Read this unless you have your eyes open to opportunities. Some people are almost too slow to pick up a dollar in the street for fear it may be counterfeit. They make the sort of collectors who leave eggs to hatch lest they disturb the bird to soon. Most Oologists are "up to time," and take advantage of every good thing that is going. *Don't you let this one slip you!*

THE NIDOLOGIST is in the field for eggs and bird notes. We are proud of its record during its almost three years of successful publication, but mean to *surpass* it. The enthusiastic support it has received explains all. It is preeminently a magazine for the active collector, and its news of important "takes," of the whereabouts of Oologists, and bird notes from everywhere, far exceed those of any other publication, and makes it practically indispensible. Even on its advertising pages the collector gets late and valuable news as to the supply and desirability of certain eggs or other specimens.

As to the EXCHANGE AND SALE DEPARTMENT, read this sample opinion, from many:

"Have received a number of offers for camera, and have disposed of same for a set of eleven Black-bellied Tree Duck, so I will swear by the NID as an advertisting medium".———H. B. KAEDING.

The collecting season is over and "exchanging" deals are on. If you are *not already* a subscriber we will take *choice sets of eggs* with full data, not too common, at *one-third* "Taylor's Standard Catalogue" rates postage prepaid, in payment, *for one years suscription only*. This is *conditional* on your taking not less than 100 words in exchange column, to be paid for in sets of eggs at *one-half* "Taylor's Standard Catalogue" rates. You will be credited with your space in exchange and sale column and it may be used up as you may desire.

NOTE—We are no longer offering exchange notices free with premiums.

This offer will not be repeated, is strictly limited to conditions named, and expires within 30 days. Premiums not included on this proposition.

Eggs must be in "full" sets well prepared and "desirable". We make no offer to exchange subscriptions alone for eggs, even at ¼ or 1-5 rates.

Address *early*, with complete lists offered. THE NIDOLOGIST, Alameda, Cal.

THE NIDOLOGIST

HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

VOL. IV

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
ALAMEDA,
CALIFORNIA

No. 2. OCTOBER

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. IV. NO. 2 ALAMEDA, CAL., OCTOBER, 1896 $1.00 PER YEAR

American Rough-legged Hawk

This fine picture from life was kindly sent to us by Mr. H. W. Nash, of Pueblo, Colorado, who says: "The Hawk from which the photograph was made was in a bicycle store here, and had become quite tame, so that it could be handled, after its claws were clipped. I made two exposures in the store close to a window, where the sun struck the bird. Neither was as good as I wanted, but it was turned loose before another attempt could be made."

Eggs of the Black, Socorro and Least Petrels.

IN ADVANCE of a more extensive article on the life histories of these little-known Petrels, I will give a brief description of their nesting habits, and describe their eggs, which have been until now unknown.

On July 22 I anchored in the lea of the larger of the San Benito Islands, which lie about seventy-five miles off the coast of Lower California, and some twenty miles west of Cerros Island, between latitude 28 deg. and 30 deg.

The San Benito Islands are small, rocky reefs only, with little vegetation, and being so far off shore are but little resorted to by Gulls, Cormorants and similar species. Cassin's Auklets had bred in considerable numbers, as their burrows testified, but at the time of our visit they had all left. Their burrows, however, had been appropriated by later arrivals, and during the four and a half days that we spent at the Island, Mr. Horace A. Gaylord and myself devoted most of our time to digging for Petrels. Both Black and Socorro Petrels were taken from the burrows formerly occupied by the Auklets, the former species out-numbering the Socorro about five to one. There was no attempt apparently on the part of the species to colonize by themselves, both being found in adjoining burrows. The Socorro Petrel had evidently begun nesting somewhat earlier than its neighbor, the Black, for while fresh eggs of the latter were the rule, very few fresh or even moderately incubated eggs of the Sorocco were found, and several downy young were taken.

There was little if any attempt at nest building by either species, though in several burrows a small nest-like platform of little twigs was found upon which the egg was laid. But in most cases it rested upon the bare earth at the end of a more or less winding burrow, about three feet in length. Several eggs of both species were taken from under loose slabs of rock, but as a rule they preferred the burrows which were in all cases, I think, those of Cassin's Auklet.

On our return to the island, September 8 and 9, we found that the Sorocco Petrels had all left, but many young Black Petrels were found, as well as a few eggs which the birds wers *still incubating*.

The fresh eggs of both species were white, with a slight rosy blush before being blown, but pure white after the contents were removed—the shell smooth without gloss. Those of the Black Petrels were in all cases spotless, but about half of the eggs of the Socorro were marked about the larger end by a ring of pale lavender specks, often quite faint, but in some specimens well defined. Their shape was similar in both species, ranging from an elongate ovate to a short or even rounded ovate. The eggs of either species were easily identified, however, by their size, ten specimens of *Oceanodroma socorroensis* averaging 30x27–7 millimetres, an unusually elongated specimen, measuring 33.2x22.5 millimetres. Ten eggs of *O. melania* averaged 35.2x26 millimetres.

The second day on the island Mr. James M. Gaylord, the botanist of our party, reported finding a "half-grown Petrel incubating an egg" on another part of the island. Scarcely daring to hope but suspecting that it might be the almost mythical Least Petrel, he was instructed to bring it back with him when he returned from that quarter next day. As we had surmised, the specimen proved to be *Halocyptena microsoma*, which we subsequently found breeding in several parts of the island. All eggs of this species were taken either from under loose slabs of rock or crevices in the broken ledges, the former location seeming to be preferred. None were found in burrows, although several were opened in the colonies of this species. They all contained either *O. melania* or *O. socorroensis*.

In shape the eggs of the Least Petrel were more inclined to be elliptical than either of the other species described, but were often elongate-ovate, short or even in some cases rounded ovate as in the species of *Oceanodroma*.

They were pure white, with rosy flush before being blown, but dead white afterward. In many, if not in the majority of our specimens, a ring of very minute black specks encircled one or both ends. These specks came off upon the slighest touch, leaving slight stains or marks such as might be made by brushing away a spot of lampblack which had accidentally fallen on the shell.

Eggs taken from July 24 to 27 were in most cases fresh or but slightly incubated, though many were well advanced in incubation.

Downy young, and even incubated eggs

were found on our return to the island September 8.

Ten eggs of this species averaged in measurement 29.4x19.3 millimetres.

A. W. ANTHONY.

Chimney Swift Feeding its Young.

THOUGH so common, and living as it does in the summer so near us, the life-history of this bird is still but little known to most persons. The true and instructive frontispiece in the August NIDOLOGIST is of the greatest interest, and one can be at least thankful for the patience and enterprise of the photographers of that picture. My friend, Mr. Nelson R. Wood, some years ago had an excellent apportunity of observing some old birds feeding their young, and I have prepared the following as he related the circumstances to me. Place: an old-fashioned large chimney in an old cooper's shop in Clyde, Wayne County, New York, with our friend crouching at the fireplace watching, but unobserved by the birds. Nest: about twelve feet up and about fifteen feet from the top of the chimney, and containing young. With one bird on the nest, its mate enters and descends to about twelve inches below the nest; the sitting bird leaves and the other climbs up, and perching on the edge of the nest disgorges the food and feeds the young. Having finished, it takes its place in the nest over the young and awaits the arrival of its mate with a fresh supply of food. The feeding thus alternates every three to five minutes, sometimes more, until the young are satisfied. As is well known, the old Swifts retain the flies captured in the mouth until a sufficient quantity is obtained. The insects are held in the mouth and throat, and apparently no effort is made by the bird to crush and kill them, as specimens taken at such times will show most of the flies living, but prevented from escaping by the abundant saliva. Additional information regarding the feeding habits of the young while in the chimney, and also about their first efforts at flight, would be interesting and instructive.

WILLIAM PALMER.

Washington, D. C.

DR. COUES adds a word or two in the last *Auk* to the controversy over the defects in the new A. O U. Check-List, started by Mr. William Palmer's recent articles in THE NIDOLOGIST.

Habits of the Turkey Vulture.

THE young Turkey Vulture shown in the sketch was taken on July 21, 1891, from a hole in a large maple, broken off about ten feet from the ground leaving a cavity similar in size and shape to the inside of a barrel. The location was on a steep hillside covered with trees and brush, in an unfrequented locality. At the time of discovery neither parent was present. When the attention of the young birds was attracted by means of a stick, they would rise up and then bump down against the bottom of the hole, making at the same time a noise liks "scrawze."

There was no attempt at nest-making, and no offal within the hole. The odor, however, was very unpleasant, and this is retained to some degree by the mounted bird.

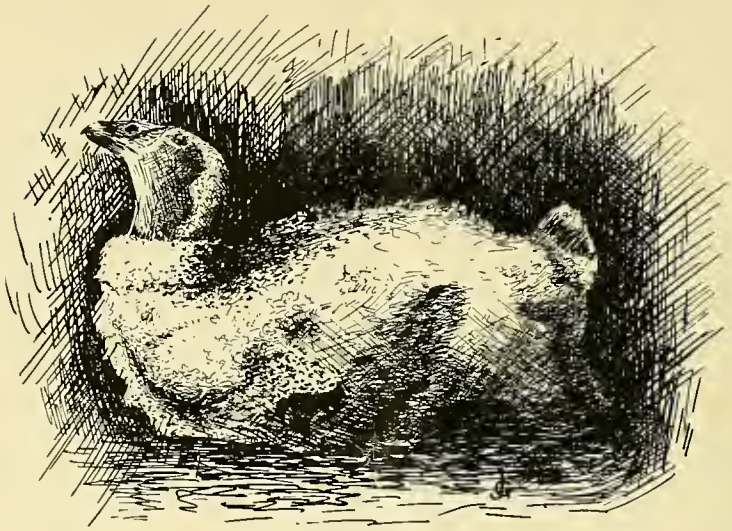
On May 5, 1892, the nest was visited before daylight. The sitting bird left without looking behind her after the writer had climbed up and looked in. A beautiful set of two eggs incubated one-third was taken. The next year, under similar circumstances, a second set was taken. Since then the birds have nested undisturbed until the present year, when the building of a saw-mill one hundred yards away, and a dwelling house not far off, gave them excuse for changing their quarters. They are, however, still in the vicinity, and doubtless nest near by.

The writer has heard old men belonging to the rural population tell of having seen Turkey Buzzards at their roosts where they congregated in great numbers, and unlike W. C. Purdin's Flickers, hung by the toes in long strings along the limbs while roosting.

The writer has seldom seen Turkey Vultures perching in trees except along streams, where they can be seen commonly during the summer months sitting singly in companies in the sycamores.

Along the Ohio River they often band together in companies of fifty or more, and spend much time in standing on the sandy shores bathing and sunning themselves, often with wings outspread; or mounting into the air, they sail about in close bunches, making a constellation of black stars in the heavens.

Toward evening they descend to lower levels, and circling about time after time over the tree-tops, along the mouths of the



TURKEY VULTURE IN THE DOWN
(Drawn by J. C. GALLOWAY)

creeks, they eventually get low enough to dash through them. As the sun goes down, one bird after another fails to re-appear as it sails into the trees, until all are out of sight in their darkening shades.

Then if one walks quietly up the bed of the creek he can espy one huge bird after another perched on the upper branches, with their heads drawn down to the shoulders. When the birds become alarmed the heads are raised. If the disturbance continues, the wings droop at the shoulders. This is presently followed by spreading them to their full extent. Should they deem flight advisable, they rise to their full height and launch forth, the huge wings beating through the foliage with a rushing sound.

Sometimes the circling about is kept up until it is too dark to see the birds, but I do not think they move about later than that.

The Vulture of the sketch was about as large and heavy as a medium-sized hen, and was covered with long and ragged yellowish-white down. The skin was black; the strip down the front of the throat was bare, while the back of the head and neck were sparsely set with short, white frizzly down, giving it the appearance of an aged colored gentleman with a close hair-cut. The primaries were as yet encased in their blue coverings.

J. C. GALLOWAY.

Montgomery, Ohio.

The Robin as a Freak.

WHILE looking around one morning to see what could be found that was new and startling, I saw a Black-billed Cuckoo's nest in an apple tree, about fifteen feet from the ground. Saw the female on the nest, which was composed of nothing but small twigs, and as it was not quite completed, did not bother to go up and look at it. June 1 I sent a friend of mine over to look at it, and to collect it if the set was complete.

He came back and reported that he could not find it, but had found a Robin's nest about where he had expected to find the Cuckoo's. I did not think much of it at the time, supposing that he had probably overlooked it, but the next day I had to go in that direction, and went around to have a look at it. There, sure enough, was the Cuckoo's nest just as it was when I saw it last, but in addition to it, and on top, was the regulation Robin's nest with two eggs. The female was on the nest when I came to the tree.

I thought it queer, as this was the second time I had seen the same thing that spring, never having seen it before. In the other case it was Rose-breasted Grosbeak vs. Robin. I noticed the Grosbeak's nest in an apple tree about the same height. This was May, 18, '96. I knew there were eggs in it, as the female was sitting quite close, but didn't go up to investigate as it was

quite near to the home of a large dog that was not in love with the study of Oology.

Later in the season (June 28) as I walking by the tree I noticed a Robin fly into it with her bill full of dried grass, and upon looking up I saw the nest built directly on top of the Grosbeak's. It was all completed with the exception of the lining. I do not know whether the Grosbeak's eggs were hatched or not, but think quite likely they were. The nest was quite a large and strong affair, made of small sticks and roots, and furnished quite a good foundation for the Robin to commence on. Would like to know if anybody else has ever seen the Robin build in a like position.

CHARLES S. BUTTERS.

Haverhill, Mass.

Cooper Ornithological Club.

THE Southern Division met at the residence of Jos. Grinnell in Pasadena, September 28. The proposed work of preparing a State list of the Land and Water Birds was promised every support. Committees for Southern California to conduct the work were appointed in the following counties:—Los Angeles: Jos. Grinnell, O. W. Howard, Horace A. Gaylord and W. B. Judson; San Diego: A. W. Anthony, A. M. Ingersoll and F. Stephens; Riverside: H. M. Hall and Edmund Heller; San Bernardino: Edw. Hall.

Mr. Grinnell entertained those present with reminiscences of his summer sojourn in Alaska which were backed by a large collection of skins and eggs taken on the trip. The Southern Division meets October 26 at the residence of Chas. Grosbeck, in Pasadena.

The Northern Division met October 3rd at the residence of Walter E. Bryant, in Oakland. Mr. Ernest Adams of San Jose was elected to membership. Mr. A. W. Anthony was added to the State Committee that is to conduct the final work upon the State list. The following committees were appointed for the counties of Northern California:—Alameda: W. E. Bryant, W. O. Emerson, D. A. Cohen and H. R. Taylor; Amador: Henry B. Kaeding; Lake: A. W. Johnson; Marin: John W. and Jos. Mailliard; Monterey: Oscar P. Silliman and L. W. Brokaw; San Francisco: T. E. Slevin, Claude Fyfe, E. W. Currier; San Luis Obispo: N. M. Moran; San Joaquin: W. B. Sanson and W. F. Sanson; Santa Clara: C. Barlow, W. H. Osgood, R. H. Beck and H. R. Painton; Santa Cruz: Oscar P. Silliman. Sonoma: Henry W. Carriger.

The first-named member of each County Committee will act as Chairman. Circulars containing complete instructions have been sent to members.

A paper was read by W. Otto Emerson on the

"GREAT WAVE OF TANAGERS"

observed at Haywards, Cal., and at other points in the State during May last.

Louisiana Tanagers made their appearance in countless numbers at Haywards, between May 12 to 14, frequenting cherry orchards, where they did much damage. They began to move off on the 25, all through the hills and canyons, and be June 1 only one here and there would by seen. They made their night roosting-place in a grove of young live oaks. They uttered no notes whatever. Two men were kept busy shooting them. All the ammunition used seemed not to decrease the numbers which came day after day. Dead Tanagers lay about by the hundreds, and were food for the cats. Perhaps a thousand of the birds were slaughtered.

"My notes for the last 15 years record this species here but twice—a female seen May 28, 1880, and another observed May 21, 1883. Almost all the birds seen this year were males.

"Mr. Horace A. Gaylard writes me that at Pasadena they were seen singly from April 23 to May 1. From this date to May 5 their number were greatly increased, then for about 10 days, until May 16, the great wave of migration was at its height. By May 26 the last of the birds had left the valley. What caused this great wave of Tanagers to move so regularly together through the State northward can hardly be known positively. It may have been caused by the late cold spell occurring in California, April 15, and meeting them on their way from their winter quarters in Central America, inducing them to move together in large companies where food was plenty and the weather milder."

Henry B. Kaeding of San Francisco presented a paper on the

"OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER"

"The Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus*

borealis) is a common resident of the mountainous regions in the eastern portions of California during the spring, summer and fall, arriving at 700 to 1000 feet altitude at about April 1 to 14, and passing to higher altitudes to spend the nesting period, returning about September 15. During the winter I have never seen it in the foothills and it evidently winters in common with other *Tyrannidae* far south, but during the spring and fall migrations it is, in common with Wright's and Hammond's Flycatchers and the Swallows and Swifts, very frequently met with.

This summer I spent the season in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in Tuolumne and Mono counties and found that the Flycatchers breeding there were the Western Wood Pewee, Black Phœbe, Hammond's, Wright's and Olive-sided Flycatcher, of which the latter was by far the most numerous. Only one specimen of Traill's Flycatcher (*Epidonax trailli*) was met with, and that at 1,000 feet altitude.

By May 1 the Olive-sided Flycatchers had all passed up, so that on leaving our home in Amador county on May 15, none were seen until May 24 when at 3,500 feet altitude. From this point up to 7,000 feet they were very numerous and were generally in the tops of the tallest firs, so high as to be almost out of sight and far beyond "dust-shot" range. The Olive-sided Flycatcher has two notes as far as I could ascertain. The song, if it can be so called, is a very musical one of three notes, given with a firm, loud manner, very different from the soft, plaintive notes of the smaller Flycatchers. The other note is more generally heard, particularly when alarmed or when the nest is disturbed; it resembles nothing so much as the plaintive note of the Bluebird, repeated three times in quick succession, but with rather more emphasis.

On June 1, at 4,600 feet altitude, my brother noticed an Olive-sided Flycatcher flying in a suggestive manner about a slender fir, and concealing himself awaited developments. In a short time he saw the bird flying with a mouthful of nest material and by watching it located the nest. On June 20 the nest held three eggs, and the nest, eggs and parents were secured. The nest is composed of two-thirds green moss, weeds and grass fibers, and lined with brown grass roots, and was placed on a horizontal limb of a small white fir near the top. It was 55 feet from the ground. The eggs are a delicate cream-buff, spotted and wreathed with lilac-brown, purple and sienna; incubation slight.

The next nest was situated also in a white fir on a horizontal limb 40 feet up and on June 13, contained three slightly incubated eggs. It was admirably concealed, being composed of green moss and roots of the color of the fir and lined with brown roots. The third nest was found on June 20, and contained four eggs, incubation about one-third; the nest being composed of the same materials as the other two and situated in a white fir 40 feet from the ground."

The Northern Division meets November 7, at Rev. E. L. Hood's residence in Berkeley.

Brief Mention.

THE death of N. Raymond Reed, an enthusiastic Oologist and one of our subscribers, occurred at Richmond Mills, N. Y., on May 17.

THE excellent photograph of nest and eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak, from which our colored plate in last number was made, was kindly taken for us by Mr. C. Barlow of Santa Clara.

DR. J. A. ALLEN'S recent paper read before the Linnæan Society entitled "Notes of a visit to some of the Natural History Museums of Europe," shows that he gathered profit as well as pleasure during his trip abroad.

THE photograph from life of a Mountain Partridge, from which our half-tone heading for "Field Notes" was made, was presented to us by Mr. George G. Cantwell, who took the pretty snap-shot in Washington.

AUGUST KOCH, of Williamport, Pa., writes of California Murre's eggs, recently received as a premium with this magazine: "Am very much pleased with your selection, especially as to contrast. It is very interesting to note the great difference of shape and color of the eggs of this species."

THIS is from Mr. Rollo H. Beck, who took the rare set of eggs and nest of Western Evening Grosbeak, figured in colors in our last number: ' September number is superb! Figure of Mountain Quail takes me back to 7,500 feet altitude in El Dorado county, near snow line, where I saw original (?) of plate July 16. Hope to be there again some day among Grouse, Thrush, Solitaire, etc."

THE editor of THE NIDOLOGIST has a number of Petrel's eggs, collected on the Farallones. He is not sure at this writing as to the most of them, if they are the eggs of the newly discovered Petrel or Ashy's, which should be smaller than the eggs of the other. Later investigations may settle the vexed question, and meanwhile Western collectors are very properly allowing such eggs to lie quiescent in their collections.

TWO MORE ALBINOS.

I MAY ADD the following to your recently published list of albinos: Red-winged Blackbird, collected by Edwin Roslin, Greeley, Colo. This bird, a male, was pure white with the red and orange on the wings. Barn Swallow, collected by Charles Boyd, Greeley, Colo. This bird, a male, was pure white with pink eyes, collected just after leaving the nest.

GLENN S. WHITE.

Fort Morgan, Colo.

***

A NOTE FROM WISCONSIN.

THE PAST SEASON has been a remarkable one here for the abundance of American Redstarts. I found about 40 nests with sets ranging from 3 to 5 eggs, and from 2 to 5 young. In one day in a small woods found 16 nests. Red-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Wood Pewee and Md. Yellow Throats seemed more abundant than ever before, and Yellow Warblers less so. W. E. SNYDER.

Beaver Dam, Wis.

***

THREE ALBINO CROWS.

I HAVE in my possession four live Crows taken out of one nest. One is black and three are white, with a little buff tinge on wings; point of wings black; a few little black spots around bill, eyes dark; bill black and white, spotted; feet and legs, white.

Is there any record of three birds like these found in *one* nest? They are very healthy, but are in poor plumage, being kept in a small box before I bought them. They were taken this summer in Larre county, Oregon, near Cottage Grove. Both of the parents were black.

Portland, Oregon. F. A. STUHR.

***

A NEW MOUSE TRAP.

WHILE in front of the cage in Golden Gate Park which contains both squirrels and birds, I witnessed an unusual sight. I was observing the White-necked Raven in particular, when it came quickly toward me and lit on an old tree root. It looked into the nicks and crevices as though searching for something. Making a quick move it drew from a hole a mouse by the tail, which it had captured. Leaping to the ground, it placed its foot on the mouse to hold it, and pounding at its head with its beak, killed it. Then picking up the mouse it walked toward me, and stood with it a little while, as though conscious of the feat it had accomplished. It then flew into a corner, carrying the mouse in its bill and commenced to pull it in pieces and devour it with apparent relish.

GEO. H. WARD.

San Francisco, Cal.

***

CONNECTICUT NOTES.

I THINK THAT in consequence of the early and continued warm weather, the Northern-bound Warblers went by without any delay. At any rate, I have no recollect of a time when all kinds were so rare as they have been the last spring.

But I am more puzzled about the Redstarts and Parula Warblers. Some years ago they used to be abundant here in the migrations, and were common breeders. But they have been growing scarce, until now they seem to be almost extinct here. I have not been able to find one of either species during spring, though I have been in search of them several times in the places where I used to be sure of finding them during their migration.

I really hope they have not left for good, as they were great favorites of mine.

C. M. JONES.

Eastford, Conn.

***

ABUNDANCE OF BLUEBIRDS.

ON the 3rd of this month (Sept.) while waiting for a train at Mt. Marion, Ulster county, N. Y., I saw a flock of about two dozen Bluebirds flying about the station. Reports from various parts of the country seem to indicate that they are *not* so scarce as was formerly supposed. This is the first time, however, that I have seen any in this locality lately.

ALLAN A. BRADLEY.

ON LARGE RAILS' SETS.

I NOTICED Mr. B. H. Swales' description of a Rail's nest containing 9 eggs of King, 7 of Virginia and one of Sora. I have sometimes thought that Soras may economise labor by more than one pair laying in the nest, for these two reasons: first, as you remember, my brother mentioned finding one of their nests with two eggs, which contained four eggs the next day. Two eggs in one day is rather quick work for one little Sora, considering the comparitive size of the bird and egg.

Again, last May my brother found a Sora's nest with seven eggs ready to hatch, and the dog found three small Rails (newly hatched) within a few feet, and then flushed *four* adult Soras one after the other, that had been making a fuss all the time near by. They seemed to be in pairs, as two birds flew one way, and the other two went in another direction. No other nest could be found,—the dog was with him and hunted well,—so it occurred to him that both might belong to the same nest.

Other birds that lay large eggs, suc has Woodcocks and Sandpipers, have small sets; and birds like Grouse that lay small eggs have large sets; but Quail and Partridge lay enough for both, so I suppose nothing can be inferred from this.

CHARLES W. BOWLES.

Tacoma, Washington.

***

"ORNIS OF A CITY YARD."

SINCE THE publication of my list in THE NIDOLOGIST of March, 1896, I have made the following additions to it:

Redstart: May 13, 1896.—Spent most of the day feeding in the large locust tree, at times making short trips to some of the adjacent maples.

Great Blue Heron: August 2, 1896.—My eldest boy came running into the house, and told me there was "a great big bird with a long bill" in the next yard. Going in to see what it was, I found a Great Blue Heron on the ground, caught in a dense tangle of wisteria vines. I thought it must be hurt, so grabbing it by the wings and neck I carried it into my yard, and set it down on the ground. It immediately straightened up, then flew to the top of the fence, and from there it flopped off and out of sight.

As there are a number of large trees in the yard, I think the bird must have stopped there the night before, and while hunting for food on the ground became entangled in the vines. These bring the list up to twenty-five species, not including several Warblers which I could not properly identify. WM. H. FISHER.

Baltimore, Md.

***

AN ACCIDENT.

On July 1, 1896, at 12:30 P. M., a gentleman came to the store door, and pointing across the street, called my attention to an accident which he had been an eye-witness of. A Chimney Swift, in its swift, downward flight to enter the chimney, had struck the lightning-rod, and was impaled thereon. I hurried acrross, procured a ladder, and throwing off my shoes, ran up the steep roof, climbed to the top of the steep chimney, from which I was able to reach the unfortunate bird and carefully remove him. The lance-like point had entered the left breast fully one and a quarter inches. The wound bled profusely, and the poor little fellow seemed very faint; the sharp eyes lost their brightness, and he lay very still in my hand on the way to the store. His struggles when I attempted to examine the wound seemed to cause him pain and make him much weaker, so I did not examine it as carefully as I very much wished to. I placed him on a shelf in a dim corner of the store, where he remained perfectly quiet, allowing me to gently stroke his head during my frequent visits. At four o'clock he seemed to have partially regained his strength, and began to fly about the store, and was soon dashing against the windows, so I carried him out and allowed him to fly away. BENJAMIN HOAG.

Stephentown, New York.

***

HIGH NESTING OF TURKEY VULTURES.

AS THE Turkey Vulture nests ordinarily near or on the ground, the following notes concerning a nest placed some seventy feet high may be of interest.

The two fresh eggs now in my collection, which came from this nest, were taken May 6, 1891, by Mr. J. P. Feagler, of Waterloo, Dekalb Co., Indiana. They are in every way typical of the species and measure 2.82 by 1.95 and 2.90 by 1.86 inches. Mr. Feagler has very kindly sent me a complete

description of the nest, from which I gather the following.

The nesting of the Turkey Vulture is rare in his locality and he has found but three nests. Two of these, including the high one, were in a large wood, two miles southwest of Waterloo. The person who showed him the breeding place said that Vulture had nested in this same sycamore tree for a number of years, at least ten, he thought. The tree stands in about the center of the woods, and is one of the largest there, measuring seventy-two feet in height, and nearly fifteen feet in circumference. The top had broken off and the center of the tree had rotted out, leaving a hollow shell twelve feet high, and about thirty inches in diameter. The eggs were laid at the bottom of this hole on a bed composed of bits of wood, feathers and bones.

There seemed to be plenty of good nesting places near the ground, and as the birds had probably not been disturbed, there is no evident reason why they should have gone so high. In 1892 Mr. Feagler found the Vultures, "undoubtedly the same pair," nesting in another large sycamore a short distance from the old site. The tree was not so large nor so high as the first, but as it was too late in the season for eggs, he did not climb it. HENRY R. BUCK.

Wetherfield, Conn.

Correspondence.

AN OLD LETTER.

The following interesting letter was written by Raine to the editor in New York, *over a year ago.*

KEW BEACH, TORONTO, SEPT. 7, 1895.

MR. TAYLOR, *Sir:*—I expect Macoun will be home in two weeks, when I shall go to Ottawa and interview him about the Western Grebe's eggs. I shall expect him to explain why he wrote me saying all his eggs were collected in sets. When Macoun explains himself I shall give you a chance to vindicate me in THE NIDOLOGIST and if you still refuse I shall proceed with my case for libel when the Canadian courts open up in October. In your scramble for evidence against frauds you forgot to ask me to explain my side of the case. You evidently read with pleasure Macoun's letter in which he states he did not collect the eggs in sets, criminating me. Yours, etc.,

W. RAINE.

P. S.—If I come to New York I shall ask you to apologize to me; if you do I shall shake hands and forgive you, but if you don't make amends for the wrong you have done me you must take the consequences, for I am a devil when my blood is up. I am made of the stuff that has figured in duels more than once, and many a duel has been fought between editors and parties they have slandered.

RAINE'S CRANE CASE.

MR H. R. TAYLOR, *Dear Sir:*—Will you publish the following letter from Prof. Macoun so that the readers of THE NIDOLOGIST may see there is not a particle of truth in Mr. Shufeldt's charge, "That I mixed a lot of eggs together to look pretty and sell well and then made them into "sets" and sold them for either Grebes' eggs or for Cormorants' as the demand required." While in Ottawa two weeks ago Prof. Macoun showed me the copy of another letter he wrote last May to Dr. Murchison. This I copied from the Professor's letter book as follows:

MAY 4, 1896.

DR. MURCHISON, *My Dear Sir:*—Your letter came this morning and in answer I may say that I have never known anything against Mr. Raine's character in any sense whatever and many of our rare eggs have been obtained from him. Mr Higgins wrote me in January, 1895, and I answered his letter on the 20th of the same month and my answer is now before me. He asked about Cormorants' and Western Grebe's eggs and I took his letter as being one of simple inquiry only.

The following is what I said about the Grebe's eggs: "The Western Grebe's eggs were just gathered from the nests that showed fresh eggs so that they do not represent separate sets but just selections from a number of nests."

Now if Mr. Higgins had asked for an explanation of the above I would have said, "There were hundreds of eggs in the bull-rushes having from three to five eggs in each, and I just waded around and collected nearly one hundred of the freshest eggs, carried them to my hut and numbered them in sets"

On my return I exchanged many of these eggs with Mr. Raine and each set has my figures in ink. As far as I am aware Mr. Raine sold a number of these sets with my set number on them, and if there is any fraud in the matter I was the guilty party and not Mr. Raine. I intended no fraud and I am quite sure none was intended by Mr. Raine. Yours truly,

JOHN MACOUN.

Prof. Macoun says he considers there is no harm in making up sets when the eggs are immaculate, but when the eggs are marked and spotted he considers the eggs should be collected in original sets; of course others will differ from him in this matter, but as it was Prof. Macoun's first season egg collecting he is to be excused.

I might also add, Mr. Macoun did not tell me at the time I received the eggs of Western Grebe that they were made into sets by himself. As all the sets of Cormorants, Gulls, Ducks and other eggs I got from him were marked in sets, how was I to know that the Western Grebe's eggs were made up sets from second nests. I am forwarding short etchings of the data of some of the sets of Grebe, Cormorant, which I hope you will publish.

I suppose both Mr. Taylor and Mr. Shufeldt will now apologize for the great harm they have done me, but this will be poor compensation for the loss I have sustained, for since Mr. Taylor charged me with making up sets of Grebe from singles in the May number of THE NIDOLOGIST, 1895, my sales of birds' eggs and skins have decreased about one-half. While there was some excuse for Mr. Taylor jumping to the conclusion

I had made up sets from single eggs, there is no excuse for Mr. Shufeldt stating "I mixed those eggs together to look pretty and sell well, and then made them into "sets" and sold them for either Grebe's eggs or for Cormorants' eggs as the demand required." Mr. Shufeldt says it had been previously shown in THE NIDOLOGIST that I had done this, but this is a falsehood pure and simple, as nothing of the kind was ever alleged against me by Mr. Taylor. It would be advisable that when Mr. Shufeldt again makes a slanderous attack on any one he will get some proof together before he launches out on such contemptible work as slandering any individual. He has made a mountain out of a mole-hill, and he ought to feel ashamed of himself now that he finds there is not a particle of truth in this charge he made against me.

Now as to the charge "that I buy Crane's eggs from some European dealer and sell them as Little Brown Crane's eggs from N. W. Canada," this charge is as false as the preceding one. Mr. Shufeldt bases his charge on mere suspicion. He says my eggs are too small for Little Brown Crane's eggs, but I will prove that Oliver Spanner & Co., of Toronto, have lately received a set of Little Brown Crane's eggs that are smaller than my sets which Mr. Shufeldt condemns on account of their small size.

Three weeks ago Oliver Spanner & Co., sent a set of Little Brown Crane's eggs to the Smithsonion Institute. This set only measures 3.20 by 2.15 and 3 34 by 2.10 and was taken last May in Alberta by Mr. Cannon. This set was returned to Spanner & Co , with a letter stating the eggs were too small for the eggs of Little Brown Crane's, and that they were doubtless the same kind of eggs Raine was selling (*Grus virgo*) from Northwest Canada. What a slander this is to be sure. Both Mr. Spanner and Mr. Flemming are prepared to swear to an affidavit that this set came from Alberta and as they gave me the address of the farmer who collected the eggs, I wrote to him and a few days ago I got his reply, and Mr. Cannon says the Little Brown Crane has nested for several years near his farm and that next spring he will secure the bird with the eggs So the Smithsonian parties slander Oliver Spanner & Co when they say this set did not come from N. W. C. and both Mr. Spanner and Mr. Flemming are going to take action against a certain party in Washington for this slander.

Perhaps you will publish Mr. Rippon's letter which he allowed me to copy.

From Mr. Rippon's letter your readers will see that Mr. Shufeldt speaks false when he says he is safe in saying this set never came from Crescent Lake, Assiniboia, but was doubtless bought by me from some European dealer. Mr. Rippon is a gentleman well-known and respected in Toronto. It appears Mr. Shufeldt wrote to a dealer in Germany in order to make his attack on me as strong as possible. Mr. Hermann Rolle of Germany should remember if he sold me any Cranes' eggs. Surely he keeps an account of the eggs he sends out. I might say I only received one lot of eggs three years ago from Rolle and there was not a Crane's egg in the consignment and the eggs were such a poor lot, without data, that I will order no more from Mr. Rolle. *

Mr. Shufeldt says my measurements of the Crane's eggs don't correspond with his measurements. The slight difference may be accounted for by my not having an accurate instrument for measuring, mine being a home-made measure. I may have measured the set of Mr. Rippon's from Crescent Lake wrong, or it may be a printer's error, but the measurement's of the eggs does not amount to much; but the question is, did this set come from N. W. Canada or not? Mr. Rippon is prepared to swear it did and this is all I want to vindicate me.

I intend to get my collectors to swear to affidavits that they have sent me Little Brown Crane's eggs from N. W. Canada, and the following gentleman can furnish proof that this bird breeds in this region: Messrs. Rippon, Spanner, Flemming, Dippie, Cannon, Bain, Graham and myself; no less than eight persons, and is it likely all are mistaken?

Oliver Davie says the Little Brown Crane breeds commonly in Manitoba. Mr. W. L. Kells, the well-known Canadian Ornithologist, says in THE NIDOLOGIST for October, 1893, "The Little Brown Crane is common in various parts of Manitoba," Mr. Thompson says he is certain the Little Brown Crane nests in N. W. Canada, while Prof. Macoun informs me he caught half grown young ones some years ago at Fort Pelly. In Mr. Coues' "Birds of the North-west" he says he saw the young of this bird in North Dakota. The Little Brown Crane most decidedly breeds sparingly in Manitoba and becomes more common in Assiniboia, Alberta and northward to the Arctic Circle. Yours, etc., W. RAINE.

[* Raine has no right to speak injuriously here of Mr. Rolle's business as he is only remotely connected with the matter.]

FROM E. P. RIPPON

TORONTO, CAN., OCT. 7, 1896.

MR. TAYLOR, *Sir:*—Some friend has kindly sent me a copy of THE NIDOLOGIST for August, with an article in it marked "Raineism," which contains some grave charges, made by a Mr. R. Shufeldt, against Mr. W. Raine, the well known Oologist. In it Mr. Shufeldt charges Mr. Raine with having purchased some Crane's eggs, from European dealers and selling them in this country as Little Brown Crane's eggs. Now sir, in 1890, I engaged a collector to collect for me in Assiniboia, N. W. T. I received from him a large number of eggs, some rare and others very common. Among the lot I received sets of Little Brown Crane, which I showed to Mr. Raine. Mr. Raine immediately purchased two sets from me, at nearly list price, and a large number of other eggs also from the same locality. The two sets I sold Mr. Raine were collected at Crescent Lake, Assiniboia, N. W. T., where the *Little Brown Crane breeds.*

The data for the set of Little Brown Cranes from Crescent Lake, Assiniboia, which you reproduced an engraving of, I at once recognize as being in my own handwriting, so that Mr. Shufeldt is terribly mistaken, when he says the "data is in Raine's writing." I have not the slightest doubt but that the data belongs to one of the sets Mr. Raine bought from me in 1890, and which I received from Assiniboia as stated on the data. If you will send the set with data, I am prepared to swear that the set came from the locality stated; and if this is not sufficient, I will give the

name and address of the party who collected these sets of Little Brown Crane for me. And another season, I will get my collector to send me a specimen of the bird as well as the eggs to make doubly sure.

From the above you will see there is not the slightest truth in Mr. Shufeldt's statement, when he says, "I am perfectly safe in saying that the two eggs never were found in a nest made of rushes on a sandy knoll in the marsh, at Crescent Lake, Assiniboia, but were doubtless purchased at a very moderate sum from some European dealer by Mr. W. Raine, and sold for a good stiff price to Mr. W. A. Davidson, Detroit."

If you will kindly publish the above letter in your next issue, exonerating Mr. Raine from the charges made against him by Mr. Shufeldt, you will oblige me greatly. I remain, your truly,

EDRICK P. RIPPON,
Pres. Toronto Ento. Society.

RAINE'S LATEST.

TORONTO, NOV. 3, 1896

MR. TAYLOR, *Sir:*—I have not yet received THE NIDOLOGIST containing Prof. Macoun's and Mr. Rippon's letters vindicating me of the charges made against me by Shufeldt. If you do not intend publishing them let me know, as two other Oological magazines have promised to print these letters if you won't.

Some prominent Oologists have written me after reading the photos of letters I have sent out, and they say they will protest against your conduct if you don't give me fair play. I have now some forty letters from well known Oologists sympathizing with me, and some of these letters are not very complimentary to you. You will find you made a mistake to turn on me as you did without provocation.

You listened to Shufeldt and others who have always been bigoted against me, and you must admit that I have always proved that most of the charges are false, and if you have any sense of honor you will at once withdraw what you have said.

You must admit that you yourself personally know nothing against me, and you just repeat what a few others have said against me.

When you started up THE NID I helped you all I could, and do you honestly think you are justified in treating me you have done?

Yours, etc., W. RAINE.

RAINEISM:—A POINT IN EXPLANATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPT. 5, 1896.

Those who read in the August (1896) number of THE NIDOLOGIST my remarks upon Raineism may remember what I said in a foot-note in that communication in regard to Mr. Hermann Rolle of Berlin, Germany, selling eggs of *Grus virgo* to Mr. Walter Raine of Toronto, Canada. Now, when I wrote to Mr Rolle for the information I desired, Mr. Raine's name was not mentioned in my letter. I simply informed Mr. Rolle that I was paying some attention to the Nidology of the Cranes in this country, and asked him to whom he had sold eggs of *Grus virgo*, either in the United States or Canada. It came from him entirely unsolicited that he had sold them to W. Raine of Toronto, Canada. It is needless to say here that nothing in Mr. Rolle's reply to me in any way connects him with the fraudulent practices now known to have been carried on by the notorious Canadian above mentioned, and it is perfectly safe to say that he, Mr. Rolle, is in no way party to them.

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Recent Publications.

[Publications for review should be sent to DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

RICHMOND, CHAS. W.: "Description of a New Species of Ant Thrush from Nicaragua." Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum. Vol. XVIII. No. 1090, 1896. pp. 625-626. (From the Museum.)

RICHMOND, CHAS. W.: "Partial List of Birds Collected at Alta Mira, Mexico, by Mr. Frank B. Armstrong." Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum. Vol. XVIII. No. 1091, 1896. pp. 627-632. (From the Museum.)

ROBINSON, WIRT: "An Annotated List of Birds Observed on Margarita Island, and at Guanta and Laguayra, Venezuela." Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum. Vol XVIII. No. 1093, 1896. pp. 649-685. Pl. XXXIII. (From the Museum.)

HARTERT, ERNST: "Notes on Some Species of the Families Cypselidæ, Caprimulgidæ, and Podargidæ, with Remarks on Subspecific Forms and their Nomenclature." Ibis, (London) July 1896, Col. Plates VI and VII pp. 362-376. (From the author.)

While collecting in Nicaragua during the year 1892, Mr. Richmond of the Ornithological Department of the U. S. National Museum, obtained several specimens of an Ant Thrush of the genus *Phlegopsis*. These, when compared with Panama examples of *P. macleannani*, were found to be quite aberrant in coloration and proved conclusively the distinctness of the Nicaraguan bird, which Mr Richmond now proposes the name or *Phlegopsis saturata* for, and gives its technical description in the paper cited in the list above.

During the winter of 1894-95 Mr. Frank Armstrong collected birds at Alta Mira, a small town not far from Lampico, on the east coast of Mexico. From time to time, Mr. Armstrong sent representatives of this collection from the field of his labors to the U. S. National Museum for identification, and this partial list has been also published by Mr. Richmond for the information of those interested in Mexican Ornithology or the east coast. Although no new species are described, not a few interesting forms are recorded.

A contribution of yet more importance is the "Annotated List of Birds Observed on the Island of Margarita, and at Guanta and Laguarita, Venezuela," by Robinson. Lieutenant Wirt Robinson of the Fourth U. S. Artillery has already done some very excellent Ornithological work in South America and elsewhere, and the present list annotated as it is by Mr. Chas. W. Richmond, contains a great many interesting facts In the first place, this paper demonstrates above all else what may be accomplished along such lines in a remarkable short space of time, and without

much outlay. Mr. Robinson says that in sixteen days he collected "two hundred" skins, getting specimens of every land bird that he observed in a state of freedom except the two common Vultures and a Caracara Eagle. He also took not a few mammals, reptiles, plants, and insects.

When Mr. Richmond came to examine the birds received at the U. S. National Museum, there were found in the two hundred, no less than *eight new* species. Such work is worthy of emulation on the part of any active field Ornithologist. Doctor P. L. Sclater in "The Ibis" for January 1895, had invited the attention of explorers to the Island of Margarita, as a point, the Ornithology of which was but little known. Of this suggestion Lieut. Robinson took advantage, and during the winter of 1894-95 spent his brief vacation down there.

"The Island of Margarita lies about midway between Laguayra and Trinidad, and only some 17 miles distant from the nearest point of the Venezuelan coast," and of this island our author gives a fairly full description, illustrated by a good sketch-map. It is written in a very interesting vein, and in a way calculated to make the field naturalist say to himself, "I believe I'll go down for a few weeks and take a good look at the place." So far as this collection goes to show, "the arifauna of Margarita is wholly derived from Venezuela. No purely West Indian forms are present. In a very few cases the occurrence of a species in Venezuela is yet unproven, but its presence in Margarita is considered pretty good evidence of its inhabiting the mainland." The literature of Margarita is very meagre, and it will most assuredly repay another and longer visit. Of the new species of birds the following are noted: 1, Margaritan Green Heron, *Butorides robinsoni;* 2, Margaritan Crested Quail, *Eupsychortyx pallidus;* 3, Margaritan Dove, *Leptotila insularis;* 4, Ridgway's Scaled Dove, *Scardafella ridgwayi;* 5, Short-winged Burrowing Owl, *Speotyto brachyptera;* 6, Margaritan Tree Creeper, *Dendroplex longirostris;* 6, Margaritan Grackle, *Quiscalus insularis;* 8, Gray-footed Hylophilus, *Hylophilus griseipes.*

In exploring a little-known locality, such as the Island of Margarita, before starting out, the naturalist should, if possible, carefully study a collection of all the fauna thus far taken there, and this he should do, *pari passu* with a thorough reading of all the available literature that touches upon the field of his operations. An immense amount of time is thus gained, and he is pre-armed to collect and observe intelligently; so that if birds be what he is after, he will be able in the brush and forest, to distinguish pretty closely among common forms and those little-known or as yet undescribed. Moreover, no matter what the state of the plumages may be, either breeding or in the moult, he should take both sexes and young in as large series as possible, and make as full field-notes on habits, food, etc., as the time will admit. In collecting in the tropice, there is a great temptation on the part of young and unprepared collectors to spend the best of their time in making skins of the most brilliantly feathered forms. Now, as a rule these are the very ones that are best known to science, and so when these collections come to the museums for identification, we too often find only nice series of the known species, with but a meagre sprinkling of the "little fellows with modest plumage." These last are now the kind that most frequently furnish the new species, or even families or genera. Were I collecting in the forests of South America to-day, I am inclined to think, I would let most of the "gaudy chaps" go by, and devote my time and attention to the obscure and most inconspicuous little fellows of the bush and fens. Of course, Lieut. Robinson took everything that came in his way, for the reason that the problem presented to him was, is the fauna of Margarita derived from Venezuela, or is it largely an insulated one. That the former is the case, his expeditions and efficient work abundantly proved.

R. W. S.

Mr. Ernst Hartert of the Tring Museum, Tring, England, has in the July "Ibis" (1896) a very excellent paper on the Swifts, Goatsuckers, and the allies of the latter, the *Podargidæ*. It is illustrated by fine colored plates of *Ægotheles insignis* and *Æ. affinis*. both very interesting forms of caprimulgine birds. Especially is *Æ. insignis* a note-worthy type, with its strong feet and claws; subfacial discs; stoutish beak; and feathers in either scapular region; all reminding one of the Owls. Mr. Hartert devotes several pages of his memoir to the discussion of the advantages of the trinominal system of nomenclature, and the recognition of subspecies, in Ornithology. It is very encouraging to hear a voice coming out from the very heart of Her Majesty's kingdom, uttering such sentiments as the following: "As regards my treatment of closely allied forms, it may be known to my colleagues that I am a strong advocate of the study of *subspecies* not because I like them, but because I see there is something more than species only. This is one of the revelations brought home to Zoologists by Darwin and his school, and unless we close our eyes and ears against the facts before us, we must not merely admit that sharply separated species do not alone exist, but we must also acknowledge this fact in our systematic treatment of such forms, and recognize it in our nomenclature, or both our work and its nomenclature will be inadequate and insufficient." To Americans, who have used trinomials for a dozen years or more, these words, coming at so late a date as 1896, will indeed sound odd and old, but better late than never. We cannot follow Mr. Hartert in all that he has given us upon this now well tested system here, but we can say that there will never arise any necessity for writing such subspecies (as he seems to fear) as *Perdix perdix perdix*, nor can we quite agree with him in his proposed method of indicating the type species of any particular genus. Space will by no means admit of my discussing this question here as fully as I should like to, and we can but congratulate Mr. Hartert upon having arrived in his conclusions at such a sound opinion as the one he expresses in the following words: "Therefore we must agree that the scientific systematic treatment of living animals demands the recognition of subspecies, if systematic zoology is to be more than a pastime, and if it is to take the important place in science which it ought to hold." (pp. 366.)

In speaking of the Common Swift of Europe (*Micropus apus* [*Cypselus apus, auctt. mult.*]), he says, "Several of my friends assure me that they never heard of this bird having more than two eggs in a clutch." Perhaps those people who so constantly suggest that the Common Swift lays but "two white eggs to the clutch," are of the stock who believe that that species is in reality only some kind of a metamorphosed Hummingbird, with an anatomical structure inconveniently like a Swallow. Our author also gives us a good deal of interesting matter about various kinds of Goatsuckers, of both a morphological as well as of a systematic nature, and, upon the whole, this useful contribution is strongly commended to students of Ornithology at large, coming as it does from the pen of one of the soundest writers upon the subject.—R. W. S.

Published and Edited by HENRY R. TAYLOR

DR. SHUFELDT Smithsonian Institution, Associate.

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & Co., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

"Giving the Devil his Due" WALTER RAINE gives us some facts as to those "made up" sets of Grebe's eggs. It seems that Macoun made up the sets and R. gladly gives him the credit for it.

Raine explains that the instruments he used to measure the set of labelled Little Brown Cranes' from Crescent Lake were home-made, or that it may be on account of a typographical error that these eggs were described in his book as measuring "3.60x2.30 and 3 64x3.32," whereas they show under the calipers only 3.32x2.04 and 3.26x2.00. It is quite evident that Raine needs a new pair of calipers badly.

It is unfortunate for Mr. Raine that the Smithsonian Institution, as we gather from his letter herein published, does not agree with him that these small eggs are those of the Little Brown Crane. We have to regret, also, that in the voluminous correspondence received lately from him he makes no reference to the so-called eggs of the Long-billed Curlew taken by himself and his collectors in England—where the birds do not breed—photographic copies of the data-labels of which, in his handwriting, we published in the August number. We are sorry to note, also, that no attempt is made to explain how Mr. Raine came to sell a set of eggs of the American Scoter to Mr. E. B. Schrage, accompanied by data-label in his handwriting, stating that they were taken on the southwest coast of Greenland on June 19, 1889, whereas it is unknown to naturalists up to the present date that the American Scoter ever bred in Greenland, and in Mr. Andreas T. Hagerup's work, "The Birds of Greenland," published in Boston in 1891, this species of Duck is not given as occurring there.

While publishing recent Raine correspondence we give herewith also, a letter from Raine, written to the editor of THE NIDOLOGIST some time ago, when this journal was published in New York, in which he made belligerent overtures, threatening a duel. We were in that city for some months afterward, but neither Raine nor his seconds favored us with a call. Perhaps the center of civilization was a poor ground for such an unlawful recourse. However, we are still on the earth, and if Mr. Raine still cherishes any such rash plan, which we doubt, the editor will take pleasure in accepting; provided, of course, that he has the choice of weapons—in which case we shall choose eggs of *Grus virgo* at ten paces.

Raine freely admits in his letter that he is "a devil," on occasions, and as it is a common maxim that we should "give the devil his due," we candidly affirm that in any matter of doubt, he should be given the benefit of it.

* * *

Our Color Work Succeeds THIS IS confessedly a "rush" number, and Raine correspondence crowds out much that we have on hand in interesting articles and illustrations. However, we got a colored plate in September issue which any magazine would have been proud to publish, and we have another treat in prospect for our readers in another colored plate, true to life, of the head of a California Vulture, which we believe has never been figured in color and will be of great use in taxidermy, besides giving an excellent idea of the greatest bird of flight in the world, and which is supposed to be nearing extinction. The drawing from which the painting was made was executed by Mr. Walter E. Bryant from studies of a freshly killed bird.

* * *

Will be a Beauty THE illustrated souvenir, "Story of the Farallones," promises to be a great success. We extend our offer 30 days to give all a last chance to participate in it. Read the opinions published from among the many who have promptly remitted the *low price*. "Get in"—and include your friends,— before we raise it, as we shall do in next number, to 50 cents per copy. We mean every word we said in our announcement. Take a part in the enterprise, and at once. We will appreciate it, and you will have good cause to be glad you did not let the opportunity slip. Remit 20 cents each for from one to three copies, *now*.

* * *

Are They Sportsmen? WE READ the following in a Sonoma (California) paper:

> The Mira Monte Club will have a club hunt at their preserves in Sonoma county to-day. Only small game will be sought after, including hawks, bluejays and yellow hammers. The club consists of about a dozen members, and besides these there will be numerous guests. All who engage in the sport will be divided into two sides, and points will be scored for the various animals or birds killed.
>
> The losing side will bear the expense of an elaborate banquet at the club-house to-morrow. Leather medals will be provided for the two persons scoring lowest.

We believe that a large leather medal should be provided for this sportsmen (?) club, if one of their alleged sports is to slaughter small birds, unfit for food, as well as Hawks, the best friends of the agriculturalist.

* * *

Beats the Alameda Cranes A "WORLD" special from Crockton, Minn., gravely describes an attack by "Giant Cranes," said to be 7 feet 8 inches high, and with wings measuring 8 feet 4 inches.

According to the truthful narrator Henry James, of Black Duck, was attacked by an immense rookery of "Blue Cranes," his dog being killed in the fight:

James, pursued by scores of the birds was struck in the back of the neck by the beak of the Cranes and knocked down. The blood spurted from a wound like that made by a sharp knife. That blow was probably all that saved James from instant death. The Cranes could fight to advantage only from the air, and as James recovered his wits he intuitively reached for his gun and opened fire on the birds, keeping it up as long as the supply of cartridges lasted.

Various Remarks

L. L. TOWER of Ionia, Mich., spent the past summer collecting at Cooke Inlet, Alaska.

J. W. MAILLIARD took sets of eggs of the Western Robin in Marin county, Cal., this year.

I THINK that last plate of the Grosbeak's eggs and nest is simply exquisite. RALPH ARNOLD.

COLORED PLATE, nest Western Evening Grosbeak, is a beauty. WM. L. KELLS.

JAMES B. NEAL of Easton, Pa., appreciates THE NID, and writes "keep it going, as it is the best magazine of the kind out."

THE colored plate in the last NIDOLOGIST is deserving of the highest praise.
DR. GUY C. RICH.

THE "premium plates" received yesterday, and they are beauties, THE NID is great.
VERDI BURTCH.

I HAVE no doubt the "Souvenir" will be a great success. September NID is great.
H. WARD CARRIGER.

THAT colored plate is fine. I've had it framed and hung up in my Oological room.
C. F. STONE.

I ENCLOSE one dollar for your magazine. Very cheap considering its excellence.
L. BELDING.

MR. E. A. MCILHENNY of Louisiana, has arranged to go for a two years' collecting trip in Alaska, leaving San Francisco, March 1, next.

YOUR proposition to publish the "Story of the Farallones" ought to be appreciated by every Oologist. M. T. CLECKLEY, M. D.

ENCLOSED find 60 cents for three copies of the illustrated "Souvenir" when out. I wish you success. VIRGINIUS H. CHASE.

ENCLOSED amount for the interesting "Souvenir" you offer. Am sure it will be a success with such able promoters. G. N. UPHAM.

ENCLOSED please find 20 cents for your prospective "Souvenir." I am very much pleased with the idea. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

I WANT the "Story of the Farallones" as I have confidence enough in the men behind it to be sure of a rare treat. J. MERTON SWAIN.

THE United States National Museum has sustained a deep loss in the recent death of its efficient Curator, Prof. G. Brown Goode.

HENRY F. SCHONBORN, a well known Ornithologist and earnest friend of this journal, died recently at his home in Washington, D. C.

I HAVE for a long time been wanting some one to write a book on the Farallone Islands, and was very glad to see your proposition.
EMMET ROBERTSON.

SOON WILL BE.—Please find 20 cents for "Story of the Islands." I am not a subscriber to THE NID yet, but soon will be.
GLEN RINKER, Unionville, Mo.

I ENCLOSE 20 cents to help along the proposition to give us the bird history of the Farallone Islands. Judging from the THE NID it is bound to be a success. GEO. A. WARD.

THE colored plate of the nest and eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak is the finest thing in that line which I have ever seen. That plate alone is worth the price of a year's subscription.
BENJAMIN HOAG

I ADMIRE your courage in publishing THE NIDOLOGIST. You will do a great deal of good with it, by setting men to thinking, but you will never get rich out of it. If you do, it will be contrary to my experience. With best wishes for your welfare, JOS. M. WADE.

ONE OF Frank R. Stockton's heroine's newly found admirers "possessed the present qualification which in her eyes raised him above all other young men in the world: he was there." So with THE NIDOLOGIST; although late at times—it *does* get out.

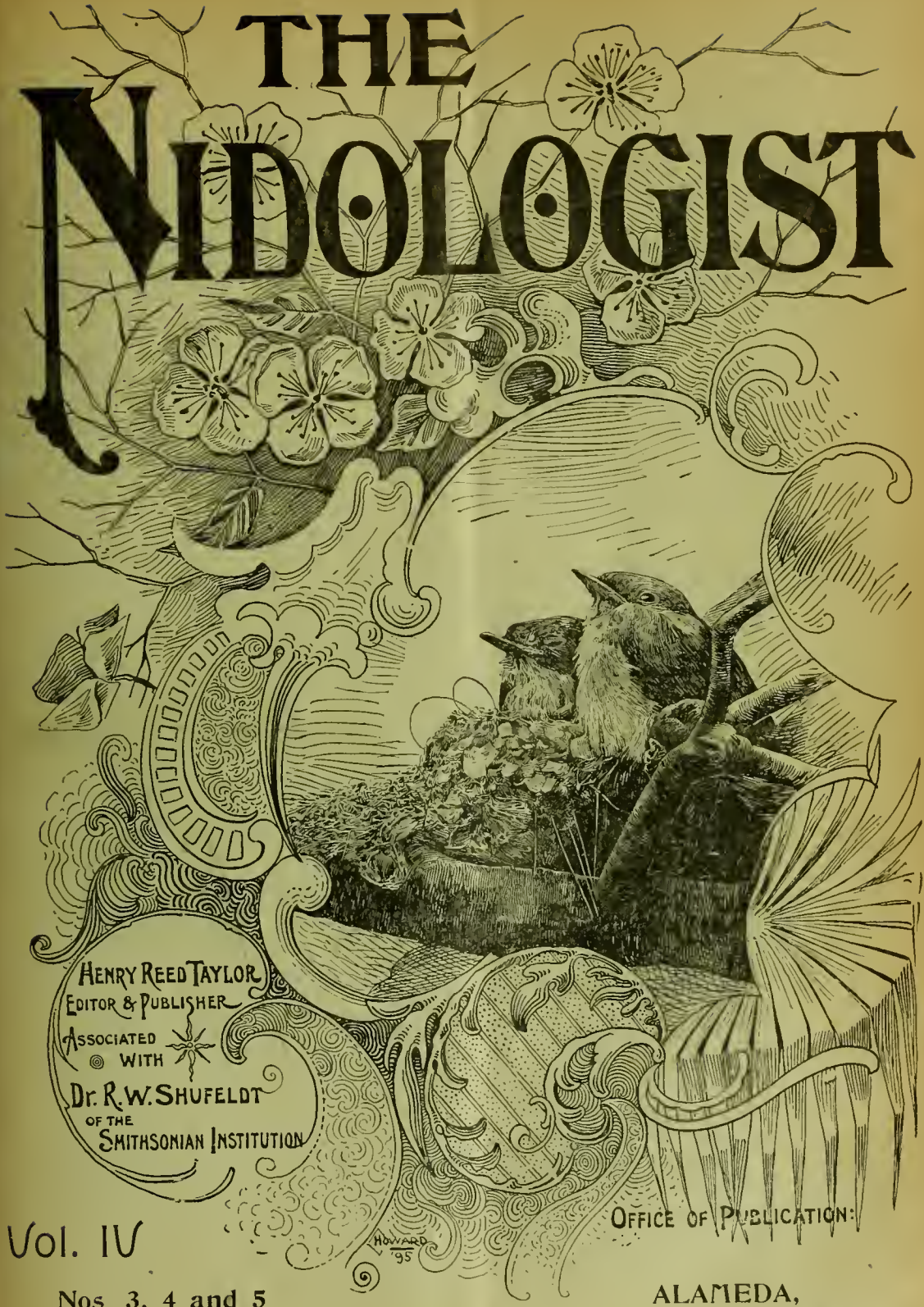
I DESIRE very much to express my appreciation of your paper, THE NIDOLOGIST, and especially of the illustrations. Your supplement of last issue is superb. One of the prettiest pictures in the Oological line I have ever seen.
WM. L. FINLEY.

FIND postal money order for 20 cents enclosed, for which please send when ready your "Story of the Farallone Islands." Should it prove to be of as high a degree of excellence as THE NIDOLOGIST, I have no doubt but that it will meet with a great sale. ELLISON ORR.

MR. C. O PERKINS noticed this year a peculiar trait of the Valley Quail in California. A farmer told him of a nest with 25 eggs, which were being incubated by both male and female. He observed the nest for some time from behind a stone wall and saw both the birds covering the large set. He is positive they were not two females.

MR. A. W. ANTHONY and party have recently returned from a cruise to the islands of Lower California, where he took birds, eggs and young of the almost unknown species, *O. melania*, *O. socorroensis* and *H. microsoma*. The latter have been described twenty-five years, he writes, and but three are in collections, and but two of the Socorro Petrel and ten of the Black, besides those he took. The Socorro is not yet on our list, although taken a year ago by Mr. Anthony and recorded in the *Auk*.

THE NIDOLOGIST



HENRY REED TAYLOR
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
ASSOCIATED WITH
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION:
ALAMEDA,
CALIFORNIA

VOL. IV

Nos. 3, 4 and 5

NOV., DEC., JAN., 1896-97

E. A. McILHENNY

Ornithologist and Oologist

AND

GENERAL COLLECTOR OF NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS

Avery's Island, Iberia Parish, La.

*

LOOK, OOLOGISTS! LOOK AT THIS

PRICE LIST

Of Southern Birds' Eggs in Fine Original Sets with Careful Data

TRANSPORTATION MUST BE PAID BY PURCHASER ON ALL ORDERS UNDER FIVE DOLLARS

	per set
Laughing Gull, 25 sets of 3 eggs @	$ 12
Foster's Tim, 25 sets of 3 eggs @	12
Black Skimmer, 25 sets of 4 eggs @	15
Anhinga, 25 sets of four eggs @	35
Mexican Cormorant, 25 sets of 4 eggs @	75
Least Bittern, 25 sets of 5 eggs @	20
Snowy Heron, 25 sets of 4 eggs @	35
La. Heron, 25 sets of 4 eggs @	15
Little Blue Heron, 25 sets of 5 eggs @	20
Green Heron, 25 sets of 5 eggs @	20
Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 20 sets of 6 eggs @	50
American Egret, 10 sets of 4 eggs @	75
Reddish Egret, 25 sets of 4 eggs @	30
La. Clapper Rail. 5 sets of 10 eggs @	3 00
King Rail, 3 sets of 10 eggs @	90
Purple Gallinule, 5 sets of 9 eggs @	75
Kildeer, 10 sets of 4 eggs @	35
Fla. Bobwhite, 2 sets of 12 eggs @	1 10
Texan Bobwhite, 5 sets of 11 eggs @	1 00
White-winged Dove, 10 sets of 2 eggs @	15
Mex. Ground Dove, 10 sets of 2 eggs @	25
Ground Dove, 10 sets of 2 egg @	30
Mourning Dove, 20 sets of 2 eggs @	05
Black Vulture, 20 sets of 2 egg @	60
Turkey Vulture, 11 sets of 2 eggs @	60
Harris' Hawk, 10 sets of 3 eggs @	50
White-tailed Hawk, 10 sets of 3 eggs @	60
Western Nighthawk, 10 sets of 2 eggs @	25

	per set
Fla. Nighthawk 8 sets of 2 eggs @	$ 40
Baird's Woodpecker 4 sets of 6 eggs @	1 35
Golden-fronted Woodpecker, 10 sets of 4 eggs @	50
Central America Pileated Woodpecker, 2 of 5 @	1 25
Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3 sets of 5 eggs @	50
Mex. Crested Flycatcher, 10 sets of 4 eggs @	50
Crested Flycatcher, 20 sets of four eggs @	40
Kingbird, 50 sets of 4 eggs @	10
Green Jay, 3 sets of 8 eggs @	60
Brown Jay, 5 sets of 4 eggs @	60
Lessons Oriole, 5 sets of 5 egg @	80
Orchard Oriole, 50 sets of 5 eggs @	10
Great-tailed Grackle, 20 sets of 3 eggs @	15
Boat-tailed Grackle, 50 sets of 3 eggs @	12
Fla. Grackle, 6 sets of 6 eggs @	30
Dusky Seaside Sparrow, 5 sets of 4 eggs @	2 00
Texan Seaside Sparrow, 3 sets of 4 eggs @	2 00
Cardinal, 20 sets of 3 eggs @	10
Gray-tailed Cardinal, 6 sets of 4 eggs @	75
Abert's Towhee, 10 sets of 3 eggs @	50
Sennett's Thrasher, 10 sets of 4 eggs @	20
Short-tailed Wren, 5 sets of 4 eggs @	75
Mockingbird, 20 sets of 4 eggs @	10
Bluebird, 20 sets of 4 eggs @	15
Mexican Jacana, 10 sets of 5 eggs @	4 00
Chachalaca, 10 sets of 3 eggs @	40
Rose-throated Becard, 10 sets of 4 eggs @	1 00

I have these eggs in fine series of sets, they are finely prepared, and have good scientific data. *Your* order is solicited, and will be filled to your satisfaction. Here is a chance for Oologists to buy a lot of sets for trading at such prices that there will be a profit in it for you. This is the way to get a collection. I am selling at these prices only because I leave for Alaska in the spring and wish to close out before I go.

THE NIDOLOGIST

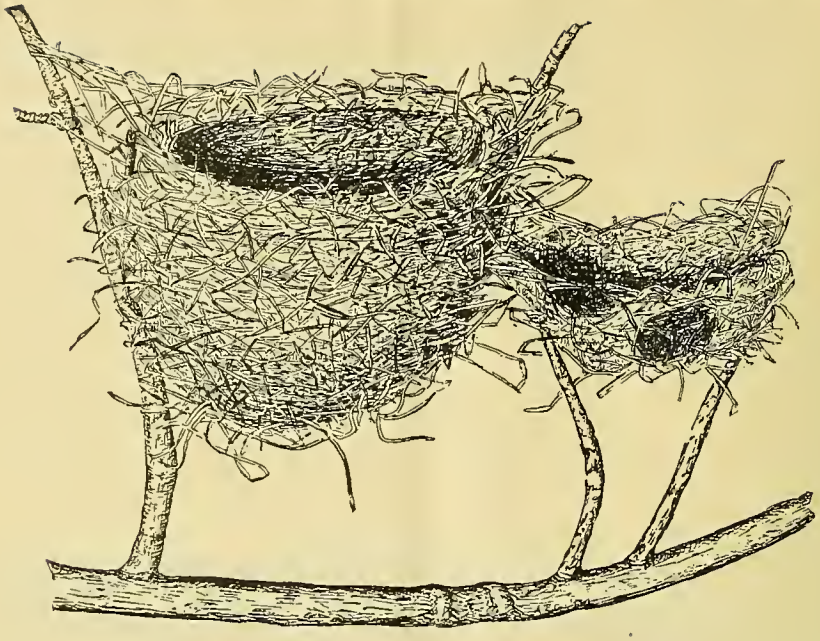
Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. IV. Nos. 3, 4, 5 ALAMEDA, CAL., JANUARY, 1897 $1.00 PER YEAR

Nest and Eggs of the Arkansas Goldfinch

The nest and eggs of the Arkansas Goldfinch, *in situ*, here figured natural size, is from a photograph kindly sent to THE NIDOLOGIST by Mr. H. W. Nash, who took it near Pueblo, Colorado. It shows very well how valuable an aid a good camera is in good hands.



DOUBLE NEST OF THE ORCHARD ORIOLE

Rare and Curious Nests.

IN No. 1 of "The Museum," (1885), a paper published at one time in Philadelphia, appeared an interesting article on "Rare and Curious Birds' Nests," by Thomas G. Gentry. Doubtless few, if any, of our readers have read the article, and we here reproduce the illustrations for their benefit and quote from the text.

From time immemorial, it has been the current popular belief that birds of the same species never varied their style of architecture, but constructed the same form of nest, and out of the same material, as their remotest progenitors did, instinct being the principle by which they were guided. This opinion, though long since exploded by science, is still, I am sorry to say, entertained by those who should know better. An examination of nests from different and widely separated localities affords evidence sufficiant to convince the most skeptical of persons of its erroneousness. The most marked differences will be noticeable in the composing materials, as his will be found to vary with the environment, and in a wider degree in the nests of some, than in those of other species. Even the configuration, which is less prone to change, is often influenced by the circumstances of position and latitude.

Among the Thrushes, the Robin is the most addicted to variation, and this is not wholly confined to the constituents of his usually mud-plastered domicile, but is frequently to be observed in the arrangement thereof, and in the contour and position as well. In southern New Jersey, where low marshy woods abound on the outskirts of towns and villages, Robins build nests which contrast most markedly with what we are accustomed to see in more northern localities. The great masses of a grayish-green fibrous lichen which hang from tree and shrub in those sylvan marshes, are freely utilized by them, and its very nature to mat, when pressed together, precludes the necessity of using mud.

A remarkable nest of the Orchard Oriole was found upon a few small branches of a maple, at an elevation of nearly thirty feet from the ground. It was a double affair, composed of long, flexible grasses, and securely fastened to its support. The larger nest is inversely sub-conical, while the smaller, which is joined to the other by ribbons of grass, is somewhat similarly shaped, but less compact in structure. A circular opening, one inch in diameter, is a noticeable feature of the latter. That this additional structure served some purpose cannot be questioned. I am inclined to think that

it was constructed with the view of accommodating either parent while the other was sitting. The aperture alluded to served, doubtless, for the head of the non sitting bird, who, from this position, looking away from the main building, could, like a sentry upon an outpost, detect with comparative ease and readiness the approach of enemies. The illustration gives a fair idea of the nest in its prominent details.

In Eastern Pennsylvania rare, curious nests of Acadian Flycatcher's are often found. Such a one was discovered by the writer in June, 1882. It was placed upon the forked branch of a small red oak. The dried blossoms of the hickory, which are the sole materials of the ordinary structure in this latitude, were here altogether wanting. In lieu thereof, long fibres of the inner bark of some herbaceous plant were substituted. These were compactly modeled into a shallow, saucer-like cavity, from which depended a gradually sloping train of the same substance, for nearly twelve inches.

A pair of Kingbirds once took a fancy to an old apple-tree that stood a few yards from the writer's Germantown home. It

NEST OF ACADIAN FLYCATCHER

was certainly not a place of quiet and retirement. Scores of noisy children daily resorted to its shelter for coolness and pastime, but the birds were not uneasy. They had fixed their minds upon the spot, and build they did. The nest was placed upon a forked branch just out of the reach of the urchins. It was a curious affair. Roots of various kinds constituted the bulk of the fabric; but, as its completion was near at hand, the opportune discovery of a bunch of carpet rags was hailed with delight, and they were promptly adjusted to the outside, a number of ends being allowed to depend from the margin and bottom, for a distance of fourteen inches, whether for ornament or protection, I cannot say, but I am half inclined to believe that the latter was the object uppermost in the minds of the builders, for, looking from below at the nest, it seemed merely a mass of rags that had been thrown into the crotch and become lodged.

The common Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the eastern half of the United States is known to make a nest which is not easily imitated by any other species. Nests have been found by the writer, formed of the yellowish wool of the undeveloped fronds of the fern, and others of red shoddy—the refuse of some woolen factory—instead of the soft down of the seeds of the poplar. But the most remarkable structure of all was found in Germantown, in the summer of 1883. It was saddled upon the horizontal bough of a white oak, and is peculiar from the nature of the inner fabric. This is a brown wooly substance plucked from a species of fungus, possibly a *sphaeria*, which for softness and pliability is admirably suited for nest-building. Nothing of the kind, I think, has ever before been recorded.

Habits of Anna's Hummingbird.

BY A. W. ANTHONY.

SOMETIME about April 1, an Anna's Hummingbird began her nest in a cypress in front of my residence in San Diego. I could not be sure as to the exact date of beginning, but on the 6th, when I first noticed the bird at work, there was nothing but a little platform the size of a silver twenty-five cent piece, fastened to the upper side of a twig which nearly overhung the front walk, and was but just high enough to escape being struck by anyone passing below.

From an upper window I could look down upon the growth of the downy cup, and watch the diminutive builder from a distance of but a few feet, as she brought almost imperceptible quantities of of cotton and tucked them into the sides and rim of

the prospective nest. In working the material into the structure she always used her body as a form around which to build, tucking the cottony substance into the side and pushing it with her breast, frequently turning about to see if it were the right size all around.

On April 12, when the nest was apparently but half finished, and little better than a platform with a raised rim, I was surprised to see an egg, which the mother carefully guarded as she buzzed about, still bringing nesting material.

The following morning the second egg was added, and on one or two occasions the male made his appearance, and tried, seemingly, to coax the female to leave the nest, even making several attempts to push her from the eggs when other means failed. He soon became discouraged, however, and departed for parts unknown, leaving his demure little spouse to care for the eggs and complete the half finished nest.

For several days incubation progressed just about two minutes at a time. The Hummer, after arriving with material and building it into the slowly raising rim, would incubate for two minutes, seldom more than a few seconds more or less, before leaving for another consignment.

Her periods of absence were of almost exactly the same duration. It was not until incubation was more than half complete that the nest was finally finished, but unadorned by the usual bits of lichen. These were added from day to day until May 1, when the first egg hatched, either eighteen or nineteen days after incubation began. Owing to the unsettled actions of the bird on the 12th and 13th of April I could not satisfy myself as to when incubation really began.

The second egg never hatched, and after the nest was abandoned the broken shell was found buried in the bottom of the nest.

The diminutive waif on the cypress twig seemed to require constant feeding and during its brief residence in the nest kept the poor little mother so busy that I am at a loss to know how she would have cared for two.

The feeding was entirely by regurgitation, and at times it seemed as if the mother had, in desperation, decided to free herself from so much responsibility, for after alighting on the rim of the nest she would aim a vicious stab at the wide open mouth of her offspring and drive her long needle-like bill so deep that I half expected to see it appear through the bottom of the nest.

Sometimes after feeding the chick the mother would settle herself into the nest, and after getting her young hopeful well tucked away under her feathers, would reach down under her breast and administer another ration to the ever hungry mite.

What the food consisted of I am unable to state. It would have been necessary to have sacrificed the life of the nestling to determine, and I could not bring myself to do that.

On the night of the 12th, when the youngster was not quite two weeks old, I discovered that it was spending the night alone, and climbing up to the nest I touched it gently on the back, whereupon it raised its head and squeaked out an appeal for lunch, repeating the call after I reached the ground. About this time its food underwent a change, I think, for the parent was seen searching the trunks of the cypress trees for minute insects which she picked out of the crevices of the bark, whereas, up to that time the food had been brought from a distance.

Often after searching the tree trunks for several minutes, and gleaning a few spiders from their webs in the hedge, I saw her alight on the telephone wire over the street and sit motionless for five minutes before coming to feed the nestling. It would be interesting to know if it is necessary for the food to undergo a slight change in her stomach before being given to the young.

On the 14th, although its feathers were but half grown, the little *Calypte* began to be very restless, often turning about in the nest, preening its stumps of what promised to be feathers, and waving its budding wings.

I often investigated the nest at night, but after the 12th never found the mother, nor did she spend the night in the same tree, so far as I could ascertain, at any rate. Shaking the tree, which was small, failed to dislodge her if she were there.

The young bird grew more and more restless from day to day, sometimes standing on the rim of the nest and waving its wings as if contemplating instant departure.

It was not till the morning of May 19, however, that he really left, and without even waiting to say good-bye. When I looked at the nest at 7 o'clock in the morning it was empty, and upon going out to

the tree I encountered the mother, which showed more concern than usual, leading me to believe that the young bird was still in the vicinity, but I was unable to find it, nor did I ever see it again.

From data at my command I am satisfied that this species, at least, often lays its eggs when the nest is but half completed, leaving the ornaments of lichen, etc., until the eggs are nearly hatched.

San Diego, Cal.

An Outing with the Boys.

BY P. M. SILLOWAY.

I always enjoy an outing with the boys, because somehow I can learn facts then which I can not obtain otherwise. The boys can find so many more rare specimens that I can chance upon, and their knowledge of the birds is so different from the formal facts I have derived from other sources and my own experiences, that it is refreshing to spend a day with the boys in rambling along the hedges and through the forest and meadows. Isn't it strange that boys who do not know anything about the value of eggs can so frequently find specimens for which we older fellows search long and unsuccessfully? This spring a boy brought to me three eggs of the Long-eared Owl, roughly blown through chipped holes in the side, for identification, and told me that he found a nest of six eggs in an old Crow's nest near town. He and a friend had divided the set, but his friend had broken one of the three which fell to him in the distribution of the spoils. Now I have never found a nest of the Long-eared Owl, and so with a companion I set ought the next evening for the grove in which the nest was found, but after climbing tree after tree we found not even a Crow's egg, and it was apparent that the guileless boys had accidently stumbled upon the only nest of the Owl in the first tree they climbed.

It is safe to say that I have peeped into hundreds of nests of the Brown Thrasher without spying an egg of the Cowbird, but this spring two sets of eggs of the Brown Thrasher were brought to me by the boys, who desired me to identify the peculiar egg among the well-known products of the Thrasher, and I was forced to recognize the fact that luck is ever on the side of the small boy. And after I tramped over a meadow until I thought I had explored every foot of its grassy tufts, it was disgusting to me to have the boys bring to me two sets of Grashopper Sparrow of five each, and an incomplete set of six eggs of the Prairie Chicken, taken from the same meadow.

The outing with the boys to which I refer in this article was on a bright and tempting May day. We started out with the intention of spending the day at a spring in the woods about three miles from town, and soon we were on the road in the rural districts. The boys seemed anxious to form collections of eggs for themselves, and though they had no boxes or cotton, they collected one or two eggs from every nest of the Brown Thrasher found. It appeared that they were not collecting sets, but only choice singles, perhaps with the idea of forming choice sets of these choice singles, as I have heard that more advanced collectors frequently have done with some degree of temporary success. Every bird that flitted from the hedge or started up from the ground was a signal for a rush to find the nest, and some fine series of singles of the Brown Thrasher would have been formed if the boys were not forced to carry the eggs in their hands, and thus most of the specimens taken were broken.

Noticing a low, recently trimmed hedge bordering a residence and orchard along the road, it occured to me that here was a favorable place to find a nest of the Chipping Sparrow, of which I had seen numbers in every similar piece of hedge in my early years, but which I have not chanced upon for a number of years, doubtless owing to the illbred bullying of this domestic species by the ubiquitous English Sparrow. Soon the boys called my attention to a nest, and sure enough, there was the little nest of woven horse hair, but its only contents was a token of the Cowbird, and the owners of the tenement had rightly refused to assume the care thus imposed and had doubtless constructed another home for themselves. Now I walk along the long hedge, though the boys are ahead of me chasing out Thrashers and Sparrows. They are too intent on their big game to notice the second little nest, and awaiting me about sixty yards farther on I find the little nest of hair set in a crotch about a foot from the top of the hedge. It contained four eggs somewhat advanced in incubation, valuable to me simply as a reminder of the

early days when the "Chippy" seemed to nest in greater abundance than it does now.

Now we cut across a meadow, for I think a set of nice fresh eggs of the Meadowlark will be worth carrying home, and so thinks each of the boys. But I am again out of luck, for I can not stumble upon a nest, but one of the boys startles a female from the grass ahead of him, and finds a handsome set of six fresh eggs, which he takes up in the nest to carry in his hand. It is needless to say that two of the eggs were cracked before the day was over, and the remainder of the set was divided among the boys as singles.

Leaving the meadow, we are in the edge of the woods. In our path stands a large denuded, dead stub, about fifteen feet high, containing many holes bored by Red-headed Woodpeckers and "Yellow Hammers," and as we approach it a Flicker protrudes her head from one of the holes. Seeing the rapid approach of danger, she slips from the cavity and sweeps her way into the neighboring trees, uttering her sharp signal call. As the stub is too large for the boys to clasp and too smooth to obtain a good hold in climbing, I strap on my climbers and mount by holding to the numerous holes up its length. The wood is hard and the cavity deep, but with my hatchet, carried stuck through the strap at the back of my trousers, I open the entrance, to find six fresh rosy-white eggs of the Flicker, which I pack in cotton in my box and lower, with injunctions to the boys to be careful in handling. The racket incident to breaking open the cavity has stirred up other occupants of the stub, for a female flying squirrel makes her appearance at the entrance of a hole above me, and investigation discloses a family of young ones with her. Now the boys are all excitement, and I open the cavity, at which the young squirrels scramble out and race to the top of the stub, disappearing into other holes, while the mother launches herself from the top of the stub toward the nearest tree and sails away in safety, followed by the eager boys. In the confusion a red squirrel, which had remained till then quietly in a large cavity in the opposite side of the stub, makes its appearance, runs down the stub, and races to another tree to hide among the foliage. The boys return from the useless chase, and I descend to find two of the Flicker's eggs cracked by careless handling, thus spoiling the set for me, but leaving some good singles available for the boys.

Advancing through the scattered trees, the remnant of woods left fringing the creek, we are soon upon the banks of the wide, shallow stream. Growing upon a bank about ten feet above the water, and leaning over the water, stands a large elm, and I observe a Sparrow Hawk sitting on a dead branch of a portion of the tree, though at our approach the little falcon flutters away with its characteristic plaintive cry. Seeing a suggestive looking cavity in the branch on which he was seated, I rap on the trunk, and have the pleasure of seeing his fair partner emerge from the hole and flutter away, while a Red-headed Woodpecker flies scolding from a smaller cavity about a foot above the home of the Sparrow Hawks. It is fully sixty-five feet to the site, but as the trunk is gently inclined, and there are good branches at convenient distances to rest a poor climber like myself, I strap on the climbers while the boys drop in the shade to watch the ascent. I mount carefully, and reaching the side, find the cavity large enough for me to insert my hand and remove the eggs, five fresh ones richly marked with dark rusty-red on a lighter ground. I pack them carefully and stow them away in the sack slung over my shoulders, for they are too precious to be entrusted into the eager hands of the boys. Breaking open the upper cavity, I find four rosy-fresh eggs of the Red-headed Woodpecker, and then descend slowly and carefully. (About a month later I fell thirty-five feet, cracking my lower jaw and loosening two of my lower ribs.)

After the boys had ceased to admire the handsome eggs of the Hawk held safely in my hands, we continued our progress along the dry bed of the ravine, one of the boys and myself keeping to one side and the others following the other side. Meeting a patch of water, the boy then ahead of me scrambled up the steep side of the ravine to avoid the water, and I followed almost in his steps. Just as he bent over the top of the bank to step on level ground above, a female Towhee fluttered from under his feet almost in my face and disappeared over the bank. She had kept her place under the feet of the boy so closely that he had not observed her, and had I not been following she would have escaped our notice. I scanned the side of the bank, overgrown with sprouts and weeds, and called

the boy to help me, but for a time any resemblance to a nest escaped us. At length I descended the bank, and slowly climbing it as we had at first, I finally located it on a level with my eyes, about half way up the bank, placed snugly under the base and roots of a sprout which grew out almost horizontally, thus effectually hiding it from above, and while the ground beneath it protected it from below. Secreted as securely as it appeared to be, however, it contained four eggs of the Cowbird, in two separate pairs in appearance, as though two had been deposited by one female and two by another, and two eggs of the owner, all advanced in incubation. The Cowbird surely knows more about the habits of the Towhee and other species upon which it imposes its products than we Ornithologists can ever know, for except by the accidental startling of the female the keenest eye would never have located that nest in its well protected site. But I know that the editor of the NIDOLOGIST doesn't like much, articles about such common things as Chipping Sparrows, Flickers and Towhees, so I shall leave the remainder of this wonderful and veracious story of my outing with the boys for a later issue.

Roodhouse, Ill.

Habits of Audubon's Caracara.

BY J. K. STRECKER, JR.

DURING the past year it was the writer's pleasure to add much to his previous knowledge of the nidification and food habits of that interesting bird, Audubon's Caracara Eagle (*Polyborus cheriway*), and in the present paper are incorporated his notes and observations. As mentioned in a former article in THE NIDOLOGIST (Vol. II, pp. 6), the Caracara is apparently a permanent resident with us, and judging from the number observed late in the fall of '94, I am inclined to believe is rather more common during the autumn and winter, than in summer. It is possible, however, that I am laboring under an error, as the birds may only be scattered out in their various breeding grounds during the spring and summer, and may haunt only certain localities at other seasons.

About ten miles to the west of the city of Waco, away o'er the rolling prairie and mesquite flats, one comes to a rather small, winding stream, bordered by a long, narrow and dense strip of woodland. Elm, ash and dogwood trees are the principal timber here, and these were hardly distinguishable at any distance, from the masses of thick vines (wild-grape, rattan, poison ivy, etc.), that cover and entwine their branches in thick, matted masses.

The undergrowth in some places is very dense, being composed of low, thick bushes, intermingled with myriads of obnoxious vines. Here are the favorite haunts and breeding grounds of *Polyborus*, as well as the Vultures, the Chuck-wills'-widow (*Antostomus carolinensis*) and many other species of birds.

The 21st of April last, found the writer, in company with his friend J. W. Mann, Jr., driving briskly over the prairie in a buggy, heading in the direction of this strip of woods. The first two miles of our journey lay through a series of level mesquite flats. The day was rather cool for the season of the year, and all nature seemed astir. From the tops of fence-posts and small trees, the inimitable Mockingbird poured forth its grand medley of vocal music, while from among the mesquite rang the voices of Bell's Vireo, the Dickcissel, the Lark Sparrow and other birds of the prairie. Now and then we flushed small skulking birds, among them the Yellow-winged and Cassin's Sparrows, and at every turn of the road encountered troops of beautiful Flycatchers (*Milvulus forficatus*) engaged in noisy courtship.

Kingbirds flew over the road, busily engaged in catching insects, and the air was full of the combined music of birds and insects. From over the fields, the soft "quaily" of the Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) and the soft cooing of mating Doves, broke on our ears, filling us with that indescribable emotion, known only to those who "convene with Nature."

As the father of my companion owned a very large farm in the vicinity, he was familiar with the country through which we were driving and quite frequently called my attention to solitary trees, a number of which, (so he informed me), had until recently contained nests of the Caracara, many of them having been in use for years. These were principally elm trees, but one large cottonwood, which stood on the bank of a small stream, contained the remnants of a nest that had been in use until the season of '94 for six successive years.

The first nest we intended visiting was

finally reached. It was located in a tall elm tree which stood alone in a field at a distance of 200 yards from the before mentioned strip of woodland. In order to visit this, we were obliged to alight from our buggy and hitch the horse, as an unbroken stretch of barb-wire fence prevented our advance.

We had soon succeeded in crawling through this obstruction, and struck out across the small stretch of prairie intervening between us and the tree. As it was now getting warmer, at every step we started up lizards, principally sand swifts (*Cnemidophorus gularis*) and horned "toads" (*Phrynosoma*). On nearing the tree, I observed the foliage to be so thick that I was unable to distinguish the outlines of the nest until I was within a few yards of it.

Just as I was preparing to climb, my companion attracted my attention by shouting, "There are our Eagles," and glancing upward I observed a pair of large birds flying rather hurriedly away over the trees. This was apparently the same pair which had reared two young in the nest last season, but on ascending to it, I found it to be empty. The nest was a clumsily shaped though firm and well-made structure, with only a very slight depression in the top. The material used was thick stalks of broomweed, which were cemented together, probably by the excrement of the young birds that had been reared in it in past years. The diameter outside was 24 in., the depth, almost 26. After examining this nest, we concluded to strike across the woods in quest of others. We made a break through the dense masses of vines and bushes, pushing them aside, and slowly made our way to the center of the strip, starting up rabbbits, large tree lizzards (*Sceloporus floridanus*) and, to my companions horror, an occasional snake. The ophidians met with here were specimens of a green snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*), a pilot snake (*Coluber spiloides*), and a coachwhip snake, probably a variety of the *Bascanion fragelliforme* of Cope. Very few prairie birds were met with here, but other small species replaced them, among these being the Warbling Vireo, Long-tailed Chicadee, Wood Pewee and many others.

Finally we reached an open space and after some few minutes search, discovered a second Caracara's nest, which, however, proved to be an old one which had probably not been in use for several seasons. After leaving this, our attention was again attracted by the same pair of Eagles, which were now flying over us, heading in the direction of the elm tree containing the nest first examined. On our careful scanning the trees in the vicinity, we soon discovered the new domicile of these birds. This had been newly built and was composed of pieces of rattan vine and a few twigs, and was situated in the triple fork of a slender ash tree, at an elevation of 20 feet. My only conjecture as to the reason these Caracaras had for deserting their old and building a new nest, is, perhaps in 1894, after Mann had examined the old nest containing the two young, other parties may have disturbed it or carried the young birds away. Three lusty young, about two weeks old, I judged, were the contents of this new nest. The little creatures looked extremely odd, with their heavy beaks and claws, which looked very much out of proportion to their size. They were covered with both grayish and yellowish down with the exception of the whole occupit, side of face encircling the eyes and the tips of the wings, which were black. They offered no serious objections to being handled, but judging from their actions they probably would have preferred being fed to undergoing a critical examination at our hands. The tree containing the nest was covered with a tangled mass of mustang grape-vines. On leaving the young Caracaras we glanced around in hopes of seeing the parent birds, which we soon discovered perched at the extreme top of the lone elm tree. We then made our way out of the woods, and crossed the field to where our horse was hitched, and although we spent some time in resting, as I was badly shaken up by a fall that I had sustained on account of a broken vine, the old birds were in the tree-top as long as we were in sight, and until we had driven away and they were lost to view. These Eagles are by far the most timid of raptorial birds, and I cannot recall an instance during the breeding season of one allowing a near approach, always deserting their nest or young when one is yet some distance away from their nests.

We now drove away to another locality, or rather to another section of the bed of the stream, which was quite dry at this date, although this was the first time it had ever been known to be so. In the woods here we found Vultures breeding, and saw many flocks of these birds, among them

being some few Caracaras, feeding on the carcasses of several dead mammals. One empty nest of *Polyborus* was discovered and although empty it showed signs of being used in the near future as fresh broom-weed had very lately been added. The elm tree containing this nest was located almost within the original bed of the stream, and its limbs were covered with a mass of mustang grape, rattan and other vines, while up the trunk ran a myriad of vines of that curse to the field naturalist—poison ivy. After leaving the woods at this point we drove over the prairie to the southwest, and through a flat covered with thin, scraggy mesquite timber, with an occasional sweet-gum, honey-locust and elm tree scattered here and there. Here we found several nests in mesquite, honey-locust and sweet-gum trees. From one of these a set of two eggs was taken, and two nests had been newly repaired and fresh building material added. Several Caracaras were seen, besides the pair to whom the eggs belonged. I am quite certain that had I the opportunity of revisiting the two nests mentioned a few days later I would have found them containing eggs. Nests of the Caracaras that I have examined in the vicinity of the Bosque river north of Waco were usually located in rather low, bushy trees which were growing on the borders of sparsely timbered tracts. Those found here differed from those on the prairies by being composed of slender branches, rarely lined with roots and grasses. Those on the prairies were with two exceptions composed entirely of broom-weed without any lining whatever. One of these two was constructed of strips of rattan vine, the other of broom-weed, with a firm foundation of coarse twigs and branches. The nests are situated at elevations ranging from eighteen to twenty-five feet from the ground; usually about eighteen. A friend informs me that he has found nests of this species on cliffs which were favorite breeding places of the Black Vulture. On noting the extremely shallow depression in the nests of the Caracara, I have often wondered if the eggs and young are not often destroyed by rolling out and falling to the ground. In this species both sexes assist in the duties of incubation. In some cases the pair of birds that had been known to occupy a certain nest were observed in the vicinity of it during the most of the year.

The breeding season in this (McLennan) county is somewhat later than in the more southern sections of the state. Fresh eggs are taken here from about the middle of March to the middle of May. Mr. James Carroll who has been collecting in Refugio county, southern Texas, stated in a letter written under date of March 26, that he had taken eleven sets of this species up to that date, the first being taken during the last week of February. He also mentioned that all sets excepting one were of three eggs each. In this section sets of two are as common, if not more so, than those consisting of three.

In this locality I notice that the breeding seasons of the majority of our Raptores extends longer than in many other sections.

The eggs of the Turkey Vulture have been taken here as early as the first week in March, and I have a set of two which were taken on the last of May, and were perfectly fresh when collected. The breeding period of most of our Hawks extends much longer than is recorded from other sections of the South. This especially applies to the case of the *Buteos*.

Although I have been long acquainted with the food habits of the adult *Polyborus*, until the present year I was not aware as to whether the young were fed both upon carrion and freshly killed animals or merely upon the latter class of food. In my former notes I made the statement that the remains of rather large mammals were often found in the vicinity of their nests containing young, or strewn around the bases of the trees in which they were located. This is quite true. Mr. J. W. Mann, Jr., found the skull and several leg bones of an opossum at the base of a tree containing a long-used nest of the Caracara. Dead mammals are commonly found lying around in the woods and fields in the near vicinity of the nests examined on April 21; on one day during the season of '95 I took note of those upon whose carcasses I found Vultures and Caracaras feeding, and among them were several domestic animals, a small skunk (*Spilogales*—sp. ?), an opposum (*Didelphys virginianus*) and three rabbits. One of these last was a cotton-tail, the others, specimens of the great jack or mule-eared rabbit. From this I infer that the young Caracaras are not only fed upon birds and mammals captured by their parents, but also upon carrion matter in the form of such dead animals as it is possible for them to carry to their nests.—Waco, Texas.

Birds of Estes Park.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

ESTES PARK is situated in Larimer county, Colorado, some sixty miles northwest of Denver. It is an open park or valley of ten miles in length to four or six in width, with many side branches. The altitude is about 7,500 feet, while the surrounding peaks reach from 10,000 to 14,000 feet. The highest is Long's Peak, 14,271 feet. The Thompson river flows through the main valley. My stay at Estes Park occupied the most of July and August, 1893. Moraine is the post office.

Most of the birds here recorded from Estes Park in the summer are such species as are found about the foot-hills and plains during the winter, showing very clearly that interesting fact known as vertical migration. What the birds of a level country accomplish by long journeys from south to north our birds are able to gain in a few hours from plain to mountain. Thus *Junco caniceps* and *Lucosticte tephrocotis*, which I was able to include in this list only by climbing the higher mountains about the Park, can be found in winter within a few miles of Denver among the low foot-hills.

Similarly such birds as the Magpie, Long-crested Jay, Lewis' Woodpecker, Long-tailed Chickadee and Pygmy Nutchatch move from the mountains to the foot-hills and plains as the cold of winter comes on, and in the spring they move to their summer camping ground.

Loxia and *Leucosticte* are especially reluctant to leave their mountain homes on account of cold and snow. They are reported to me as staying in the valley most all winter, moving in immense flocks and looking for food about the houses.

An interesting collection of notes as well as birds might be made by spending December or January in Estes Park.

Mallard—One pair seen.

Spotted Sandpiper—Abundant.

Killdeer—Abundant. On July 14 I collected two downy young which were sitting about a dry bog.

Dusky Grouse—Abundant. Nests in the hills, after which the young follow the mother to the protection of thick willows growing along the water course. The Grouse was found at timber-line on Long's Peak.

White-tailed Ptarmigan—Are abundant above timber-line on the mountains surrounding the Park. A ♀ with two downy young taken July 20.

Mourning Dove,

Western Red-tail—A single specimen taken.

American Sparrow Hawk—Breeds very abundantly.

Pigeon Hawk—Specimens taken near Denver are of this species. More taken at Estes Park.

Belted Kingfisher.

Cabanis' Woodpecker—Rare. A single immature specimen taken.

Batchelder's Woodpecker—Rare.

Red-naped Sapsucker—Abundant. Nesting in all the available stubs.

Williamson's Sapsucker—Abundant.

Red-headed Woodpecker—One observed.

Red-shafted Flicker.

Western Nighthawk—Fairly abundant.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—July 18 I flushed a ♀ from a lichen covered nest containing two featherless young.

Western Wood Pewee—Abundant.

Wright's Flycatcher—Two specimens taken.

Hammond's Flycatcher—A single specimen.

American Magpie—Abundant. A half-grown young taken July 14.

Long-crested Jay—Abundant.

Clarke's Nutcracker—Occasionally seen.

Red-winged Blackbird.

Western Meadowlark.

Brewer's Blackbird.

American Pine Grosbeak—An adult male taken a little below timber-line July 20.

Cassin's Purple Finch—Abundant. Both young and adults taken.

Gray-crowned Leucosticte—Abundant on Long's Peak above timber, and found on the summit, over 14,000 feet.

White-crowned Sparrow—Found above timber-line.

Western Chipping Sparrows—Abundant.

Gray-headed Junco—A nest containing incubated eggs found July 20.

Mountain Song Sparrow—Few observed.

Lincoln's Sparrow—Three specimens taken.

Green-tailed Towhee—Rare.

Louisiana Tanager—Abundant.

Cliff Swallow—Found nesting on the face of a cliff after their primitive style. About twenty pairs.

Barn Swallow—Rare.

Violet-green Swallow—Abundant, nesting in every suitable knot-hole and Woodpecker's excavation.

Warbling Vireo.

Audubon's Warbler—Abundant.

Macgillivray's Warbler—Fairly abundant, but not easily obtained on account of its retiring habits.

Pileolated Warbler—Rare.

American Pipit—Abundant above timber-line.

American Dipper—Rare.

Sage Thrasher—Rare.

Rock Wren.

Western House Wren—Abundant. A nest containing young was found July 14, and watched for eighteen minutes. During this time the parent made thirteen visits with food. Both birds aided in the feeding, sometimes one, sometimes both being at the nest. The young Wrens kept up a continuous racket, which was increased whenever either parent came near. The food consisted mostly of grasshoppers and large flies. These occasionally escaped, but were soon recaptured and treated to a sharp rap on a limb.

Slender-billed Nuthatch—Are abundant. Nest containing young found July 18.

Pigmy Nuthatch—Abundant.

Long-tailed Chickadee—This and the following species in large flocks. *P. gambeli* constituting about two-thirds of the flocks.

Mountain Chickadee.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—Rare.

Townsend's Solitaire. Both young and adults taken.

Audubon's Hermit Thrush.

Western Robin.

Mountain Bluebird.

On the authority of Professor Vernon L. Kellogg* I add the following species not observed by me:

Gadwall—Not uncommon.

Bob white (introduced).

Golden Eagle—A few seen.

Bald Eagle—Rare. One seen.

Prairie Falcon—One shot above timber-line.

Western Horned Owl—One seen.

Alpine Three-toed Woodpecker—Five seen.

Poor-will—Not common.

Cassin's Kingbird—Common.

Desert Horned Lark—Common.

Rocky Mountain Jay—Common.

Mexican Crossbill—Small flock seen, ♂ and ♂ shot.

Brown-capped Leucosticte—A few seen.

Intermediate Sparrow—Common just above timber-line.

Clay-colored Sparrow—One shot.

Slate-colored Junco—Mostly above timber-line. Identity not positive.

Parkmann's Wren—Common.

Brown Creeper—Rare.

White-breasted Nuthatch—Not common.

*Trans. Kans. Acad Sci. XII—1889-90, p. 86.

Short-Eared Owl and Marsh Hawk.

BY EUGENE S. ROLFE.

I DO NOT KNOW whether these two interesting species adopt similar breeding spots generally, but in the Devil's Lake region it would seem that what constitutes a likely nesting spot for the one is often regarded with equal favor by the other. Nor can I make up my mind satisfactorily from actual observation as to the preference each manifests for a location in or near some marshy spot, for the food of both seems to consist largely of the common field mouse and for this they must range the dry prairies.

However, I suppose, in fact, both feed to some extent on frogs, small snakes and lizards, (though I have never caught them in the act) and if so their predilection for the marsh is accounted for. Many times I have watched the Marsh Hawk sailing low and keenly scanning the ground on the open prairie, and suddenly pouncing down and quickly ascending again with an empty mouse nest in its talons, and on one occasion I followed behind for fully two miles and in that distance it picked up and dropped seven of these empty nests. On examination they proved to be simply wads of fine dried grasses, and it was easy to see that if these had all chanced to be occupied by families of young mice, the foray of that particular Hawk would have been most fruitful in the destruction of these small pests.

The search of *accipitrinus* is very similar, though the sweep of its wings is longer and it is not so much given to sailing as the Marsh Hawk. In the case of both the length of wing and tail and the heavy growth of feathers gives the impression of a rather large species, but in fact the body is comparatively insignificant and the eggs seem disappointing in size.

Aside from the nesting spots being similar in general, the habits of the two species in some other respects are strikingly alike. I have had occasion many times to note the close companionship between male and female of both species, extending not only through the breeding season but apparently up to the time of migration at least, and, as has been suggested by other observers, perhaps through life. I have never discovered a nest of either species at any stage of its building or use afterward that was not closely attended by both members of the pair, and in the case of the Owl, of some seven nests taken this year, I did not once flush the bird from the nest without first, or soon afterward, flushing the mate very close at hand, and late last fall I jumped a pair from a roosting place together under a couple of stalks of milkweed on the open prairie, near a big slough, and there was every evidence at and about the spot that the pair had practically adopted it for a home, though it was plainly not a nesting site.

In the case of the Marsh Hawk this close association is only less marked. I have been able repeatedly to locate a nest approximately by closely watching the operations of the male and noting his reluctance to wander outside a certain radius, and late in September I have come upon both parent birds piloting about a full family of young, apparently full-fledged and well able to care for themselves, and at a time when the families of other species had become permanently scattered.

The two species I have found strikingly alike in another respect. If a nest of either contains an incomplete set and is approached close enough for discovery, even though it may not be actually touched, it is promptly abandoned by the pair. This has been my observation in every case where incubation of the full set had not commenced. In the latter part of May last, while driving on the open prairie near a small sheet of surface water, I flushed a Short-eared Owl from the long dry grass, and some twenty feet away, and almost at the same instant, its mate left her nest containing two fresh eggs. From my seat in the cart the nest could be plainly seen, and knowing the propensity of the species to abandon, I turned my horse quickly aside and quit the locality entirely, not returning for a week. But I doubt if the pair had even revisited the spot after being disturbed, for the eggs, still fresh and wholly unstained, were together with the nest, cold and wet.

A few days later, after closely watching a male Marsh Hawk for fully half an hour and coming to a definite conclusion as to the proper spot to be searched, I walked straight to a clump of greasewood brush of an average height of two feet, and, peering in from the edge but not approaching nearer, flushed the female from her newly completed nest, containing one clean, fresh egg. On my next visit, eight days later, there was no change whatever in the situation, except that the pair had wholly departed!

But though the two species are somewhat alike in food and habits, the construction of their nests is radically different, that of the Owl being generally a trifling, careless lining of dried grass, or straws or fragments of weeds in a very slight depression in the ground, sometimes hardly perceptible; while the Hawk's is placed flat on the ground and ordinarily well built up, from one and a half to five inches in depth, of dried grasses, hay, weed stalks and even twigs for a foundation where the ground underneath is wet and marshy, as is frequently the case. I have this year taken the nest of each, high and dry, on the open prairie, fully two hundred yards from any water, and I have also taken a nest of each in a stretch of breast-high nettles and rushes on a marshy strip of land twenty yards wide, running out into a dismal alkali lake—a selection of nesting spots seeming to fully justify the use of the word "marsh" in the naming of both.

As illustrating unusual nesting sites, I might mention a nest of the Marsh Hawk taken by me at the foot of a small popular tree in a trifling grove, along the old lake shore; also a flimsy nest of the Short-eared Owl containing young in all stages, from just hatched to half grown, on a surveyor's "witness mound" at a section corner located in a half flooded stretch of grazing land.

Incubation with both species seems to commence with the laying of the first egg, and a glance into a nest will generally distinguish the fresh eggs from those first laid, the latter being usually dingy and nest-stained.

The eggs of *Accipitrinus* that have come under my observation, range in color from dead-white to lustrous-white, with, some-

times, a faint suggestion of a creamy tint, and in dimensions average about 1.50x1.30, and run from five to seven to the full set. When their nests are despoiled the pair generally make a strong show of resistance and their vicious darts at the intruder and the angry snapping of their bills make an interesting display.

The eggs of the Marsh Hawk I find to range from three to five to the full set, and to measure 1.60 to 1.80x1.25 to 1.40. They are slightly bluish or greenish-white, and more often than otherwise wholly unmarked. When marked at all the majority show simply shell markings of pale buff, sometimes scarcely perceptible, but one exceptionally fine set of five taken by me this season, and now in the collection of C. W. Crandall, are of a very delicate bluish-white background with pronounced spots and blotches of rich amber-brown, altogether very pleasing to the eye.

◆◆◆

Cooper Ornithological Club.

THE Southern Division met November 2, at the residence of Chas. E. Grosbeck in Pasadena. Mr. Grinnell was elected Vice-President for the rest of the present year. V. W. Owen of Los Angeles was elected to membership in the club. A paper by A. I. McCormick was read treating of his observations made on the desert sixty miles east of Mojave. The vegetation consists of small mesquite bushes not over three feet high, numerous greasewood and a few yucca and cacti. The nearest water was eight miles distant, and it seemed as if all the birds of the vicinity journeyed thither for their water supply. This year there was an absence of the marked seasons, winter seeming to merge into summer making it unfavorable to bird life. The House Finch was found to be the most numerous bird nesting on the desert, and was of a retiring disposition. Most of the nests of this species found were situated in the forks of a small variety of cholla, and four eggs constituted an average set.

The Black-throated Sparrow was found distributed in pairs over the desert. The first nest was found May 21, in a small mesquite and contained three incubated eggs. With two exceptions, the nests of this species which were found contained but two eggs. The Black-throated Sparrow is of a very friendly nature; its song is the first heard in the early morning and the last at night. The birds seem to nest in the vicinity of habitations, and are always found in the hills in preference to the desert. The bird is a close sitter and chooses a thick dense brush for its nesting site. On May 20, a nest of LeConte's Thrasher was found containing three eggs. It was situated in a large thorny bush, and the parent when flushed flew to the ground and ran with the spread characteristic of this species. The nest was large and bulky, composed of limbs of the bush in which it was situated, and lined with dry, brown weed-stems and a sort of grayish down from a sage growing in the vicinity, and placed two feet from the ground. Just above the nest was a large substantial platform of limbs of the same bush. This was about three inches above the nest leaving the bird just room enough to enter. Whether or not this was intended by the bird as a protection from the scorching sun is not known, but this peculiarity was noticed with other nests of this bird. Numerous nests of the Cactus Wren were found in the yuccas on the hillsides but they had been occupied. Other species noticed were Mexican Horned Lark, Valley Partridge, Phainopepla, Arkansas Kingbirds, Canon Wren, Mourning Dove, Cal. Shrike, Burrowing Owl and a variety of Nighthawk. On a pond near Randsburg several species of Ducks and the Am. Coot were noted. Mr. McCormick arrived too late in general to find the desert species nesting.

NOTES FROM GUADALUPE ISLAND.

Horace A. Gaylord read the following paper:—"On the evening of July 9, 1896, an expedition under the guidance and in the interests of Mr. A. W. Anthony left San Diego on a cruise along the coast and among the islands of Lower California. After being out for over two months, the afternoon of September 15, found us within sight of the mainland, leaving Geronimo Island for the lonely and rugged Island of Guadalupe far out at sea. Before night we noted a number of Phalaropes both *Crymophilus fulicarius* and *Phalaropus lobatus*, Black-vented Shearwaters were common and a few graceful Petrels, *Halocyptena microsoma*, *Oceanodroma melania* and a single *O. macrodactyla* were dancing over the water with a flight very similar to that of a Nighthawk. September 16 was spent at sea out of sight of land. Three Black-

footed Albatross followed the schooner all day, and these and an occasional Guadalupe Petrel and a few Phalaropes were the only birds seen during the day. Early on the morning of the seventeenth the helmsman sighted land through the fog and by noon we were anchored at the Mecca of the expedition, Guadalupe Island. Three Albatross, probably the same ones that were with us on the 16th, followed the boat to within a mile or two of anchorage. Shortly after day-break Mr. Anthony saw a number of Pink-footed Shearwaters, *Puffinus creatopus*, and as we neared the island two Jaegers probably *S. longicaudus*, and a Royal Tern flew past. An inquisitive Farallone Cormorant and an immature Western Gull flew out from the rocks to meet us. Going ashore in the afternoon we found Guadalupe House Finches and Guadalupe Rock Wrens abundant almost to the water's edge, and around the stone houses near the beach a few *Junco insularis* were seen. A Great Blue Heron flew along the shore and once or twice during the afternoon the cry of a Wandering Tattler was heard from the rocks. One or two lonely Gulls and Cormorants find a roosting place on some small out-lying rocks near the landing. Late in the afternoon Mr. Anthony went to the top of the island and stayed there over night in hopes of seeing the three or four Guadalupe Caracaras which the goat-hunters informed us were in the habit of gathering around the carcasses of the goats killed at the camp. These three or four individuals are probably the only remaining representatives of this isolated species, *Polyborus lutosus*.

"Under the head of September 18, my note-book says: 'Jim and I went to the pines over the worst trail I ever climbed,' a truthful entry, if indeed the route over which we travelled had any right to be called a trail. *Carpodacus amplus* and *Salpinctes guadaloupensis* were abundant all the way from the beach to the summit of the ridge. The latter species were remarkably tame. A noteworthy fact is that all of the birds peculiar to the island are so tame that some will occasionally attempt to alight on the barrel of the gun aimed for their destruction. A single W'n. Red-tail circled far out from behind the hill near the top of the island and soared away to the southward. During our four days' stay at the island this species was occasionally noted. As we entered the timber the dainty sweetness of the Dusky Kinglet's song came to us from an oak and the peculiar call of *Sitta canadensis* was heard from among the pines. A few Guadalupe Juncos were seen at this point, but through my ignorance of the timber growth we did not go far enough down the ridge to find either this species in abundance, or the resident Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*. A pair of Sparrow Hawks, probably *Falco sparverius deserticolus*, were in the possession of a dead pine at the top of the ridge. This species was found to be present upon the island in about the same numbers as the Red-tail. Mr. Anthony returned from the cypress grove and goat camp without having seen a Caracara. In the cypress grove he caught a glimpse of a bird which had the appearance of *Pipilo Consobrinus* and as it afterward proved, this was our only record of this species. Regarding the Petrels which breed on the island, the hunters told us that while doing some stone work in the region of the Petrel colony, they had found two different species. They described the Guadalupe Petrel and an entirely black one, which together with a wing found on the trail to the cypress forest makes it appear that *O. homochroa* is an inhabitant of this island. A large Hawk, *Falco peregrinus anatum* (?), was seen around the cliffs near the anchorage on September 19. In examining a number of stomachs of *Carpodacus amplus* we found that its principal article of food was goats' tallow and seeds of foxtail. Indeed the goat-hunters told us that these birds would, if opportunity offered, consume fifty pounds of tallow a day. Making due allowance for the exaggeration and the number of birds, we must still conclude that each bird would eat more than its own weight in tallow a day.

"On the 20th, I visited the cypress forest while Mr. Anthony and my brother went to the northern limit of the pines. They found the Mexican Crossbill common and the island Junco abundant. In the cypress *Carpodacus*, *Salpinctes* and *Regulus* were abundant and Juncos common. One Guadalupe Flicker was shot and a single Nuthatch heard. Around the cliffs at the northern edge of the grove a number of White-throated Swifts were dashing through the air. Late in the afternoon I started for the beach without even seeing the principal object of the day's hunt, a Caracara. But scarcely had I been gone two minutes when

the goat-hunters yelled for me to come back. I turned and saw a "Queleli," as the Mexicans call the Caracara, alight on the cypress tree near the cabin. A shot while the bird was still in the tree and another, as, wounded, it circled within range, secured the only Guadalupe Caracara of the expedition. Again on September 21, I visited the cypress and upper camp. On this date I had the pleasure of comparing the songs of the Guadalupe House Finch and the Dusky Kinglet, and had I not been prejudiced in favor of *Regulus* I would at once have given preference to the Finch: as it is I am left undecided. The song of the House Finch is rich and jolly, and that of the Kinglet is modestly sweet and dainty. The quality in the one which appeals to your musical sense is lacking in the other. A Mourning Dove was seen around the slaughter pens in the afternoon. It was undoubtedly a migrant. At 7 o'clock on the evening of the 22d, we left Guadalupe Island for San Diego, thus ending a most interesting sojourn in this out-of-the-way place."

Mr. Judson exhibited specimens of rare Hummingbirds from south-eastern Arizona. The Southern Division met November 28, at the residence of H. A. Gaylord in Pasadena. The Committee on Arrangements reported that everything was favorable for a successful meeting on December 28, when the Division will meet at the home of W. B. Judson at Highland Park. Nominations for Division officers for 1897 were made.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

The Northern Division met December 5, at the residence of C. Barlow in San Jose. Several visitors were present. Dr. J. G. Cooper of Haywards, and Lyman Belding of Stockton, were elected to Honorary Membership in the club. The receipt of Vol. II. of Major Bendire's "Life Histories" was reported, the same having been placed in the club library. Arrangements have been made to have the annual meeting in January, an exceptional one in point of interest. A special programme has been prepared and invitations will be issued. The Northern Division will meet January 9, in San Jose. The annual election of officers will occur at the January meeting.

A. W. Anthony, who recently returned from an expedition to Lower California, will soon sail on another collecting trip, exploring this time the islands of the Gulf.

Finding the Killdeer's Nest.

BY F. E. NEWBURY.

TAKING much interest in the article on the Killdeer by Mr. H. R. Taylor, some time since, and the remarks in THE NIDOLOGIST by Mr. F. M. Dille, I thought it would be interesting to the many readers of the magazine to learn of my experience with a pair of Killdeers in Rhode Island.

The Killdeer is not common in this state, but for several years I have known of the presence of a pair in fields bordering Cowesett Bay, in the town of Warwick, about twelve miles from Providence. At the commencement of the season of 1895, I made up my mind to take a set of eggs of the Kildeer Plover in Rhode Island, if such a thing were possible. With that end in view I spent the night of the 17th of May at a farm house, and started at daylight on the 18th to look for my Killdeers. Sure enough, they were there, and acting very queerly, flying about with their shrill cry of "Kill-dee" "Kill-dee," and dividing their time among three fields bordering the bay, and I could not get them to locate or settle down in any particular field. After watching them until nearly time to take the train for Providence. I gave it up for that day.

On the 25th I made another trial, and started both birds again, at first the female, and she acted like a sitting bird, dusting herself and acting as if she had left a nest of eggs. The male soon joined her, and they acted the same as on the 18th, flying over-head, uttering their cries, and alighting far from where I started them, where they began feeding unconcernedly.

The male was very demonstrative and noisy at this time, and I confess their actions puzzled me. They *acted* like birds with a nest of eggs, but to locate it was a puzzling matter, so I gave up in despair and started for home on my wheel.

I spent the whole of the 30th collecting in that locality, and incidently noticed that the Killdeers were still there, so stayed over night at the farm house, and at 4 A. M. on the 31st, I was out to make my last attempt to find their eggs. I had practically made up my mind which one of the three fields contained the nest if there was one, so made my way cautiously to that spot.

Three sides were surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, the fourth was open to the salt water. On one side was a little knoll. I chose that side to commence operations. Lying flat, I crawled through the wet grass until my head just came above the knoll, when I saw the Killdeer run (they are very wary birds) and getting my bearings by a mullen-stalk near where I first saw her, I took a line about twenty feet back of that, as I judged she possibly might have ran that distance before I discovered her. I walked slowly into the center of the field, and when I was opposite my mullen-stalk I took a step or two to the left, looked down and saw four handsome eggs of the Killdeer. They proved to be perfectly fresh, and in my opinion were laid since the 25th. This is the second set of which there is record of their having been taken in Rhode Island, a set having been taken on May 12, 1894, in another part of the state. I account partly for the lateness of my set from the fact that our annual May storm in 1895 was considerable later than in 1894. In fact, my observations on the 18th were made during a cold, drizzling rain. A field glass was used on each day except the last. The fields were barren pastures, scantily covered with coarse grass and bits of stubble. A few bits of broken grass stems were scratched together to form a nest, and the eggs were all laid with pointed ends toward the center and partly on end. I have taken a good many eggs during my lifetime, but none of them gave me the satisfaction that I felt in finding, after so much labor, this, my first set of Killdeer's eggs.

Providence, R. I.

Swallows of Minnesota.

BY WALTON MITCHELL.

CLIFF SWALLOW:—From the first of May until the latter part of August this is the commonest of our Swallows. Going out into the country a few miles there is scarcely a barn, with suitable eaves, that is not occupied by a colony of these pretty birds.

About the 20th of May the Swallows pair and select a suitable place for nesting. Sometimes only two or three pairs nest in the same locality, but usually from ten to fifty pairs will occupy a barn that is large enough to accommodate them. The nests are built under the eaves, and composed of pellets of mud plastered to the side of the barn, and lined with fine grasses and hairs or feathers. The nest is pouch shaped and only open at the neck.

About a week is occupied in constructing the nests. The eggs are almost invariably five in number, rarely six. The ground color is a pinkish-white, spotted thickly with reddish-brown and lilac. Occasionally unmarked eggs may be found. The eggs average about .85x.60. Two broods are reared in a season and sometimes three. They leave towards the latter part of August although a few may stay a week or two longer.

Barn Swallow:—This species is not nearly as common as the preceding, though not by any means rare. They begin to arrive in small parties about the last week in April. About the 15th of May they begin to seek nesting places, which are usually on rafters and beams on the inside of barns, although, failing to find such places, they occassionally nest under the eaves, like the Cliff Swallows.

The nests are composed of mud, straw and small sticks, lined with hay and feathers. Eggs are from four to six in number, and in markings almost indistinguishable from those of the Cliff Swallow, although they average smaller; about .75x.50. I think only one brood is raised.

Tree Swallow:—About the middle of April these, the handsomest of our Swallows, begin to arrive in small companies, often with the Purple Martin. They prefer low woods in the vicinity of lakes and rivers for their nesting places, the bottoms of the Minnesota River being a favorite breeding ground.

The nests are built in old Woodpecker's holes and composed mostly of hay and lined with feathers. They seem to prefer to take the lowest holes obtainable, for in several instances where there were two or more holes in a tree the lowest was generally chosen.

The eggs are laid about the first week in June, and are usually six in number, sometimes only five and rarely seven. They are a clear roseate-white, measuring about .75x.50 on an average. Two broods are raised in a season, the second making its appearance the latter part of July. They leave towards the last of August.

Bank Swallow:—An abundant summer resident, arriving the first week in May. About the 15th they begin to excavate

their holes in a clay or sand bank, usually in a railroad "cut." The holes are commonly about two feet in length,and widened at the end, on which is laid a scanty nest composed of a little grass and feathers.

The eggs are from four to seven in number, usually six, and laid by the 25th of May. They are pure white in color and average .70x.50. The birds are all gone by the first of September. Two broods are raised.

Rough-winged Swallow:—The Roughwing is less common than the Bank Swallow, but not at all uncommon. They arrive about the same time as the Bank Swallows and depart a little earlier. The nests are placed in holes in stonework and ironwork of bridges, and when such a place is not accessible they resort to holes like the Bank Swallow.

The nests are more substantial than those of the Bank Swallow, and composed of sticks, hay and weeds, lined with grass and feathers. The eggs are five or six in number, pure white and average about the same as the Bank Swallow, and are laid the last week in May usually.

The only place I have met with them is near Mendota, Minn., in Dakota county, where they are quite common and associate with the Bank Swallows, which are found breeding there by the thousands.

St. Paul, Minn.

Notes from Illinois.

ON December 12, a friend brought me a fine specimen of an Owl of golden yellow plumage covered with dark spots. On first examination I thonght I had a rare prize, but a more thorough one proved it to be an American Barn Owl.

If this were the first discovery of the species and I had the honor of naming him, I should surely call him the "Monkey-faced Owl," his resemblance to that animal, both in looks and actions being truly remarkable.

Whether the Barn Owl is common or not in this locality I could not say with accuracy, but would judge not, as he is rarely met with.

His Owlship is at present alive in my barn-loft, and whenever approached will lower his head below the level of his feet, moving his head back and forth, slowly swaying, with great brown eyes rolling like balls of fire.

If he does not soon exhibit a better appetite I shall give him a pedestal and an honored place in my cabinet.

On July 15, I secured (from the top of an evergreen in our town park), a set of five eggs of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. I could scarcely believe my eyes, and as yet, have not decided whether to call it a set of five or two sets, one of two and one of three. Two eggs were nearly fresh, one slightly incubated and two contained large embryos.

On July 14, I secured a nest of five Robin eggs, the only set of this size I have found in twelve years collecting. Besides the number in the set, I consider the date as remarkable.

More Warblers and small birds have nested here this season than for many seasons past, partly perhaps on account of the growing scarcity of the Raptores in this section.

On October 1 a Great Blue Heron came flopping down in a barn-yard inside our town limits. He walked around very unconcernedly, scaring all the fowls off the place, until his career was terminated by a shot gun. He is now a valued member of my cabinet. It is a question whether hunger or exhaustion compelled him to alight in so strange a place.

Philo, Ills. ISAAC E. HESS.

Sustains the Title.

Among the brightest of the many journals reaching our editorial desk especial notice must be accorded to the Nidologist, an illustrated monthly published at Alameda, Calif., which ably sustains a right to its sub-title as the "Exponent of American Ornithology and Oology." Within the limits of its field no journal has a better corps of correspondents or a more able editorial staff—the name of R. W. Shufeldt of the Smithsonian Institution as associate editor being a sufficient guarantee of the Nidologist's sterling value.—Sports Afield.

SNOWY OWLS IN CALIFORNIA.

Snowy Owls invaded California in some numbers early in December, driven down by northern gales. One was shot on Bay Farm Island, near Alameda, December 1, and three were taken in Sonoma county. Mr. Gillette, of Chula Vista, San Diego county, informs us he saw one there about the same time. These records are the first for California

Extracts from an Old Book.

BY H. M. GUILFORD.

WHILE in the Minneapolis Public Library recently I picked up a small book entitled, "Carver's Travels." Its yellow and worn leaves and its old style print marked it as a volume of antiquity.

It was the account of Jonathan Carver, a citizen of the Colonies, who at his own enterprise, a century and a quarter ago, traversed the Great Lakes, explored the Wisconsin and Chippewa Rivers, and the country lying along the upper Mississippi.

The thought came to me to turn its leaves and see what it contained relating to early Ornithology, and I found therein a whole chapter about birds. As much of it was interesting to me and may be so to others, I copy parts of it as follows:

The Night Hawk:—This bird is of the Hawk species, its bill being crooked, its wings formed for swiftness, and its shape nearly like that of the common Hawk; but in size it is considerably less and in color rather darker. It is scarcely ever seen but in the evening, when, at the approach of twilight, it flies about, and darts itself in wanton gambols at the head of the belated traveller. Before a thunder shower these birds are seen at an amazing height in the air, assembled together in great numbers as Swallows are observed to do on the same occasion.

The Whipp*er*will, or, as it is termed by the Indians, the Muckawiss. This extraordinary bird is somewhat like the last mentioned in shape and color, only it has some whitish stripes across the wings, and like that bird is seldom seen till after sunset. It also is seldom met with during the spring and summer months. As soon as the Indians are informed by its notes of its return, they conclude that the frost is entirely gone, in which they are seldom deceived; and upon receiving this assurance of milder weather, begin to sow their corn. It acquires its name by the noise it makes, which to the people of the Colonies sounds like the name they give it, Whipperwill; to an Indian ear, Muckawiss. The words, it is true, are not alike, but in this manner they strike the imagination of each; and the circumstance is a proof that the same sounds, if they are not rendered certain by being reduced to the rules of Ornithology, might convey different ideas to different peoples. As soon as night comes on, these birds will place themselves on the fences, stumps or stones that lie near some house, and repeat their melancholy notes without any variation till midnight. The Indians and some of the inhabitants of the back settlements, think if this bird perches itself upon any house, that it betokens some mishap to the inhabitants of it.

The Fish Hawk greatly resembles the latter in its shape, and receives his name from his food; which is generally fish; it skims over the lakes and rivers, and sometimes seems to lie expanded on the water, as he hovers close to it, and having by some attractive power drawn the fish within its reach, darts suddenly upon them. The charm it makes use of is supposed to be an oil contained in a small bag in the body, and which nature has by some means or other supplied him with the power of using for this purpose; it is, however, very certain, that any bait touched with a drop of the oil collected from this bird is an irresistible lure for all sorts of fish, and insures the angler great success.

The Wakon Bird, as it is termed by the Indians, appears to be one of the same species as the Birds of Paradise. The name they have given it is expressive of its superior excellence and the veneration they have for it; the Wakon Bird being in their language the bird of the Great Spirit. It is nearly the size of a Swallow, of a brown color, shaded about the neck with a bright green; the wings are of a darker brown than the body; its tail is composed of four or five feathers, which are three times as long as its body, and which are beautifully shaded with green and purple. It carries this fine length of plumage in the same manner as a peacock does, but it is not known whether it ever raises it into the erect position that bird sometimes does. I never saw any of these birds in the Colonies, but the Naudowessie Indians caught several of them when I was in their country, and seemed to treat them as if they were of a superior rank to any other of the feathered race.

The Black-bird:—There are three sorts of birds in North America that bear this name; the first is the common, or as it is there termed, the Crow Black-bird, which is quite black, and of the same size and shape of those of Europe, but it has not that melody in its tones which they have. In the month of September this sort fly in

large flights, and do great mischief to the Indian corn, which at that time is just ripe. The second sort is the Red-wing, which is rather smaller than the last species, but like it black all over its body, except the lower rim of its wings, where it is a fine, bright, full scarlet. It builds its nest, and chiefly resorts among the small bushes that grow in meadows and low swampy places. It whistles a few notes, but is not equal in its song to the European Black-bird. The third sort is of the same size as the latter and is jet black like that, but all the upper part of the wing just below the back, is of a fine, clear white; as if nature intended to diversify the species, and to atone for the want of a melodious pipe by the beauty of its plumage, for this also is deficient in its musical power. The beaks of every sort are of a full yellow, and the females of each of a rusty black like the European.

The Red Bird is about the size of a Sparrow, but with a long tail, and is all over of a bright vermilion color. I saw many of them about the Ottawa Lakes, but I could not learn that they sung. I also observed in some other parts a bird of much the same make, but that was entirely of a fine yellow.

The Whetsaw is of the Cuckoo kind, being, like that, a solitary bird, and scarcely ever seen. In the summer months it is heard in the groves, where it makes a noise like the filing of a saw; froom which it receives its name.

The reader can draw his own conclusions. We must make allowance for this voyager's limited acquaintance with some of the birds mentioned. For my part, I would say that the Whetsaw was the Acadian Owl; that the Red Bird was the Scarlet Tanager; and the fine yellow bird "of much the same make," a female of the last mentioned species. The third species of Black-bird described might be the Bobolink, but, if so, it is strange that he never heard its song.

But what was the Wakon Bird? Among all the birds I know of, now inhabiting the territory through which he passed, I cannot think of a similar one. Can some one tell me?

Minneapolis, Minn.

A number of valuable and very interesting pen and ink sketches by an eminent artist of the West, illustrating the trials and humorous incidents of an early trip to the Farallones, are to be secured for the "Souvenir."

Michigan Notes.

A FEW NOTES made during the past year or so may be of interest to your Michigan readers, at least, as they relate to some species whose occurance in this locality, if not in this state, is quite infrequent.

A Double-crested Cormorant (*P. dilophus*) was brought to Prof. Wood of our High School by one of his students, which had been shot on the Saginaw River. This is the first Cormorant that I know of being taken in this locality.

March 23, 1894, I made my first record of the Ring-necked Duck (*A. collaris*) in this vicinity. They were quite common during that Spring, and a few were also noted the same fall. A single specimen was also noted in the Spring of 1895. Their visits must be quite irregular, as my observations extend back over a period of thirteen years.

In the Spring of 1895, an Old Squaw (*C. hyemalis*) was taken at Marquette by a local hunter, and in the fall of the same year, a specimen was brought me for identification which has been taken at the Lex Cheneaux Islands, Straits of Mackinaw.

While returning from a trip to the Northern Peninsula, the latter part of September last, on the D. S. & A. Railroad, a few miles west of Seney, in the low marshy lands peculiar to that locality, eleven Sandhill Cranes (*G. mexicana*) were seen, and I was informed by one of the train hands, that "they were there every fall.

I was not aware that the Baird's Sandpiper (*T. bairdii*) was regarded as such a rare visitor to our state. In the December, 1895, number of your paper, page 49. under "Notes from Michigan," the first recorded capture is reported and reference made to what Prof. Cook says regarding the species in his "Birds of Michigan."

In my notes furnished Prof. Cook on the birds of this locality, I said relative to this species "tolerable common on bay-shore in September."

Evidently the statement was regarded as an error, as he made no mention of it in his catalogue. This statement, however, was based on the fact, that two birds had been taken September 11, 1891, four taken September 1, 1893, and others seen, and several taken September 23, 1893.

Wild Turkey (*M. gallopavo*)—This bird has been regarded as practically extinct in this locality, for the past few years. An old Turkey hunter informed me that last fall he tracked a flock of about a dozen birds several miles on the low lands south of the city, and other hunters stated they had seen birds in that vicinity. Possibly as a result of our game laws, the species may be on the increase.

A Pigeon Hawk (*F. colombarius*) was brought to me last October, making my first record for this county.

N. A. Eddy.

Bay City, Mich.

Birds of Golden Gate Park.

Golden Gate Park, the great pleasure ground of San Franciscans, is situated in the western portion of the city. It was commenced from the sand-dunes in 1874, and now covers one thousand and thirteen acres, being three miles long by a half a mile wide. Its forests are a delight to the Oologist, and also furnish many a home for the feathered tribe.

Often have I sat on a bench, beneath some shady "scrub-oak" tree, with wild blackberry vines forming a canopy overhead, and studied the habits of our feathered friends. On April 20, '95, I noticed a pair of Wren-tits in the Park scratching among the leaves and dirt. I did not pay much attention to them at first, but when turning about on the bench on which I sat I saw the female with some Quail feathers, hopping from limb to limb until she was a few feet back of me in the vines. I turned around, and what should I see but Mrs. Wren-tit building her nest. I wrote the location down in my note book, and resolved to visit her in a few days. While going home I stumbled across a nest of California Bush-tit. As it was pretty early for eggs, I did not disturb the nest, but put it down in my note book also.

On April 30 I went out to the Park to collect my nests (or rather the birds' nests). I went in through the Hayes street entrance and took the path leading toward the Wren-tit's nest. There were too many people around to begin operations, so I sat down on a bench and took it cool for a while. I waited patiently for half an hour or so, but instead of the people going away, it seemed to me as if more came. I waited a little longer, and seeing no one around, I got down on my hands and knees and began to crawl under the blackberry vines, when suddenly I heard footsteps. I "laid low" and held my breath, for if a Park Policeman" (or "star bird" as they are called) should catch you, it would be twenty dollar fine or twenty days at the city's expense. I kept my position until I heard the footsteps die away, and then proceeded on my crawling expedition. I was now near enough to stand up and reach the nest. This was no easy task, for the vines were twisted among the branches and thus prevented the hand from reaching it. I took out my knife and began to cut the vines, when again I heard footsteps coming right in the direction I was standing. My heart began to thump up and down, and I thought I would have a free ride to the City Hall, when I saw a lady and gentleman come and take the seat a few feet from me. There I was again penned up. I waited for a while for the parties to go away, but they did not stir. I looked at my watch; it was five minutes past 4. I waited a little while longer, and still they did not move. I began to think I wouldn't get home that night at all, when the lady said: "Gracious me! quarter of 5; I will have to be going home," and they got up and left. Once more I felt good and was in my right senses. I lost no time in cutting the vines this time, so I could reach the nest. When this was complete I pulled the nest out without looking in it to see whether it contained eggs or not. But there among the feathers and moss lay four little pale blue eggs. I packed the treasures in a little tin box which I had brought for the purpose, crawled out the same way I got in, and made a bee line for a cable car. Going home I said to myself: "That's the hardest job I ever undertook in my life for a bird's nest." I didn't think about the Bush-tit's nest until I was safe at home, and I assure you I made up my mind to leave it alone.

Other birds that I have noted in Golden Gate Park are: California Partridge, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Plain Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Gambel's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Russet-backed Thrush, California Jay, Anna's Hummingbird, Californian Towhee, and Rufous Hummingbird. I think I can safely say these birds breed in the Park.

A. C F.

San Francisco, Cal.

MIGRATORY NOTES.

From my notebook I take the following notes on migration for the fall season of '96. The first arrivals noted were several species of Warblers August 3. They arrived in large flocks, and are still plentiful, the black and white being the most common. Noted on August 25 many Barn Swallows; they were especially plentiful after a rain. Noted on September 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeak; three birds, two females and one male. On September 24 I noted two American Redstarts, and have seen but one since. Noted on October 20 several Wilson's Snipe, and they were rather plentiful by November 25. On October 24 I saw a large flock of Killdeer Plover, and saw on October 15 a flock of Wild Geese. Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard and others arrived about October 5. The Robin was first noted on November 4; several large flocks seen November 23.

GILMAN J. WINTHROP.

Tallahassee, Fla.

* * *

CHIMNEY SWIFT NOTES.

I noticed in an article by C. W. and J. H. Bowles in the August NIDOLOGIST this statement: "In some places reports come from time to time of nesting in chimneys."

Now at Chili, Monroe county, New York, where I spent most of my collecting seasons, nearly all the nests I found personally, or that were brought to me, were taken from the inside of barn gables. This was not confined to one or two pairs of birds, but seemed general all over that section. I never took but one set from a chimney.

Was this a local condition? My nests were usually made of elm twigs, but I have seen the birds break off cherry and apple twigs. I always considered any feathers found as accidental, but that might not hold good on close investigation. Certainly the majority of my nests showed no feathers; in fact there was seldom anything but the twigs and saliva or glue. The birds usually started a number of nests before selecting one to complete. Let us hear from other localities as to nesting sites.

ERNEST H. SHORT.

Albion, N. Y.

* * *

USURPED A WAXWING'S NEST.

Mr. Butter's article, "The Robin as a Freak, "in the NID , for October, brings to mind a similar experience of my own.

June 15, 1896, I found a nest of the Cedar Waxwing containing five eggs, on a horizontal branch of a maple and far out from the body of the tree.

July 24 I found a nest of the American Goldfinch in the same tree, but higher up. When I started to climb the tree a Robin flew from it and commenced to make a great fuss, so when I had examined the Goldfinch's nest, and could see no Robin's nest in the tree, I concluded to look in the Waxwing's, and found that it had been added to by the Robin, she having made the walls higher by using mud and grass so that it looked like a typical Robin's nest. It contained a newly hatched Robin and an egg just ready to hatch.

VERDI BURTCH.

Penn Yan, N. Y.

* * *

A ROBIN IN THE COLD.

December 14, during a snow storm, and the thermometer at 20, a Robin made its appearance, and remained about the house for some time. That night the themometer registered six degrees below zero.

W. S. JOHNSON.

Boonville, N. Y.

* * *

A *cow*ARDLY SCHEME.

Those who have searched for the nests of *Aegialitis vocifera* know what a deceiving creature the bird is. The nests are difficult to find, unless you run onto one by mere chance.

In the summer of 1891, a pair had its nest in a stump patch in an old pasture on my father's farm. The stumps thickly covered about half an acre of ground, in places well grown over with weeds. Here I had searched many times for a nest which I was sure was located there, but my search was always attended with failure. I

would endeavor to hide from the female's observation behind a stump, bnt the male on the high knoll adjoining wonld invariably give my whereabouts away. Finally I gave it up in despair. One evening when driving home the cows an idea suddenly passed through my head. Thinks I, "now if I drive the cows through that patch of stumps they may scare the old bird from her nest and she will be so intent on watching them as not to observe me." No sooner said than done, and I started the cows stumpward. They scattered well in passing over the patch, and soon I heard the alarm note of my deceitful friend. Looking in the direction whence came the sound I saw the Killdeer flying again and again at the cow's head. She soon saw me, however, and was off, but too late, for going to where the cow was when attacked I had no difficulty in finding her pretty set of four eggs near the base of an old well rotted stump. "There's schemes in all trades but ours," but this time my scheme proved a practical and successful one.

W. E. Snyder.

Beaver Dam, Wis.

Sunset in Early Summer.

The farm on which I live is situated on the outskirts of a country village with a population of about 3,500 inhabitants. The town borders on the Connecticut line, in central Massachusetts, about twenty miles east of the Connecticut River. The house is built on the top of a steep hill. About one hundred and fifty yards north of the house is a strip of meadow land, with a small pond in the distance; just west of the house is another meadow with a brook running through it. On the east side is a small orchard, and beyond that, a knoll, the sides of which are covered with sweet ferns, while on the top are a few yellow pines. A few rods south of the house are two more knolls, separated by a deep gully. The first one is covered with small brush, while the second is partly covered with pines.

Many times in early summer I have sat in a chair in my back yard, when the fiery orb was setting in the west, and listened to the chorus sung by the birds in honor of the departing day. In the pines the Warblers and Ovenbirds are singing their best love songs. From the meadow comes the clear whistle of the Meadowlark and the rollicking song of the Bobolink, interspersed with the plaintive "peet-tweet, peet-tweet" of the Spotted Sandpiper, who is examining the bed of the brook in search of his evening meal.

In the orchard is heard the "chick-a-dee-dee" of the Black-capped Titmouse and the "rat-a-tat-tat" of the Downy Woodpecker, who has a bill as long as any milliner's, and thought he would call and see if Mr. Worm is at home. On the knoll back of the house I hear the sweet song of the Song Sparrow, and at intervals, the whistle of the Bob-white.

In the orchard is heard the evening song of the Robin and the sweet but sorrowful whistle of the Bluebird. Truly, "all nature is in tune." In the midst of this chorus, there arrives from the south knolls, another songster that alights on the top branch of a pine in the yard near me. I look, and behold—it is the prince of mimics, the Brown Thrasher, come to bid the parting day *au revoir*. After eyeing me closely for a short time, he droops his wings and tail, gazes heavenward, and breaks forth in a song so loud, clear and sweet that those of the other birds are scarcely discernible. He intersperses his own original song with snatches from those of the other singers so much more perfectly that they are shamed into silence. After singing and mimicking for about half an hour, he disappears as suddenly as he came, for he has got to be on hand to meet his love at their trysting place in a brush heap. After he has gone, I can hear the clear, bell-like notes of the Wood Thrush in the distant woods and the Whip-poor-will calling his mate on the east knoll as the shroud of night closes over the scene.

As I arise to enter the house, I hear the booming of the Night Hawks, performing their aerial evolutions, and the hoarse "quawk, quawk" of the Night Herons wending their way to their feeding grounds at the pond. This closes a day in early summer.

William H. Naughton.

Monson, Mass.

Mr. O. Widmann, whose interesting article on the Chimney Swift appears in this number, writes: "I had a very good chance to watch a family of Swifts through an auger hole, which allowed me to bring my eye within two feet of the nest, without disturbing them."

Individuality in Eggs of Particular Pairs of Birds.

(READ BEFORE THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.)

OOLOGISTS make a great point of securing series of sets of eggs of certain species of birds, intending by a completed series, which may consist of from a dozen to one hundred or more sets of a kind, to show the true type of the particular species' eggs, with all the principal variations in size, coloration, markings, etc.

Mr. A. W. Johnson, formerly of England, but now of California, once remarked to me that his large series of eggs of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysætos*) was almost complete. Yet I feel that I may confidently affirm that with the eggs of certain species, and Golden Eagle's particularly, such a thing as series, in the sense of possible "completeness," is practically a myth.

I think investigation, which has hitherto been practically lacking, will prove it to be a general law that eggs of monogamous birds like the Golden Eagle show a remarkable individuality from year to year in size, shape, coloration and markings—sometimes in all of these particulars, and always in one or more.

I have had exceptional opportunities in Santa Clara and San Benito counties, California, to study individuality in *Aquila chrysætos*, which it is generally conceded remains paired for life and occupies the same nest for many years. In case they are much disturbed or the nest is destroyed by the elements, which occasionally happens, they commonly build a new nest quite near the old one, from a seeming attachment to the locality, so that it is easy in that region to keep track of the nidification each year of a particular pair.

I have shown in notes which appeared in "Zoe" and afterward in Major Bendire's "Life Histories," that some of my pairs of Eagles, which became familiars after years of observation, possess marked individuality as shown in their habits. It is to their eggs, however, that I would now draw especial attention. I visited the nests of some eight pairs of Golden Eagles for almost ten years successively, and while I came to know some of the birds, I became so familiar with the character of the eggs laid by isolated pairs that I would in most cases know exactly what to expect before climbing to a nest—which were the handsomest eggs, which very large, which more rounded in form, and so on.

Mr C. Barlow, of San Jose, California, was furnished with a map by which he might visit some of my Eagles' nests the past season, and succeeded in collecting two sets of eggs from them. He wrote me from which nests he had secured the sets. I then described the eggs to him from memory of others taken from the same pairs. So well did the descriptions apply that he was forced to admit they were very striking, though having previously numbered himself among the incredulous.

In one of these sets the eggs were unusually large and delicately and beautifully marked all over. The other set was quite a different type, not so large, and more rounded.

Major Charles E. Bendire, in his "Life Histories of North American Birds," states of the Golden Eagle: "I am inclined to believe that they remain mated for life, notwithstanding the eggs differ very greatly in markings from year to year, although coming from the same nest and evidently from the same pair of birds." Here is testimony directly opposed to my own, but with due deference to so high and conservative an authority in Oology, I question if his observations on the nesting of this species were so fully extended and continuous as to warrant this conclusion.

Mr. A. H. Frost, of New York, informs me that he has noticed a very marked similarity between two sets of eggs of this Eagle in his collection, which were secured by Denis Gale in Colorado, from the same nest in two successive years. Mr. J. Parker Norris, Jr., who has found a prodigious number of nests of the Kentucky Warbler of late years, stated to me that he had observed very distinct individuality in quite a number of instances in sets he presumed to belong to particular pairs of these Warblers.

It is well known that the "J. P. N." collection is rich in its series of sets of eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk, collected by Mr. C. L. Rawson, of Norwich, Conn., the famous "J. M. W," and Mr. Norris informs me that Mr. Rawson, who collected systematically from his Red-shouldered Hawk circuit for many years, had recognized strong individuality in the eggs of particular pairs.

Mr. D. A. Cohen has noted in THE NIDOLOGIST similar instances in the case of the Spurred Towhee going to prove individu-

ality in eggs. A set of this bird was found on the ground under an oak tree, all the eggs of which were what are styled "runts." Later a second set of runt eggs were found in almost the same spot, the presumption being that they were the product of the same pair. There is apparently a chance for a good deal of original investigation on this line.

H. R. TAYLOR.

Alameda, Cal.

Chimney Swift Feeding its Young.

BY O. WIDMANN.

AS Mr. W. Palmer in his article on the Swift (NID. IV., 2) wishes additional information regarding the feeding habits of the young Swifts, I have the following to offer:

The young Swifts are blind until the 10th day, and are therefore very helpless creatures; the growth of the bird itself is great, but that of its feathers is slow. On the 14th day the feathers of the head are just sprouting, and the primaries are only half an inch long. During the third week their growth is marvelous, and this is the time when they are most hungry and most clamorous.

As soon as the parent enters the chimney a grating noise is started, resembling the disagreeable love-song of the male cicada, and it is kept up intil the parent, which at first alights elsewhere, begins to feed. The feeding process is peculiar; the parent thrusts its head deep into the wide open mouth of the young and ejects the contents of its throat with one single effort. When the parent arrives its throat is greatly extended, and this extension is noticeable in the flying bird. After the young has received its dose the parent keeps sitting half a minute cleaning its throat by peculiar motions and openings of the bill, and leaves the chimney without removing any excreta. These are simply cast over the rim of the nest and accumulate to the amount of half a gallon at the end of one season, from one family While the Swallow feeds at all hours of the day and brings home insects much bigger than, unaided, it can swallow itself, the Swift always carries the food in the throat and feeds at intervals of half hours, except in the early morning and evening, when both parents bring food as fast as they can gather it. At these times they do not only fill the stomach of the young, but give an additional dose to be kept in the throat for future use.

The first two days after the eyes are open the young are yet drowsy and sleep a great deal, but have already much strength in the feet, and when crowded out of the nest cling to the wall with great tenacity. The feathers are pushing out fast now, and at the age of 17 days they are beautifully tiny creatures, resembling Humming birds in size and shape of wing and tail. In the cooler hours they crowd on top of each other in the nest, but during daytime they hook their way under the nest and stay there until evening, sitting so close together that they cannot be seen from above.

The growth of their wings is now very fast and during the fourth week they often change positions, sometimes crowding so as to cover each other with their wings, sometimes scattering, but they never come up to the mouth of the chimney. Their clamor is now becoming weaker and less insect-like.

Within a day or two of the age of four weeks the young Swifts make their first trip, but not all leave at the same time, and during the fifth week they still spend much time inside the chimney. They are not yet entirely independent of the care of the parents. The first few nights they return to the chimney an hour before dark and receive a few doses of food from their parents, and during the day one or more of the young are always found at home. They left for instance at 4:45 A. M. and returned already at 5:30 A. M. to rest and to be fed before making another, more extended, trip. They were never seen to receive food from their parents on the wing as the Swallows do, but after the fifth week they seemed to be entirely able to care for themselves, though they remained together and returned to the chimney quite late at night, even after dark, and these belated youngsters probably gave rise to the otherwise undeserved reputation of nocturnal habits.

The Martins feed later in the evening than the Swifts, and rise quarter of an hour earlier from their roost than the Swift leaves its chimney.

It is easy to tell the young Swifts on the wing from their parents.

Old Orchard, Mo.

"I enclose one dollar, which I consider the best testimonial"—Allen A. Bradley

Notes on the American Crossbill.

BY BENJAMIN HOAG.

JUST after sunset on June 15, 1896, a bird song unfamiliar and bewitchingly sweet, beguiled me from business in search of the singer. Crossing the street to a couple of tall poplars growing on the bank of the sparkling Kenderhook, perched on a dead twig high up near the top of one of those trees, I found the object of my search, but the song immediately ceased, and the author dropped down among the leaves. Low, whispering notes were now heard coming from different parts of the trees, and with the aid of the field-glass I caught a momentary glimpse of the birds as they moved about in the thick foliage, but was unable to distinguish colors or markings. Simultaneously with my decision to get the gun, they left in a scattering flock of six or eight, uttering call notes as they went. I watched them disappear in the gathering dusk of the evening, then returned to the store with feelings of mingled pleasure and disappointment, wondering how long, with only remembrance of their notes as a clew, their identity would remain a mystery.

The call notes and songs which haunted my dreams that night were a reality the next day, and many days thereafter, and I have the pleasure of recording the American Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) as a summer bird of this locality. I climbed the populars after the birds came the next morning, and on nearly every leaf-stem I found a gall of the poplar-stem gall-louse.* The Crossbills were biting these galls open to feed on the insects with which they were filled. The birds continued to visit the populars until scarcely a gall could be found which had not been opened and the lice eaten. A big tamarack loaded with cones, standing in the yard close by, also received their attention; the ground underneath this was soon covered with a thick carpet of cones which they had cut off and extracted the seeds from. Sometimes the seeds were obtained without cutting the cone off, but as a rule the birds quickly cut the cone from the twig, and swinging themselves to a firmer perch, held the cone in their claws while it was emptied of its contents.

I several times found two or three near the back door of the store, where a quantity of fine salt had been scattered on the ground. The peculiar formation of their mandibles did not seem to allow of the fine grains being picked up with them, but the bird's head was turned to one side and the tongue run out along the ground, the salt adhering to it being obtained in that manner.

Several times in June I saw flocks apparently composed of young birds, not many weeks from the nest, accompanied by their parents, who were still feeding them.

On July 12, in attempting to secure a beautiful red male from a flock in the top of the tamarack, I shot a female, a proceeding which I regret very much, as an almost fully developed egg was found in her oviduct, and others in different stages of development in her ovaries.

Early the next morning a red male in perfect adult breeding plumage appeared and was about all day, uttering call notes and flying restlessly from place to place. Undoubtedly it was his mate that I shot the day before.

After this occurrence I searched diligently for nests but in vain, though I several times saw pairs of birds which I had good reason to think were mated.

Small flocks were recorded almost every day from June 15 until August 12, after which I did not see them again in 1895.

This season (1896) I saw them first on May 26, a flock of six. They were then noted at intervals until July 28. But they did not come often nor stay long about the village, as the tamaracks did not have many cones on them this season, and there were very few galls on the poplars.

November 13, while Grouse hunting several miles north of this village, I met with the species again in a large tract of pines, fully fifty birds being counted.

Again on November 16, close to the village in some hemlocks on the border of a swamp I found ten or twelve, and with them four or five of the White-winged species (*Loxia leucoptera*).

I hope for time to make a thorough search for their nesting localities the coming year, as I am satisfied that somewhere about the coniferous woods in this town nidification of the American Red Crossbill has taken place the past two seasons.

Stephentown, New York.

*The late Professor C. V. Riley kindly identified the galls for me.

[Publications for review should be sent to DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, Associate in Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.]

BENDIRE, CHARLES: "Life Histories of North American Birds, from the Parrots to the Grackles, with special reference to their breeding habits and eggs. With seven lithographic plates. Smithsonian Institution. U. S. Nat. Museum. Special Bulletin. pp. I–X, 1–518. Plates I–VII. (From the Museum.)

This sumptous quarto constitutes in reality the second part of this great work upon the life histories of the birds of this country. Agreeing with the one that preceded it, it is based upon the collections in the United States National Museum, and relates only to land birds; and, as stated in the introduction, the "classification given in the Code and Check-List of the American Ornithologists' Union has again been followed, and the species and sub-species have been treated in a manner similar to that adopted in the earlier volume."

Fortunately for its author, he was again enabled to secure the services of Mr. John L. Ridgway, a brother of Mr. Robert Ridgway, the Ornithologist, to execute the original water-color drawings for him, and these have been chromo-lithographed and most faithfully reproduced by the Ketterlinus Printing Company of Philadelphia, Pa. In point of excellence, they even exceed in beauty and accuracy the eggs on the plates in the first volume, and it is perfectly safe to say that as artistic representations of the originals, no Oological treatise ever written has been embellished by such superb specimens of art, as is this work. It would be quite out of place here to give a full list of all the eggs figured on the seven plates to this volume, but there are two hundred and one (201) of them, and those on Plate VII, of the Orioles and Grackles, are as beautiful objects as one would care to see. In every instance the specimen is represented of natural size. Some of the variations seen among those of the American Crow are truly remarkable, not only in the matters of form and size, but most especially so in regard to color; indeed, as Major Bendire remarks in the body of the book under the admirable account of this bird, "endless varieties may be found in a good series of these eggs."

By consulting the "Table of Contents" alone one can easily find reference by page to any bird dealt with in the work, while in addition to this, at the close of the work we have a finely printed "Alphabetical Index," extending over nine pages, from which all special references may be obtained, as well as the pagination. All this is extremely useful, and adds to the finish and excellence of the production. It hardly seems called for to criticise the classification adopted by the author for, as admission is made that it follows the taxonomy set forth in the A.O.U. Check-List, it is sufficient to convince one what to expect. Doubtless it answers well enough for a volume that deals with life-histories of birds rather than with their systematic arrangement; with eggs rather than the morphology of the forms that laid them. Archaic to a degree almost Noachian, such classifications may be handy enough for chapter-headings, but they come very wide of the mark in so far as any natural taxonomy is concerned, based upon our modern knowledge of avian structure and the true affinities of the various species and groups. Major Bendire in such matters is a staunch representative of the old school of Ornithologists—very old school—hence we find him still adhering to such absolutely unnatural divisions as the Pi-carion Birds" and the "Macrochirine Birds," and so on. Such groups as these do not exist in nature, and consequently no true naturalist should allow himself to employ them for any purpose whatever.

In the case of any species or sub-species, the life-history of which is dealt with in this work, our author very wisely quotes *in extenso* from letters of such of his reliable correspondents as have studied the particular form in nature, or else he draws largely upon what has been published of a similar nature. To this matter he substantially adds from his own experiences, the whole, in any particular instance, being entertainingly blended, full and ample, and as a consequence in the great majority of instances thus brings before us life-histories of our birds considerably in advance of anything printed at the time of the appearance of the present volume. Descriptive Orinthology can but be powerfully advanced by these admirable achievements of Major Bendire's, and there is not an Orni-

thologist living today but who devoutly wishes that he may live to see his grand undertaking completed to his satisfaction, and to long enjoy the fame that will surely follow as his reward. It seems a pity that the volume was not bound in keeping with the first part so that the two present and subsequent volumes should have similar covers. This, however, is not the author's fault any more than it is that such unfortunate typographical errors have occurred as the one seen in the scientific name of the Vermilion Flycatcher (p. 322) and others. Personally I know these latter were not present in his revise proof-sheets, and the first noticed feature is doubtless some innovation of the Public Bindery. Major Bendire has spared neither time, pains nor personal supervision to make this volume as perfect as possible, and this makes it the more annoying that such objectionable features, and errors due to the carelessness of others, should after all find place in the final result.

R. W. S.

Correspondence.

EDITOR OF THE NIDOLOGIST: — The question is opened regarding the exact manner in which the Chimney Swift breaks off the bits of twigs which it uses in the construction of its nest. I should like to hear from your contributors on this subject. I have always accepted without question the common opinion that the bird swoops down at full speed, and twitches off a bit of dead, dry twig *with its bill* as it passes swiftly on the wing. Now I hear that the bird clutches the twig and breaks it off with its feet and claws. Several Ornithologists with whom I have talked on the subject seem to be no wiser than myself on this point. Cannot some of your contributors settle it? Has any one actually witnessed the performance, either with the bill or with the claws, under such circumstances of observation as left him in no doubt whatever concerning the exact way in which it was done?

Hoping that all goes well with your excellent periodical, I remain,

Very truly yours,

ELLIOTT COUES.

THE BREEDER AND SPORTSMAN has a correspondent who believes that Ducks commit suicide, having found them dead under water attached to seaweed by their mandibles.

TO THE SONG SPARROW.

WHEN winter's blasts do strident blow,
And sunshine seldom cheers our way,
Then from the world of cold and snow
Is heard thy sweetest, clearest lay.

Just is the debt we owe to thee,
Sweet singer of the dreary days;
And better for thy minstrelsy,
I gladly give thee praise.

Aylett, Virginia. HENRY AYLETT.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD of San Jose, Cal., informs us that while out walking he noticed a number of characteristic pellets of the Western Horned Owl. In the centre of one he found a large prune pit embedded in the usual mass of hair and bones. Rather a peculiar diet for an Owl.

FRANK L. BURNS of Berwyn, Pa., writes us: "Your crusade against all manner of frauds has earned you the good will and support of every honest Ornithologist in the country."

GEORGE G. CANTWELL has left Juneau on a collecting trip to be gone until June. His address will be McLeod's Post, Houkan, Jackson P. O., Alaska.

REV. P. B. PEABODY writes us: "You are certainly subject for congratulation in the 'scoop' you have scored in the world of scientific journals, in the beautiful and accurate portrayal of the nest and eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak."

THE NIDOLOGIST just received and I should call it the *best* number you have yet issued. The plate of the nest and eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak is superfine. Enclosed find 20 cents in stamps to pay for one copy of your souvenir, "The Story of the Farallones." I am sure that this work should be in the hands of every collector, as I know from my past correspondence with Mr. Barlow that it would be impossible for him to write anything which was not interesting.—Ora W. Knight.

A. A. Forbes of Silver Lane, Connecticut, has taken twenty-four eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk, this season. On April 2, a set of two eggs of the Great Horned Owl was secured from a tree where a pair of these Owls nested ten years ago.

Ralph E. Case of Avon, Connecticut, on June 5, 1896, found a set of Whip-poor-will's eggs one-half incubated, on dry leaves at foot of small pine. One egg has a complete circle of yellowish brown spots which give it a beautiful appearance.

E. B. Sisson, of Canton, Connecticut, took on April 5, 1899, a set of three eggs of the Red-tailed Hawk from a nest in a white pine tree. One egg is spotted with russet brown and two are greenish-white. Also on the same date he took a set of three eggs of the Barred Owl from a poplar stub in a hole six feet up from the ground.

Hartford, Connecticut. C. M. CASE.

MR. VERDI BURTCH writes us that a Murre was killed recently at Penn Yan, N. Y.—two hundred miles from the sea coast.

Published and Edited by HENRY R. TAYLOR

DR. SHUFELDT Smithsonian Institution, Associate.

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & Co., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

WE WISH to all our subscribers and friends a most happy and successful year, full of delightful experiences, rich in the fathoming of Nature's secrets, and fraught with the peace of woodland bird songs on a day in May!

WITH a desire to establish a closer sympathy between the paper and its subscribers, the prosperity of the one being that of the other also, we addressed a letter to our friends on the advent of the new year, which has already been fruitful of results highly gratifying and cheering to the editorial heart. New subscribers are coming in; now let the good work go on.

WE HAVE been obliged to issue a "combine" number. In it our readers will find many contributions of unusual interest and permanent value, a forecast, we believe of many more such with which we expect to be favored during the year. THE NIDOLOGIST is *your* medium—send in your articles for publication.

THE YEAR 1897 promises well for this journal. It will be issued hereafter on time, and by the help of all who are its firm friends will advance to higher achievements, keeping up the good work of exposing "frauds" and doing its share to raise the standard of Ornithology and Oology and to increase the interest in the most delightful of scientific studies.

THIS MAGAZINE shall continue to publish the best photographs by the latest half-tone process, not a lot of poor ones to please any amateur photographer at the expeuse of reading matter, but something in the way of beauty and value every time you see it. Line drawings make inexpensive and often very desirable illustrations, and we shall be pleased to have such sent in to us done with India ink, never pencil.

THE NIDOLOGIST is not published for fun, as a passing plaything, but is the following out of an earnest purpose which friends of Ornithology have recognized and aided. We need the help of all, never more than now, when a little concerted action can push a standard, established monthly of Ornithology into the *right place* in the new era of prosperity which is just dawning. This is to *your* interest. Let each one take a pride in it, and begin, now.

THE Alfred Marshall collections of bird skins and birds' eggs have just been transferred to the American Museum of Natural History.

THE superb illustrated souvenir, "The Story of the Farallones," has awakened a wide interest and the fact of its success is already established. It will be issued early in the year.

THE main object of this letter is to send my hearty indorsement of your great proposition, "The Story of the Farallones." For I know if it is in keeping with everything you have undertaken, THE NID for example, I will never regret my investment. R. C. STEVENS, New York.

I HAVE just been reading with much interest, the page of the September NIDOLOGIST, which relates to your Souvenir of the Farallones. There is a certain mystery about the sea-birds and their island homes that always interests me and I should not like to miss this paper on the subject. By the way, the Grosbeak nest plate is *elegant.*

N. HOLLISTER.

WRITES BENJAMIN T. GAULT: "It is just as you say, you do get a little late sometimes in getting out THE NID, but you do have 'something worth waiting for occasionally!' The September supplement, nest and eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak, is something that is really fine. It is very plain to be seen that you still intend to keep up your reputation as a leader."

THE steamer Hope, with the Peary Greenland party on board returned in safety to Sidney, Cape Breton Island, on September 26. A large collection of specimens of natural history and ethnology were obtained. Mr. Jesse D. Figgins of Kensington, Md., accompanied the expedition as collector and taxidermist, and his energy and hard work were successful in preserving over 200 birds and nearly 100 eggs, besides numerous other specimens.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

TERMS:—ONE CENT PER WORD. No notice for less than 25 cents. Address printed free.

A NEW copy of Capen's Oology of New England for sale cheap. Write at once for price, enclosing stamp. GEO. D. FRENCH,
Ivoryton, Conn.

FOR SALE—Fine first class skins of birds and small mammals from this locality; this winters collecting. Also one hundred mounted birds; all first class specimens. Prices low. Full lists for stamps.
GEO. D. FRENCH, Ivoryton, Conn.

WANTED—Brewer's "N. A. Oology," Bendire's "Life Histories," Fisher's "Hawks and Owls," "Maynard's Eggs." Write stating lowest cash price. Have to exchange "N. A. Grasses" by Geo. Vasey, two vols. WALTER S. COLVIN,
Miami Co. Osawatomie, Kans.

I WANT northern and western sets, in exchange for sets with data, of this locality. Also some unios for exchange. J. R. MAGUIRE,
Box 83. Lowistown, Ill.

WANTED—A telegraph instrument in good condition, with sounder. Will offer good exchange in first class skins and eggs in sets, or will pay reasonable cash price. Early replies desired.
C. BARLOW, Santa Clara, Calif.

TO EXCHANGE—77 Nos. of Oologist, Vol. XI. of "Auk," 6 Nos. of "O. and O." 2 second class eggs of Golden Eagle, and one Revolutionary Flint Lock Musket, for eggs in sets with data. Many common kinds wanted.
HARRY C. CAMPBELL,
Rens Co. Lansingburgh, N. Y.

NORTH DAKOTA Birds Eggs:—Complete list for stamp; Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Blue-wing Teal, Ruddy, Shoveller and Pintail; some nests. Also Grouse, Grebes, Hawks, Owls, Terns, etc. Here is a sample: Set of 3 egg Franklin's Gull, postpaid $.50. Send a half dollar and receive fresh skin of Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse.
EDWIN S. BRYANT,
Grand Harbor, N. Dakota.

WANTED AT ONCE—A good hammerless, double-barrelled 12 ga. gun, Parker preferred, or Spencer Repeater; must be in strictly first class condition. Will give big exchange in fossils, minerals, gem stones, Indian relics or eggs in sets, or part cash, balance in exchange. GEO. W. DIXON,
Watertown, S. D.

FOR EXCHANGE—Following first class sets, offered for the same: 1 1-5, 49½, 64½, 269¼, 285⅓, 337 1-3, 360 1-3, 368½, 375 1-1, 378⅛, 416 1-1, 417½, 538¼. Send lists. W. F. HILL,
Lake City, Minn

WANTED—Body and job type, write stating lowest cash or exchange price.
J. R. BONWELL,
821-823 N. Sixteenth St., Nebraska City, Neb.

The Nidologist.

Published by
Henry Reed Taylor
ALAMEDA, CAL.

February, 1897

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. IV. No. 6 ALAMEDA, CAL., FEBRUARY, 1897 $1.00 PER YEAR

California Vulture

(PHOTOGRAPHED FROM LIFE)

A Pet Condor

A STRANGE PET, you think, but this huge bird, a California Vulture (*Pseudogryphus californianus*,) now about eight months old, is as gentle and playful as a kitten.

He was taken from the nest, which was simply the bare floor of a cave, high up among the cliffs in Monterey, Co., California, and overlooking a dark canyon, with the stream about 300 feet below. At that time (July 7, 1896) he was probably about four weeks old, about the size of a half grown

SITTING FOR HIS PICTURE

goose, and covered all over with white down. Through this the black feathers gradually pushed out until he was fully feathered, and he began to venture around the place a little.

As he grew older, being still unable to fly, one of his favorite amusements was to wade out into the creek, flowing near the house, and take a good bath, after which he would stand in the sun with widespread wings until dry.

We keep the bird now in a large wire netted enclosure where he has plenty of freedom, and he enjoys nothing so much as being petted. He is particularly partial to Mrs. Holmes' company, and when she enters the cage he will always fly down from the highest perch, which is his favorite resting place, and come rubbing up as a kitten does to be played with.

If annoyed by anything he dislikes he hisses much like a goose, raising the ruffs around his neck at the same time.

A few days ago I turned a Golden Eagle into the cage with him, of which the Condor was at first afraid, but now he stands his ground and hisses at Mr. Eagle should he get too familiar.

Any small, bright object immediately draws his attention, and when trying to get his photograph the rubber bulb of my camera shutter proved an irresistible attraction, and I had to keep sharp watch to prevent its being "punctured," or the possibility of the Condor taking a snap shot of me.

A large white sheet I fastened up for a background he repeatedly tugged down for investigation, tangling up his head in a comical manner. On another occasion he caught up the sheet in his beak.

FRANK H. HOLMES,
Berryessa, Calif.

An Odd Nesting Site.

On January 9, 1896, while egging with a friend in Diamond Canyon, near Piedmont, Cal., I discovered a nest of the Black-headed Grosbeak almost over our heads in one of the lower branches of an alder tree. It was nothing uncommon to find such a nest, but there was a dark spot in the center of the nest which attracted our attention. When my friend touched the limb on which it was resting, we were surprised to see a female Arkansas Goldfinch fly off and alight on a neighboring shrub. That looked suspicious, so my friend bent the limb down until I could get the nest, when, to our surprise, the flat Grosbeak's nest held a nest of the Arkansas Goldfinch, containing four perfectly fresh eggs. The inner nest was made of bark-fibre, string, and cotton, and was not fastened to the other nest in any manner.

JOHN M. WILLARD,
Oakland, Cal.

Next month we shall most likely have to expose an unusually audacious fraud.

DINNER TIME

Notes from Alaska.

Alaska certainly has a fine assortment of birds. One of my first takes here was a fine pair of banded-backed, three-toed Woodpeckers, a new bird for my collection.

I have seen several Gyrfalcons, of what species I could not tell, as they kept circling about the mountain tops in most inaccessible places. I also flushed a flock of Yellow Wagtails from the beach one day while after some of the monster crabs we have here—my gun was back in the cabin, of course.

Have had my first Ptarmigan hunt. Just at present they stay on the summit of the range. The five I killed were the variety *rupestris* and had not fully assumed the white plumage.

The Ravens and Fish Crows are always to be seen on the beach at any time of day. The Gulls are all new to me. So far I have taken the Western, Red-legged Kittiwake, Short-billed and the Glaucous-winged. There are no Terns of any kind about at this season of the year.

Marbled and Ancient Murrelets and other Divers are coming in from the open water, as the weather gets severe, and Auks of many rare varieties afford good shooting on the mud flats.

Eagles are very plenty wherever salmon streams occur—fine, bald-headed old fellows they are, too. The people here declare they have seen the young Eagles setting in the nests with white heads and tails.

The Steller's and Alaskan Jays of coursd are numerous and noisy, but I was surprisee to find the Magpie common also.

There are several islands in the vicinity, I am told, that are breeding resorts for various sea-birds. This will be investigated next spring and if I find any Great Auks nesting there will let you know.

GEORGE G. CANTWELL.

Juneau, Alaska.

Measurements Corrected.

Mr. Anthony informs me that there were some errors in the measurements given of the eggs of the Black, Socorro and Least Petrels in his article and presents the following measurements of the three species in inches and hundredth instead of millimetres:

O. MELAINA.

1.32x. 98	—	1.34x1.03
1.35x1.02	—	1.38x .98
1.35x1.00	—	1.46x1.05
1.38x1.04	—	1.44x1.05
1.33x .99	—	1.34x1.02

O. SOCORROENSIS.

1.16x .90	—	1.12x .92
1.22x .87	—	1.22x .89

HALOCYPTENA.

1.06x .77	—	1.08x .75
1.04x .76	—	.97x .70
.98x .75	—	1.05x .77
.98x .75	—	1.01x .77
1.06x .77	—	1.03x .70

THE COOPER CLUB

Annual Assembly, January, 1897

THE Annual Assembly of the Cooper Ornithological Club of California convened at the residence of C. Barlow at San Jose Saturday evening, January 9, with a large attendance. Several visitors were present. R. B. Moran of Berkeley and R. B. McLain of Stanford were elected to membership. A committee of four, consisting of Messrs. H. B. Kaeding, Jno. W. Mailliard, D. A Cohen and H. R. Taylor was appointed to co-operate with a committee from the California Academy of Sciences with reference to the framing and passage of a bill favoring the protection of Californian birds.

The annual election of the officers of the Club-at-Large and Northern Division for 1897 took place, resulting as follows: President, Walter E. Bryant of Santa Rosa; Vice President, Henry B. Kaeding of San Francisco; Secretary, C. Barlow of Santa Clara; Treasurer, D. A. Cohen of Alameda. The program of the evening was proceeded to. A paper was read by the Secretary, Mr. Barlow, entitled,

A Club Retrospect.

"A review of the work of the Cooper Ornithological Club during its existence is like all retrospective matters,—not without its regrets. The Club is now in the fourth year of its life and though it may have been possible for us as a body of members, to have accomplished a greater amount of scientific work than is now to our credit, it is beyond dispute that the Club in carrying out its general aims has been an unqualified success. At the time of our organization in June, 1893, there was no Ornithological association in California which embraced our proposed scope of work. Popular interest in the study of our birds among active field workers was practically at a standstill, and there were many difficulties to surmount in establishing a successful club. We are all more or less familiar with the ups and downs of the Club during its first year. Happily our co-worker, Mr. Taylor, established his excellent magazine, THE NIDOLOGIST, a few months after we were organized and we were thus able to secure recognition among the workers to whom the magazine went. I feel that I voice the appreciation of the members at large in saying that the Club has been substantially aided by means of the liberal space granted its reports in our official organ and the consequent wide distribution they have received.

"The work of the Club has perhaps been as successful as we could hope to have it, considering the wide distribution of our members and the differing nature of the territory covered. We have inclined toward general observations rather than the prosecution of a given line of work. Soon after the organization of the Club we took up the study of the life histories and nidification of the Wrens and Vireos native to California, which resulted in many good papers being sent in, but lack of organization prevented the work being a success. The success of our meetings been largely dependent upon the program committee, whose duty it is to solicit papers and contributions for the monthly meetings, and we have had presented papers on a wide range of subjects, which have made the meetings more interesting, perhaps, to members at large than would a subject of organized research or the study of a designated family. Among the papers presented within the last two years have been many containing observations of special interest and value upon the nidification and habits of many of our rare birds. These have included notes upon the rarer forms of birds of the Colorado Desert and Guadalupe Island, California Pigmy Owl, Poor-will, Calaveras Warbler, Hermit Warbler, and numerous others- Papers have been presented describing authentically for the first time the nesting of the Western Evening Grosbeak, (picturing its nest and eggs), and the taking of two sets of eggs of the White-throated Swift, which are probably the first perfect sets on record.

"Through the medium of our club proceedings these papers have been placed within reach of all working Ornithologists of America. Copies of important papers are forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution and by these two methods our proceedings are given a wide circulation. There are but few lines of organized work along which a club with a comparatively scattered membership can hope to work successfully. The undertaking we have recently engaged in (that of compiling a complete annotated list of the Land and Water Birds of California) offers a field of work in which each member can engage

with interest, and considering that the work is in charge of a competent State Committee it would seem that its success is assured. In this connection I would refer to a letter recently received from Mr. Anthony in which he suggests that so far as possible in preparing the county lists, a map be also arranged to show the faunal areas and elevations of each county.

"The Cooper Club has done much to bring together and acquaint with each other the Ornithologists of the state and this has made mutual work possible. The stated meetings of the Northern and Southern Divisions act as centers of Ornithological interest in the state, and members of the Club-at-Large have grown to feel that they are welcome at the meetings wherever held. A fraternal feeling of this nature can do much to promote a general interest in any line of work the Club may take up. Harmony in the Club has at all times prevailed —a state of affairs very necessary to the life and welfare of an organization such as ours. Matters of importance requiring discussion have always been pleasantly adjusted to the satisfaction of all and in many ways our members have at all times attested their loyalty to the Club and its cause. We are happily free from cliques, and governed by our own council have built up an association of which we may well feel proud.

"At the present time I think we may safely estimate that we have enrolled as members of the Cooper Ornithological Club two-thirds of the working Ornithologists of California. Our membership at present numbers 67, showing a gain of 10 new members for the year past, which is good considering that a large majority of the Ornithologists of the state were enrolled at the beginning of the year. There are 41 members in the Northern Division and 26 in the Southern Division, considering Tehachapi the dividing line. It is fortunate that in both division there are members sufficiently grouped together to permit of a good attendance at the monthly meetings as a rule. The year of 1896 has found the Club better organized and doing a better work than ever before, and a good share of our advancement has been due to the interest and energy of our President, Mr. Bryant. With the dawn of a new year let us hope that the Club may continue its researches with greater success than ever, which will be possible if each member will realize his individual responsibility to the Club."

Henry W. Carriger of Sonoma read an interesting paper on

Habits of the Red-Bellied Hawk.

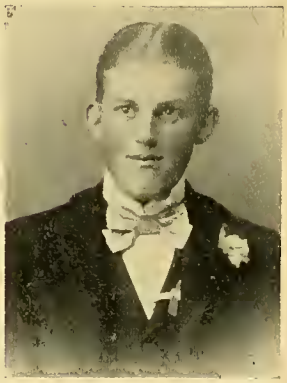
"In the year 1888 I was collecting with a companion along a creek in the valley, when a large bird flew from a nest about forty feet up in a large white oak sapling. I got but a glimpse of the bird as it left the nest, but thought nothing of this, as in those days the eggs were the primary object and identity only a secondary consideration. Being a novice in the art of climbing it was fully five minutes before I reached the limbs under the nest. After resting a few seconds, I looked into the nest and there lay four large eggs. Hawk's eggs were then unknown to me and I felt as elated as if I had discovered a gold mine. How to get those eggs to the ground was the next question. After several attempts I reached the ground in safety with one specimen, the other three being broken on my way down. I succeeded in blowing this specimen and now began to think of a name for it. My Ornithological library consisted of some lists of birds of the United States and when I reached home I started to read over the list. When I reached the Cooper's Hawk, my companion who was near by, cried, "That's the bird!" He concluded that since the nest was found on the farm of a man by the name of Cooper, that was surely the name of the owner of our egg. I differed with my friend, but having no description of the bird I gave up the search. Next day I was in the locality with a field glass and got a minute description of the bird, which was afterward identified by a friend. Thus I became acquainted with the Red-bellied Hawk.

"Since then I have seen considerable of this bird and have become somewhat familiar with its habits, especially during the nesting season. My observations were taken in Sonoma valley, which is surrounded by foothills, and through which the Sonoma river flows. One pair of birds is located in a pasture field grown up to white oaks, where they can be found almost every day in the year. The second pair is located in a dry creek bed, where there are numerous large oaks and other trees. My observations lead me to believe that the birds remain mated the year round, and along about the first of the year they begin to get a little restless, and can often be seen

flying up and down the creeks. They are quiet at this time, scarcely ever uttering a screech unless they come together. In early march they begin to look for a nest, and if they have raised a brood the previous season the same nest is almost invariably used. The first pair have changed but four times since I first found them and at present have two good nests, one of which has been used every year since 1892. The other pair has three good nests and use one of them each season. They hatched for four successive years, using the same nest each season, but it fell to pieces in 1892 and there built one near by. I secured the set from this nest, and another was built in which they hatched a brood. I collected a set from this nest in '93, and they built a third, all three of which still remain, one being used every year. The nests are within view of a much travelled road.

Walter E. Bryant, President

Wilfred H. Osgood, Vice-Pres.



Chester Barlow, Secretary

Roswell S. Wheeler, Treasurer

Officers of the Cooper Ornithological Club, 1896

"After they decide on a nest there is but little to be done to it. It is lined (almost invariably with green leaves) and is then ready for the eggs. From two to four eggs are laid, and incubation apparently commences with the first egg, as I found the bird setting on an incomplete set in the middle of the day. The nest is unlike most of the other large Hawks, being composed almost entirely of moss, with but very few sticks, which forms a compact body about 17 to 24 inches across and 6 inches in depth, the nest proper being about 14 inches in diameter, by about 3½ inches in depth. They are usually situated about forty to sixty feet up, and either in a horizontal or upright crotch. The birds are close sitters and act very much like the Western Horned Owl when on the nest. When the eggs are incubated they often remain on the nest, while you may throw sticks or pound on the tree. I have several times got over half way up to the nest before they would fly from the same. Sometimes the bird will commence screeching as soon as it leaves the nest and will soon be joined by its mate, and will keep up the noise until you leave the locality. Often they will stay in trees near by, and again will fly in circles overhead, but occasionally they leave without a note and do not appear for quite a while. One instance I remember where I had no sooner reached the ground when the bird was back on the nest.

"When the first set is collected, they soon take possession of another nest and lay a second set. If this be taken they sometimes, (perhaps always) lay a third time. On March 25, I saw one standing up in a nest calling to another in a tree about one hundred yards away. On the 29th, I collected two fresh eggs from the nest. They went to another nest and on the 4th of April it had one egg. I collected this nest on April 12 with three eggs, and in early May I saw the bird on the nest from which I took the two eggs on March 29. The period of incubation seems to be about four weeks, and during this time the other bird can be heard screeching in trees near by. Both birds assist in feeding the

young. As soon as the young are able to look after themselves, the birds become very noisy and can be heard calling from all portions of the locality. The cries are kept up until the winter season and often continue for hours in the early part of the day. I have never been able to account for the continuous screeching, though it may be the young crying for food.

"The food consists of insects, mammals and snakes, and they seldom go any distance from the river in search of it. I have never seen them in the hills and very seldom over half a mile from the groves I have mentioned. They are often shot, as they are said to kill chickens, but I have been unable to secure proof of this statement, and do not believe it, for there are about twenty-five chicken ranches within a radius of half a mile of one pair and I have never heard any complaint about them while they are raising their young, but later on, when the Cooper's and Sharp-skinned Hawks arrive, the poultrymen raise a complaint and I feel that it is for the acts of Cooper's and the Sharp-shinned Hawks that they suffer. I have often wondered how they manage to live in this locality, for hunters are numerous and will shoot a Hawk on sight, but still they appear in nesting season. Though I know two were killed this year, I have hopes that I will find both pairs in their old homes by the last of March." Four sets of eggs of the Red-bellied Hawk were exhibited.

Mr. R. B. Moran of San Luis Obispo read a paper as follows:

Nesting of the White-throated Swift.

"After the failure to collect a set of Swift's eggs in 1894 as reported in the May NIDOLOGIST, we hoped to be sure of a take in 1895 but our luck was even worse than that of the preceding year. Visiting the nest site several times during the spring, and not seeing anything of the Swifts or of a new nest, we supposed the place to have been deserted, but chancing to return about the first of August I found a nest containing several young just hatched. In '96, profiting by previous experiences, we watched the place closely, first seeing the bird on May 1. On May the 9th the nest had been build up and the bird was on it, but it contained no eggs. On May 16 the nest contained eggs but it proved to be no easy task to remove them in safety. My companion was just able to reach the nest by standing on my shoulders and holding on to a pole with one hand. The chief difficulty was that the crevice was so narrow that he could just get his hand in; but after the expenditure of some little time and trouble he transferred five fresh eggs to me. Meanwhile the bird did not leave but crawled a few inches to one side of the crevice as she had done on all of our previous visits.

"The male was only seen to approach the place once and at that, only to dart past the cave once or twice. At almost any time however a number of Swifts might be seen as they darted here and there, occasionally uttering their shrill cry. The nest was elliptical in shape; the measurements were five by three by four inches deep with a depression of one and one-half inches. It was composed of feathers and a little dry grass glued together and firmly attached in the crevice. The eggs were elongated in shape, clear-white, resembling those of the Tree Swallow. They are sparingly speckled with black, which however is not really coloring of the shell as it can be erased with a damp finger so easily that we had trouble in preserving it while blowing. The eggs measure as follows: .88x.55; .83x.55; .83x .54; .90x.55 and .86x.55 in inches.

"We next visited a granite cliff some 200 feet high, which was tenanted by a number of Swifts. Discovering a nest about three feet within a crevice, and which contained no eggs, I procured the nest by means of a wire. Climbing on top of a projecting pinnacle the Swifts would dart within a few feet of us uttering their peculiar twittering cry. One was seen to dart into a crack only two or three inches wide but which apparently went in to a great distance, just where the cliff projected some 25 feet outward; after which the twittering could be heard within. Another was seen to dart down and up behind a large boulder, lodged in a crevice about two feet wide almost directly under the other but only a short distance up. Climbing up I managed to wedge myself into the crack in order to feel behind the boulder, but could reach nothing. As I was sliding down the Swifts could be heard inside and presently one flew out. Trying again with no better success, just as I was sliding down a second bird came out.

"By watching the Swifts circling around in the vicinity of my take my companion and I were able to discover three cracks in

which the male was evidently feeding the female or feeding young, darting in and out as above related. All of which were between fifty and one hundred feet above the surf but utterly unaccessible because of the narrowness of the crevices. On June 16 I collected a set of three eggs from the same nest which was robbed May 16. The parent bird again not only remained in the nest but objected to the intrusion by striking at my hand so that I feared she would break the eggs. The eggs were incubated about one-fifth and measure .84x.56; .88x.54 and .82x.56 inches."

The two sets of eggs of White-throated Swift described in the paper were exhibited, being probably the only perfect sets of this species yet taken.

Donald A. Cohen of Alameda read a paper on

The Western Flycatcher.

"In this locality we may look for the return of our feathered friend in the latter part of March. In 1896 I noted the first arrival on the 24th and three days later quite a number. When first arriving, evidently singly, they are rather shy but indicate their presence by their familiar 'tshweep." A visit to last year's nesting site will generally reveal the presence of a pair of birds and it appears the old birds usually inhabit the same small district if it is not usurped by some other pair. In this small domain they rule as miniature Kingbirds and are more than a match for the piratical Jay, their small size and great activity winning over bulk and strength. These little acrobats of the air are so quick and 'scientific' that attacked birds are glad to retreat in in short order where they recognize that vigorous rattle of snapping beaks, an almost mechanical sound.

"May 4, 1895, a set of almost hatched eggs was the earliest record of the numerous nests I have found. Nearly all the sets are of four eggs, often three, while two faint recollections of sets of five eggs are recalled from my childhood days. The nests are on an average 8 feet from the ground while one noticed was but little over one foot and another nearly 45 feet from the ground, both on buildings. Ledges and sills on houses and old buildings, beams and rafters in sheds, barns, and frames and under bridges are suitable sites for a nest. Slight hollows in the trunks of trees are readily used, in fact any suitable nook with a good foundation may be selected where the close-setting bird in her cobweb covered nest is well hidden in what appears to the casual observer to be an accumulation of web and dirt from natural sources. Many nests however are built on some horizontal fork of a bushy tree, mostly cypress, while one is occasionally found supported by vines against the trunk of a tree or the side of a house. Only twice have I found a nest on twigs and foliage and that was on a thick cypress.

"For three seasons I have failed after dilligent search to discover a nest of a certain pair of Western Flycatchers. There were many fine sites near at hand but none were chosen. It was only by chance that I saw one of them fly with a moth in its bill to a crack extending lengthwise about five inches in an almost perpendicular, live limb of a gigantic oak, about 40 feet from the ground. The limb was about five inches in diameter. Like most other birds in nesting season they become rather nervous at the approach of a person but never really excited. The bird or birds as the case may be, will alight often very close to you with see-sawing tail and shrugging wings, all at once darting into the air to catch an insect, then immediately settling again perhaps on the identical perch and going through the same performance time after time, never betraying by its actions whether you are 'hot or cold' and uttering every two seconds or so its plaintive "tshweep," as if to say 'I know that you are aware I have a nest, but find it if you can.'

"The female sitting close with the knowledge that her color is in harmony with that of her surroundings can often be caught by a dexterous movement of the hand. I noted one caught and held for a few seconds return instantly to her eggs after first alighting on the nearest perch to get her bearings. Occasionally, if robbed, a second set is deposited in the original nest, while if the nest be also removed, a second and even a third nest and set is produced in a remarkably short space of time, generally in the immediate locality. The construction of the nest varies but slightly when the material is at hand; a bunch of dirty cobwebs, a few dead leaves, a little dry grass, occasionally a bit of string and a few feathers, then a liberal drapery and festooning of cobwebs and lastly the lining of fine shredded bark and vegetable fibres. By August the bird has become conspicuous

by its absence, yet stragglers remain until late in September."

The paper was discussed and Mr. W. O. Emerson described the summer song of the Western Flycatcher as resembling the words "whittier-whittier-whittier" uttered rapidly.

The address by the President, Mr. Bryant, was postponed until the February meeting. The following committees were appointed for 1897: Program, Messrs. Cohen, Emerson and Bryant; on publication, Messrs. Barlow and Taylor. The Northern Division meets February 6 at the residence of H. R. Taylor in Alameda.

The Southern Division of the Club held an interesting meeting at Highland Park, Dec. 28, with thirteen members and thirteen visitors present. F. J. Illingsworth of Claremont and Howard Robertson of Los Angeles were elected to membership in the Club. The annual election of officers of the Southern Division resulted as follows: President, A. I. McCormick, Vice-President, Frank B. Jewett; Secretary, Horace A. Gaylord; Treasurer, W. B. Judson.

The program of the evening was taken up with the following papers: "Growth of the Club," by Horace A. Gaylord; "Ornithology as a Study and Recreation," by A. I. McCormick; "Nesting of the Bald Eagle in Orange County, Cal." by Evan Davis and read by F. S. Daggett; "Notes on Sea Birds" by Jos. Grinnell. These papers will appear complete in next month's proceedings. Edward Simmons presented an interesting paper, as follows, entitled:

Nesting of the Dusky Poor-Will.

"It is not my object in this paper to discuss the fine points of distinction of our resident species with reference to its identity, which is known to be somewhat "dusky." My aim is to write a few notes on the nesting habits. My first success in finding the nest of the Poor-will began with the season of '93. After repeated trials of search not extending over more than one-half acre of ground my efforts were rewarded by finding a set of two badly incubated eggs. This event occurred on June 14, 1893. In describing this find I quote from Mr. Badger's article, entitled "Nidification of the California Poor-will" in May 1894 NIDOLOGIST, which was a parallel case to mine. He says: 'Several days later, returning to the locality and cautiously working my way along, stopping at every few steps to examine the ground ahead of me, I was finally rewarded. About three feet ahead sat the object of my search. Bunched up as it was it seemed more like an inanimate object than a bird. Indeed my eyes ranged over the spot several times before I became conscious of its presence. I was, in fact, about to advance, feeling sure that nothing more than the same white bits of chalky rocks lay ahead of me, when, as if coming out of the earth, my bird appeared.' A little farther on he says: 'Her eyes were closed, though the head was tilted a little off the horizontal, as if watching me through the ever so-slightly divided eyelids. Getting on my knees and slowly approaching her, she gave no sign of disturbance till my hand came within about twelve inches, when she quickly and silently as a shadow, glided away.'

"'*And silently glided away.*' This last description does not tally with my experience. The bird, on leaving the nest, uttered a continued note of alarm, which lasted during a flight of about 100 feet from the nest. I was not long in taking the two white eggs, which lay in a slight depression of the earth, not made by the bird, however. The eggs were placed about twelve inches from a small eucalyptus and this was the only vegetation within ten feet. The season of '94 was what might be termed an 'off year' for me in collecting Poor-wills eggs, but I was lucky or unlucky enough to discover two nests of young during the season. A few words about them might be of interest. I found one brood when they were quite young, not hatched more than one or two days. These birds were well covered with yellow down resembling that of a young pigeon. My observation of their development only lasted through a period of about ten days. The most interesting feature about them was that upon revisiting the place I would find the young *moved a few feet from the old site.* How the parent birds accomplished this, if they did, I am unable to state, but this was noticeable after every visit till I lost track of them altogether. The old birds must have assisted them, for all I could gain upon examing the young was that they were perfectly helpless. I noticed the development of the feathers, especially the wings, which grew very rapidly. I am sure the young receive no food during the day, for when I visited them they seemed dormant, and both parent birds were flushed near them; one of

them was usually found hovering near the young. The food most likely consists of the regular line of insects caught by the old birds. The manner of feeding I am unable to describe.

"Still having a little hope the season of '95 rolled around and it proved well in the end. On April 21, while out making one of my usual searches on the old stamping ground I flushed a Poor-will from a set of two creamy-white eggs, which proved to be fresh. The eggs were placed on sandy ground about four inches from a weed and near a small stone, the whole site being placed two feet from a clump of eucalyptus sprouts. I retreated a few paces and hid, leaving the eggs undisturbed and after a few moments the parent bird came back, flying close to the ground and lighting squarely on the eggs. I flushed the bird again, packed the eggs, and went on my way.

"June 4, 1896, found me again in the field, and I secured a set of Poor-wills' on that date. The eggs were deposited on the bare ground, surrounded by oak leaves from a large live oak which o'ershadowed the whole situation. On blowing the eggs they showed a slight progression of incubation. In all the cases that I have been concerned in, in hunting Poor-wills' nests I have previously flushed a pair of birds in the vicinity of the supposed nesting site, and after incubation commenced I was unable to flush but one bird, which was found within a few yards of the sitting mate. This bird seemed to be in my path every time I came but to find the sitting one was another question.

"I believe that one of the birds is always found present on the nest, at least I found it invariably so, no matter how warm the day was, and the bird being exposed to the sun. This I think is so in order that the bird may conceal the conspicious white eggs from theft. I noticed that the nests were always placed on the south or southeast of a near-by object; this precaution allowing the sun's rays to warm the earth and expedite incubation. I am led to believe that incubation takes place after the first egg is laid, because I always found a bird on the nest. I might be mistaken however for I never happened to find a nest containing just one egg. The bird seems to sit closer as incubation advances, as in the first instance, I almost captured a bird by placing my hat over her, while in the other two cases the birds were more on the alert, flying from the nest, when I was several steps away. With these meagre notes I anxiously await the disclosures of 1897."

After the business of the meeting had been transacted a banquet was enjoyed by those present.

A Hawk's Raid in a City.

On the afternoon of December 14, 1896, while on a busy part of Kearny street, San Fraucisco, I observed a Sharp-shinned (?) Hawk darting under the cornice work of a three story building; the cornice being built in such a design as to afford elegant nesting sites for the English Sparrows, which had them all occupied.

The Sparrows objected to the Hawk intruding upon their property at first, but finding him their superior they began to leave the place one by one. Presently one of the Sparrows flew over the top of the building with the Hawk in close pursuit, and both were lost to view. The curious sight attracted the attention of a throng on the street. The Hawk must have been very hungry, or in its determination to catch one of the Sparrows it did not realize its position, as this is a very crowded thoroughfare.

Whatever species of Hawk it may have been it ought to receive the indorsement of every Ornithologist, as it is about time something is done to diminish the numbers of this little pest.

I might also state that a very reliable friend of mine who recently returned from a trip to Coos Bay, informs me that he caught three Hummingbirds (the identity he did not know) which fell exhausted on board the steamer two hundred miles out at sea. He took them down into the engine room, thinking the warmth of the place would relieve their suffering, but this had no effect and they soon expired.

CLAUDE FYFE.

San Francisco, Cal.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Our "renewals," which are numerous at this time of the year, are coming in steadily, but we would remind those who have neglected to remit for 1897 that the terms of subscription are, and have always been, in advance.

Mr. Wilfred H. Osgood is now in Washington, D. C., where he will probably accept a position in the Biological Survey.

FRIENDS OF OUR SCIENCE

INCREASING THE VALUE OF A STANDARD JOURNAL AND PERPETUATING ITS USEFULNESS.

AT the first of the year the publisher of THE NIDOLOGIST issued a circular letter to many of his subscribers and friends, setting forth the history of this journal, something as to the enduring patience, time and money expended to accomplish results for Ornithology and Oology, and submitting for earnest consideration the problem of its success, which should be dear to all bird lovers.

Of this communication, William Brewster, President of the American Ornithologist's Union, wrote: "I have read your appeal with sympathy and admiration. It is the frankest statement of the kind that I have ever seen, and if it does not bring the required help, nothing will."

The many responses indicative of appreciation and hearty support which have come to hand are most gratifying, and back of the substantial aid "for the cause" the spirit actuating it has spoken louder than words and will never be forgotten.

The sentiment is generously expressed that the NID is "all right," that the editor is satisfactory and that the publication *must* be pushed on to an adequate full support. Every little helps, and one new subscriber is a *big* help. See what will be accomplished if *half* of our subscribers get *one more each!*

As an ardent Oologist the editor is interested with the subscribers equally in the success of a good magazine, extending researches into new fields, recording rare "takes," and furnishing a medium worth much more to each collector than his one dollar per year. As the publisher, he gives his time, where he has already given largely of time and money, to develop such a first class publication, with a very distant prospect of returns, financially.

Disregarding the educational factor, such a journal is worth $'s from a purely material standpoint, to every active collector. This is why we "laid the whole case" before our friends. That the facts are appreciated we have already abundant evidence.

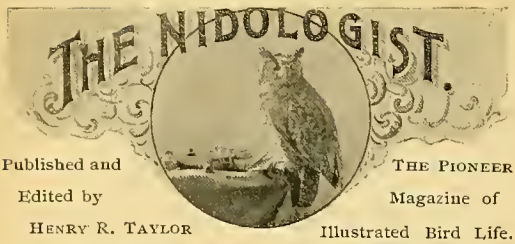
Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, of Avery's Island, La., has very generously volunteered a contribution of $100 worth of southern bird's eggs in sets to be offered as premiums with THE NIDOLOGIST, thereby attesting substantially his good will toward the magazine and his desire to see it have a wider circulation—such as it will have, we believe, with our friends' earnest co-operation.

The following list includes the support *recently* received "for the cause," and from good friends of Ornithology, and represents the number of subscribers secured, or their equivalent, with those pledged to be secured during the next five months. The first two objected to the publication of their names:

A Western Ornithologist	10
Pasadena	10
Chase Littlejohn,	10
J. Parker Norris Jr.	3
Otto Emerson	2
J. B. Neal	2
H. B. Hollis	2
F. E. Newbury	2
Eugene S. Rolfe	1
E. J. Wheeler	1
Philo W. Smith	2
John A. Brandon	2
A. M. Ingersoll	1
Reginald G. Pape	1
Claude Fyfe	1
W. E. Snyder	1
Frank L. Burns	2
R. W. Williams Jr.	
R. C. McGregor	1
A. W. Johnson	4
M. C. Howe	1
Virginius H. Chase	5
R. H. Beck	1
Albert Lano	1
W. A. Davidson	1
Mrs. Agnes Chase	1
Verdi Burtch	1
Francis R. Cope Jr.	1
C. F. Stone	1
D. D. Stone	1
Dr. Louis B. Bishop	1
Walter E. McLain	1
H. W. Flint	1
Hartley Jackson	1
C. H. Morrell	2
C. Barlow	2
N. A. Eddy	5
Dr. H. V. Ogden	1
Prof. D. B. Burrows	1
G. P. Bourne	1
Miss J. F. Hecox	1
Dr. W. M. Martin	1
C. P. Fore	1
Charles S. Butters	1
R. P. Sharples, advertising	
Bert H. Douglass, engraving	

How many will add to this list? The editor has done all he can, do a little then yourself for *your own* paper, and you will see it all come back, benefiting Ornithology and yourself a good Ornithologist and a member of THE NIDOLOGIST'S widening circle of enthusiasts. Keep up the good work. May we not hear from *you* and that early? Let us have something to publish next month from every one who feels that he is *with us*, and let it be a record to be proud of, and to remember when the magazine gets to be double its present size.

MR. A. W. ANTHONY has sailed from San Diego on a five months collecting cruise in Mexican waters. He will visit this time a number of islands in the Gulf of California. He is accompanied on the expedition by Richard C. McGregor of Palo Alto and H. B. Kaeding of San Francisco. Some excellent work no doubt will be accomplished.



Published and Edited by HENRY R. TAYLOR

THE PIONEER Magazine of Illustrated Bird Life.

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & CO., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

IT SEEMS fitting, at the opening of another year, to remark the fact that the files of this journal have been noteworthy for its valuable, original observations on the habits of little known or unknown species. A cursory examination of recent numbers will amply verify this assertion. In August, Mr. W. H. Osgood contributed an article on the "Nest and Eggs of the Calaveras Warbler." In the September number, Mr. Beck described the taking of the first fully authentic nest and eggs of the Western Evening Grosbeak, both being accurately figured with a colored plate; while Mr. C. H. Morrell presented valuable notes on the nesting of the Pileated Woodpecker. In the October number, Mr. A. W. Anthony gave the *first descriptions* of the eggs and breeding habits of three almost unknown Petrels. Next month's NID will contain an article on the nesting of the Bald Eagle in California and one on the "Nest and Eggs of the Hermit Warbler." In our last number, Mr. Benjamin Hoag gave to Ornithologists his most interesting discovery of the nesting of the American Crossbill in numbers in New York. The articles, presented herewith, on the nesting habits of the White-throated Swift, the Red-bellied Hawk and the Dusky Poor-will, with the first photographs ever taken of a *live* California Vulture, now nearing extinction, accompanied by notes on its habits, simply emphasize the work which this journal, through its able supporters, is accomplishing for Ornithology, making it indispensable to all well informed workers.

THERE is an instructive story by a humorous author about a literary man who, having made a moderate start as a writer, took unto himself a wife. The great happiness incident to this event gave such inspiration that he wrote a wonderfully pathetic story, "His Deceased Wife's Sister." A favored editor accepted it with gratitude; it was the hit of the author's career. After a time he wrote another story. It was a good one, but did not show the exuberant genius of a rare moment, and it was returned to him by the publisher of his great success with a note expressing disappointment. It was not equal to "His Deceased Wife's Sister," he said, and it would never do to spoil the great reputation his masterpiece had gained. He tried other editors, and each returned his MS.; it was good, they all wrote, but they had really expected something like "His Deceased Wife's Sister."

The situation became desperate, the once successful writer could no longer profit by his pen. Reduced almost to beggary he conceived the idea of publishing his stories under an assumed name. The editor who had given his great literary triumph to the world consented to the plan, and once more he was fairly prosperous. There was no "divine afflatus" about his stories, but they were good and made their way.

Now it happened that the young author came to be blessed with a son. In all the freshness of new joy he began to write a tale. At last it was finished, and his wife read it with tears in her eyes. She declared with her heart swelling with pride that it was indeed equal to "His Deceased Wife's Sister."

At this moment of happiness a dreadful thought entered the mind of each. It was a critical moment. The warmth of her joy turned to ice as as she said to him: "Be strong, be brave!" He understood, and taking up the brilliant, pathetic story he placed it in a box in the garret, hermetrically sealed, there to lie until he should be dead.

The moral of this little story in its relation to Ornithology will be found in its application.

WE HAVE decided to eliminate from our review department hereafter, matter of foreign and technical nature which can be better replaced by fresh original articles from the field. In taking this step our nominal associate relations with Dr. Shufeldt, who has been conducting this department, are coincidently severed.

THE editor of a new Ornithological journal ingenuously states in an advertisement that his paper "is not intended to gain money for its publisher." We feel sure that his earnest desire not to make any money will be fully realized, and trust he may have great joy in its very certain fulfillment.

GEORGE A. MORRISON, of Fox Lake, Wis., under date January 2, writes: "Our open season in Wisconsin has been the cause of the absence of many winter visitants. We have had little snow so far and the roads have been bare all winter."

I ENJOY THE NIDOLOGIST very much, and consider it the best magazine of its kind I have ever seen, and look forward to its coming as a rare treat. A. C. BENT
Taunton, Mass.

Our March issue will be of 24 instead of 16 pages and will contain much interesting matter.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

TERMS:—ONE CENT PER WORD. No notice for less than 25 cents. Address printed free. Dealers advertisements 15 per line.

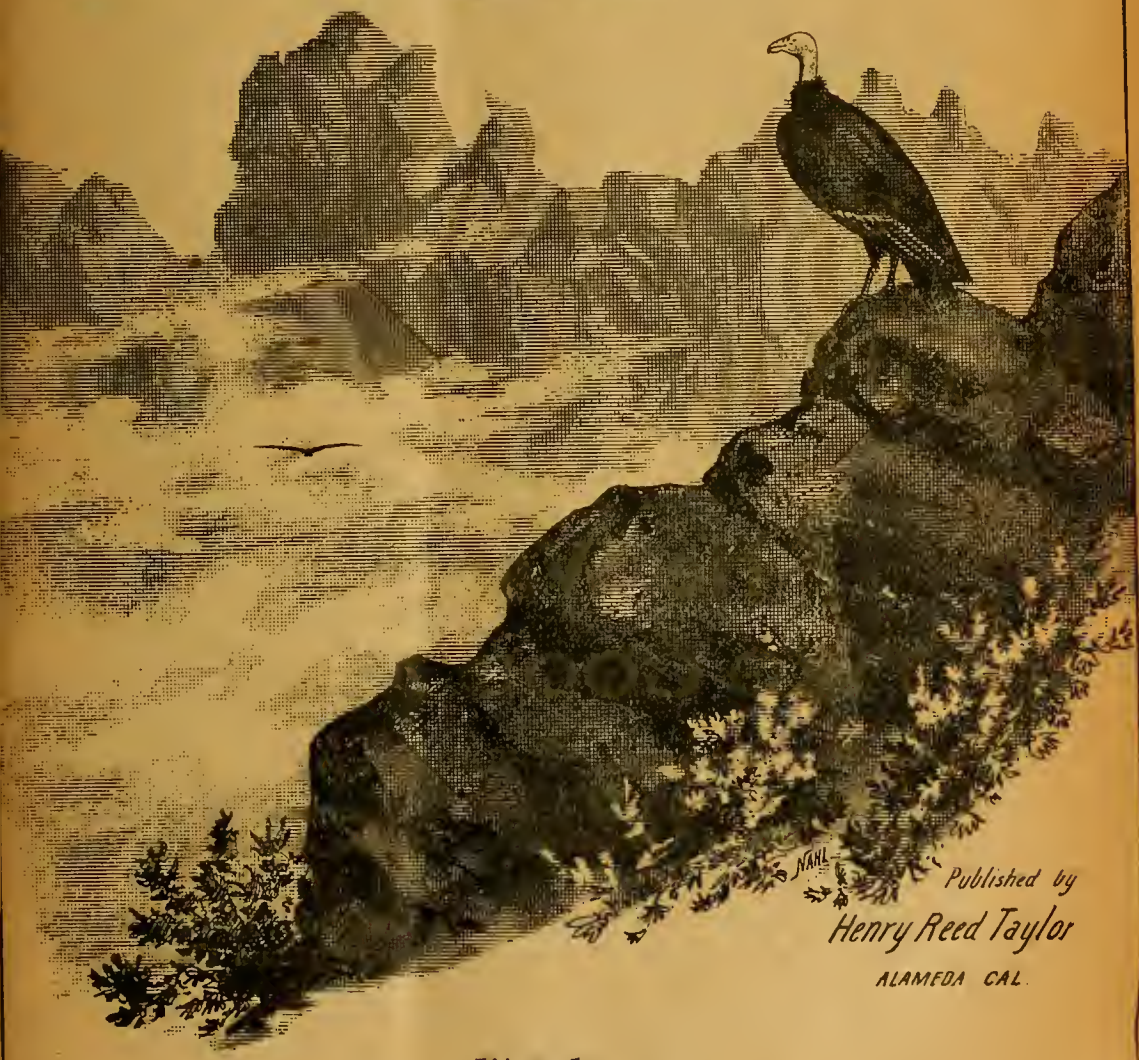
WANTED—Sets of Swallow-tailed Kite and Golden Eagle. Will pay cash for same. Also, want Hawk's and Owl's eggs in exchange for goods on our catalogue. If you are interested send for our bulletin of skins, eggs, etc., the largest bulletin sent out by a dealer. JAMES P. BABBITT,
Taunton, Mass.

FOR SALE—Having taken a position that demands my entire time I am obliged to close out my entire stock of Natural History specimens, comprising Minerals, Fossils, Birds' eggs, Mounted Birds and Animals, Polished Agates, Gem Stones, Indian Relics, etc. I am making them at way below cost as I must sell them at once. Send for special lists in branches you are interested in. GEO. W. DIXON,
Watertown, South Dakota.

IN ORDER to help defray the expenses of a long trip I shall be prepared to fill orders for choice Alaskan Bird Skins, curios, etc., till June next. Send stamp with inquiries.
GEO. G. CANTWELL,
Howkan, Jackson P. O., Alaska

NOTICE TO TAXIDERMISTS:—Gipsy, the man-killing elephant will be mounted here. I have arranged to give lessons on her to a few assistants. Those wishing to take the course should correspond with me at once.
PROF. WM. ALANSON BRYAN,
University of Chicago, Chicago.

The Nidologist.



Published by
Henry Reed Taylor
ALAMEDA CAL.

March, 1897

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

VOL. IV. No. 7 ALAMEDA, CAL., MARCH, 1897 $1.00 PER YEAR

Young Ferruginous Rough-Leg

(PHOTO FROM LIFE)

A Young Ferruginous Rough-Leg.

BY WILLOUGHBY P. LOWE.

IT WAS in the *Auk* (Volume XI, No. 2) that Dr. J. A. Allen called the attention of Ornithologists to the striking difference of first plumages. It is not necessary here to comment on his excellent paper, but to try to further impress on the readers of THE NIDOLOGIST the vast importance of collecting sufficient material and studying this interesting subject. How little we know, even yet, about many familiar birds, as to the various stages and exact time required, for the downy young to develop into an adult bird. For this reason, perhaps, the accompanying striking photograph of the young of *Archibuteo ferrugineus*, taken by Mr. H. W. Nash of Pueblo, at my house last summer, may prove of interest, showing as it does the large pectoral blotch, of rich ochraceous-buff, which as time goes on fades into pinkish-buff. This coloration extends also up the entire throat. There are, of course, many other points of difference, but this appears to be the foremost and most striking.

Just how long it takes for this to disappear is not at present known to me, but judging from a large number of specimens several molts are required before this *entirely* disappears, as many birds in breeding plumage show traces of buff toward the tips and edges of the feathers.

The bird from which the photograph was obtained was kept in confinement several months and became an interesting and amusing pet. As the habits of this useful bird are well known and have been so often described, it seems unnecessary to repeat.

Minor Nesting Notes from North Dakota.

BY EUGENE S. ROLFE.

IN ALL our rides and rambles over the blooming prairies the Bobolinks bubbled on every hand, yet as we had not chanced upon a nest, I had faithfully promised the youthful Oologist of the family to assist in making a deliberate search, and immediately after breakfast on the morning of June 17, 1895, we started hopefully.

Horned and Meadowlarks, Vesper, Savanna, Grasshopper, Bairds' and Clay-colored Sparrows, Bartramian Sandpipers, Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Bobolinks galore were plentifully scattered over the almost boundless area that rolled in view, and it was plain that the small frame beside me could hardly contain the swelling spirits that trusted utterly in the paternal ability to find anything needed. Yet hour after hour had passed, many, many acres had been closely, painfully searched, the sun stood high and hot in the heavens, legs ached and the bounding spirits suffered a collapse. Not a nest of any description had rewarded our search, and when noon came and the home loomed two long, weary miles away, we turned our lagging feet thither all but defeated, when happening to glance across the wide stretch far away to the right a female Bobolink caught my eye, going swift and straight as though upon serious business intent. She flew full 500 yards and dropped suddenly into the grass. When part way thither her mate, springing into view mysteriously, followed close after, and plumping down in the same spot presently shot up into the air pouring forth a wealth of bubbling song. Altogether this conduct was a little strange and rather suggested a family of hungry progeny, but even so it would be most cheering to look in upon their retreat, so fixing the distant spot with an intentness of gaze that fairly made the eyes ache, I walked straight till within ten yards and then rushed in with a bound. The bird, usually so wary, was fairly taken by surprise, and instead of skulking away through the grass, struggled into the air directly from the nest. Down among the rank vegetation, sunk in the ground slightly, fairly in the centre of a tussock of grass was the nest—a trifling affair of dried grasses and fine dried weed stalks loosely put together but well held in place by the stiff upright grass stems of the tussock. Tall mesh-like culms stood about, such as the male loves to perch upon when giving utterance to the song which has made him famous. Six eggs of the heavily colored, clouded appearance so difficult to describe showed signs of incubation, and indicated that so far as making good specimens was concerned our visit was timely. And thus was filial confidence in the paternal power restored.

This set went far west in exchange, and this past season we sallied forth again, this time with drag-rope. In three widely separated places we flushed the trim, modest female, twice without result and once only

to find the hungry, naked little offspring in nest almost identical with that already described, except that it was not sunken in the ground at all.

Scarcely less pleasing in its way is the tastefully dressed Chestnut-collared Longspur (*C. ornatus*) with its black velvet breast, bright cervical collar, white tail, sprightly way and pleasing song. It is essentially a prairie bird, and is never, so far as I know, found in the immediate vicinity of timber. Its arrival here in the Spring is intermediate between those early and late—about the first of May and for nearly a month it seems given over entirely to an idle, joyous life, and I find that my notes disclose no record of nest building earlier than June 3 and no full set taken before June 10. The nest is invariably on the ground, sunk flush with the surface, the neat, cup shaped cavity being evidently the work of the birds themselves and lined with fine dried grasses and the finer weed stalks woven with much more care than is employed by the Bobolink. Generally a spot overshadowed by a tussock of grass or or a weed stalk is selected and the most interesting nests found by me had a sprig of the golden-rod for a sunshade. In this region a fair proportion of nests will be found from a few yards to as many rods from a travelled highway, where the birds seem to find favorite feeding grounds. And, too, it is quite possible that they are not averse to the occasional visit of man and beast, for they are habitually familiar and cheertul in the presence of man and will fly about a visitor in an engaging way, pouring forth their gentle, twittering song in apparent confidence and pride.

Dr. Coues in his *Key* says: "In the breeding season the birds are soaring and singing as they fly, rising to great height and letting themselves down with the wings held like parachutes." And some one else has aptly described this song descent of the bird as a "sliding down on the scale of its own music." I think that the birds are practically mute except when on the wing in the breeding season.

The eggs are commonly four—sometimes three. rarely five, and are uniformly dull, greyish-white with brown and blackish dots, spots and blotches, and lilac shell markings pretty widely scattered over surface, with now and then a specimen where the markings are most numerous at greater end. They are quite unlike eggs of any of the terrestrial Sparrows, and, indeed, among eggs of species hereabouts are quite distinctive, though one set taken by me strongly suggests—except in their much greater size—eggs of the Yellow Warbler (*D. aestiva*). Three widely varying sets show average dimensions .70x.50, .70x56 and .75x.52.

The Prairie Horned Lark (*O. alpestris praticola*) interests me much, being both pleasing in appearance and of a disposition that seems to regard man rather in the light of a friend to be cultivated than otherwise. It is something of a singer while soaring during the breeding season, but only once have I heard its song while at rest and then I instantly recalled Langille's homely but apt comparison, "the screaking of an ungreased wheelbarrow," a performance certainly not altogether pleasing, but unique and comical.

I never know how writers can be so certain that a particular species raises more than one brood in a season. The books are positive that the Horned Larks do this, yet of very many nests found by me from my boyhood up I recall none later than corn planting time—say May 10 to 20—and surely these must have been the first nests of the season. The species is a fairly common breeder in the Devil's Lake region evidently, though just here I have taken but one nest containing eggs, and the attendant circumstances bore out the reputation of this bird for hardihood.

April 4 in this latitude is apt to be pretty uncomfortable—cold, wet and windy and not infrequently much like March in more Southern latitudes,—but on this date, with scattering snowflakes in the air, and signs excellent for a "spell of weather," I discovered a pair of these birds engaged in laying fragments of straw and coarse grass in the bottom of a very neat cup-shaped cavity in the ground among the rank dried grass of the previous year's growth. It was far out on the prairie by the roadside, and I stopped my horse within 15 feet and was an interested spectator for an hour. The work was performed leisurely and apparently without the slightest concern at my presence, the birds flying directly to the nest after one preliminary investigation of me, but their work was so desultory that scarcely a dozen pieces of nest material were brought and placed in position during my stay.

During the night of April 15 there was

quite a heavy rain, freezing as it fell, and the morning of the 16th dawned on a gloomy and singularly cheerless scene. Every weed stalk, every blade of the thick dead grass was transformed into an icicle, either standing vertically or bowed down with the unusual weight, and not one seemed smaller than a lead pencil. A trip into the country took me past the nest, and there amidst the dreary waste of ice sat the little bird faithfully covering her three eggs. The nest lining, of fine dried grasses only, was most neatly woven and shaped to the walls of the cavity, and all, together with the eggs, was warm and dry despite the surroundings.

The eggs, measuring about .82x.62, show smooth polished shell of greenish-white, sprinkled and speckled with olive-brown, heavily enough at larger end to constitute confluent marking and wholly obscure ground color. The unusually heavy marking at the larger end is offset by the scanty marking elsewhere, so that on the whole, the eggs appear of an uncommonly light type and are very pleasing specimens.

Minnewaukan, N. D.

(To be continued.)

Two Bute's.

BY J. C. GALLOWAY.

IT was one of those balmy spring days when the sky is as blue as the woods are beautiful, that a gang of us young fellows, accompanied by two old gentlemen, one a life-long curio collector, the other with a penchant for hunting, were ranging the woods ostensibly in search of "specimens" for your humble servant; but really the enjoyment of the perfumed air, the bird-songs, the glint of sunshine and the rustle of the wind among the forest leaves.

After the discovery of a nest of the Oven-bird, curiously arched and woven of yellow grasses, under a bending limb that had fallen from some huge tree over-head, we walked on 'till some one reported a large nest about forty feet up in a beech. One of the boys, a big strapping fellow and a good climber, ascended the tree and announced: "Two young Buzzards."

"Buzzards," ejaculated the old hunter, "do they stink?"

"No," returned my friend whose position in regard to this question of identification was similiar to his bodily location.

"They ain't Buzzards then," growley the veteran, and the historian of the party lost no time in removing supernumerard garments and shinning up the tree. There in a bulky nest of sticks, all but hidden from below were two complacent young Red-tails, not unlike goslings, covered with compact yellowish down.

Carrying them down *that* tree was out of the question, so off came a shirt and after tying it up with the sleeves, the youngsters were placed unprotesting within and brought to the ground. While the sportsmen waited in vain for the parents to return, the young Hawks sat on the ground, while the male who appeared to be the brighter of the two, stumped around on his heels in a ludicrous manner, while we made frequent attempts to keep from snickering, until we all broke out in a general snort when the performance was more than we could endure in silence. Then we began the triumphal march home.

In the woodshed a square of carpet was thrown over a barrel, letting it bag a little, and in this artificial nest the fledglings were placed and covered up each night until they rebelled and climbed on top of the covers.

Their irides were a clear silver gray and remained so as long as I had them.

At this time the primaries were one-half an inch long and encased in their blue integuments. As the feathers grew longer the birds picked and tore off the coverings, drawing the denuded feathers through their bills to further clean them.

It soon developed that it was to be no small matter to keep them supplied with food enough to satisfy them, especially when a few days later, a dainty, fluffy innocent baby of a Barred Owl was added to this happy family. All sorts of fresh meats, birds, fish and reptiles, everything but tadpoles, disappeared with astonishing rapidity, often followed by the hungry squeals so discouraging to their purveyors. One of my friends made a raid on some corn-barrels and brought in fifty-seven mice, large and small, but they were all gone by 11 A. M., and there was music in the wood-shed once more.

After several days of civilized life they began to get restless and used to lumber around the nest or stand on the edge and flap their now rapidly growing wings, while the quills began appearing on their bodies, and they lost some of their infantile

beauty and began to grow long and lanky. After thirteen days from their capture they got to flapping their wings vigorously and when placed on the floor would run with ridiculously long strides, flapping as they went, and falling in a heap when they got through. They also performed many other ridiculous gymnastics.

Then as became their years, I was about to say, they got inquisitive and conceited, and made an attack on a motherly old cat who was eating her dinner of warm corn-bread, and when she fled they calmly devoured the entire supply. Their crops remained full 'till evening and they ate no supper. Next morning they were hungry for meat but cared no more for corn-bread.

It was rarely necessary to cut up the food that was given, as they swallowed almost everything whole, excepting mud-turtles. Jennie, the female, swallowed whole a ribbon snake, *E. Saurite*, twenty--seven inches long, and enjoyed it all the way down.

She was always cross and unsociable, but Sam the male, was intelligent, good-natured and tame; used to chatter in a conversational way and apparently showed a good deal of affection, though I could never be certain of that. They always got along well with the young Barred Owl.

All this happened at the home of my cousins where I was visiting. When we had had them twenty-four days I put the Hawks in a box and brought them in a buggy to my home, a distance of twenty-five miles, leaving the Owl with my cousins.

At this time the bodies of the Hawks were pretty well feathered, and their heads were thickly set with pin-feathers, which they delighted in having scratched.

Sam's coloring was warmer in tone than was Jennie's, whose prevailing shades were white and gray.

They were put into an empty hay mow with slats across the open door, and there they had more fun than a little. They were very fond of bathing in a pan but could not be induced to enter a tub, and a favorite diversion was to run across the floor at the top of their speed and plump into the pan with a big splash.

When given a short corncob or a small wooden ball they would play with it for hours, rolling it around with their feet, picking at it, or standing on it and rocking. When the ball was first given them Sam hopped up to it and Jennie sailed down from her perch, striking him with her breast and knocking him down. Sam was up in a second, dancing and chattering, and bumped into Jennie, the two striking at each other with their talons. Then quick as a flash they backed off, one to each wall, and rushed together cackling and screeching, and this was repeated.

My notes do not tell me and I do not remember what closed the contest.

On June 3, about a month after his capture, Sam got out of the mow and flew to the house roof, a distance of about one hundred feet. He was caught without difficulty and returned to his quarters.

The same afternoon the most agonizing screams I ever heard came from the hay-mow; screams that I believe could have been heard for a mile. I hastened to the rescue and found the Hawks in mortal terror of a Great Horned Owl, which had been occupying an adjoining mow, and was now quietly sitting on the perch provided for the Hawks, while the latter were cowering in corners, and when I approached threw themselves on their backs with wings outspread and chattered hysterically.

About this time the Hawks changed their style of eating and instead of bolting their food in whatever shape it was given them, they would pick and swallow it in almost infinitesimal bits.

At one time by way of experiment, I gave them live Sparrows. They pounced on them and then to my horror, very leisurely plucked them alive, one feather at a time, looking around each time to see what I was doing. Worse yet, they ate the birds alive in the same dilletante fashion, the agonized unfortunates writhing and wailing under the process. I attempted to interfere, but was informed that I might fare worse if I did not let them alone.

It was their invariable habit after they had begun to feed themselves, to turn their backs towards one, drooping their wings and spreading their tails, often looking back apprehensively with warning cries.

At one time I killed a snake and immediately brought it in, placing it on the top of a barrel. Sam pounced on it at once but when he saw it writhe he backed off to the edge of the barrel, standing high on his legs staring, and with wings uplifted.

This was repeated several times until he got courage enough to tear the neck open, when he hooked his claws into the skin, drawing out the flesh until it was all eaten,

leaving the skin reversed and almost untorn, except at the neck.

The village urchins came out frequently to see my "Owls," as they usually called them, sometimes asking timidly if they were Parrots. Sam took a great fancy to bare feet and upon the advent of a pair would saunter up chattering "rikki tikki tiktikki," etc., and would paw the bare toes and nibble at them, to the dismay of the "kid," whose trepidation was increased by his ignorance of the purpose of these investigations.

Sam was so intelligent, allowing me to handle him as I pleased; to place his breast against my cheek, while he drew my hair through his bill as he did his own feathers, and shook hands so readily that I often thought of training him to hunt. So I fixed up a hood and jesses, but he did not like the hood and I did not like to worry him, so that came to naught.

After hay harvest the mow was filled and the Hawks were transferred to a large box cage with wire netting across the front. Jennie had always been morose and intractable, usually sitting on her perch and resenting all familiarities with an angry jerk of her foot. From this time on she began to show symptoms of insanity, being unusually vicious and monopolizing the food supply so that Sam was starving. In hopes that Sam could get a square meal I put a decapitated cat in the cage, and Jennie gorged herself and then stood on the remainder for an hour and a half, when she again filled up. That settled her fate, and I placed a flobert rifle to her breast as she stood on the perch beside Sam, and——Sam never looked surprised or shed a tear. After that for a time he got along better.

The quickness of the birds was wonderful. Sometimes I would take a live mouse in a trap to them as they sat on the perch, and they would never seem to notice it, but when the trap door was opened and the mouse leaped past them, out would go a foot as unconcernedly as you please and they never failed to seize the luckless rodent.

Sometimes I would see them apparently watching something in the sky overhead, and upon looking up could occasionally distinguish a Hawk sailing almost out of sight, and they would continue watching long after it had vanished from my sight. They always took great interest in all moving objects, and frequently changed their positions on the perches in order to watch the movements of a dog or chickens. During the winter, when I would take hot water down to thaw the ice in Sam's drinking cup, it was amusing to see him twisting and turning his head as he watched the rising vapor.

When he wanted a bath he would hop down to the floor of the cage, look at me suggestively and drop and shake his breast feathers vertically. He often bathed during comparatively cold weather in winter and would shiver the rest of the day.

After I started to school times got worse and worse for poor Sam. I had but little time to hunt food for him, and could not afford to buy it, so he often went hungry. Late in the winter I moved him to a haymow where he spent much time sitting in the windows. Though without amusement, and alone and half starved, he always showed kindly feelings toward me, until towards spring, reduced almost to a skeleton and to desperation, he used to attack me and drive his talons into my flesh. Those were dark days for him and me, and I do not like to recall them. I grieved to see him suffer and could not bear to kill him.

Finally he broke through the window and flew out across the country, and my uncle, who considers pets a vanity and vexation of spirit, went after him and after a long chase brought him home and shut him in a box. When I came home from school I saw that the crisis had come, and as I held him in my arms, as the fumes of the chloroform did their work, steeling my heart against the death agony of the bird I loved, do you wonder that the tears came to my eyes as his struggles grew weaker and weaker until he lay limp and lifeless in my hands?

Montgomery, Ohio.

THE OOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.

W. E. Snyder, of Beaver Dam, Wis., Treasurer of the Oologists' Association, has issued his annual report, showing that twelve members were added to the Association in 1896. The officers for the present year are: President, Isador S. Trostler; Vice-President, E. A. McIlhenny; Secretary and Treasurer, W. E. Snyder; Executive Committeeman, J. A. Dickinson.

A Visit to a Herony.

BY VERDI BURTCH.

MR. CLARENCE STONE of Branchport, and I live eight miles apart and nine miles from each of us is the beginning of the great "Potter Swamps," where a colony of Great Blue Herons make their summer home. Every spring we go to the rookery to get a few sets of eggs.

This last spring I wrote to Stone to meet me May 3, at 7 A. M., at an old barn which stands near the edge of the swamp and we would have a day with the Herons. I received a reply that he would be there. The day dawned bright and clear and I arose in the best of spirits before five o'clock and at six o'clock I was ready to start. I had strapped to my wheel my climbers, collecting box, and last, but not least, a good substantial lunch.

At a few minutes before seven o'clock I broke over the brow of the hill, and there before me in panorama lay the great swamp stretching out north as far as the eye could reach. But I was so anxious to get to the Herony that I did not stop to view the beautiful scene, but was soon down the hill and at the barn, but Stone was not there. Looking toward the swamp I could see a number of tall trees towering way above their companions. In each of these was a gigantic nest of sticks; on the nearest of them I could see birds, and above in the air were numbers of Herons flying to and fro uttering their peculiar squak. After a few minutes of this sight I got impatient, so I wrote a note to Stone (saying that I had gone on into the swamp) and nailed it to the side of the barn, then plunged into the wilderness.

After wading through mud and water, and falling over logs and stumps, and dodging poison ivy for about twenty minutes, I came to the Herony, where I could plainly see the huge nests some 60 to 80 feet up in the very tops of ash trees, the most of which were dead, and consequently very dangerous to climb. Just here I saw fresh tracks in the mud so I shouted and Stone answered. (It seemed he had misunderstood my letter, stopped at another barn and entered the swamp before me.) I soon found him half way up a large ash, in the top of which was a Heron's nest, Then the following conversation took place:

"Hello, Clarence, have you been here long?"

"No; just come. Climbed two trees close together, and got two sets and now I am after this one. You had better tackle that one behind you."

On going to the tree I found fresh climber marks on it, so I said: "Why, you have been up this one. There are fresh marks on it."

"No; I just came here."

"Well, somebody has been up this tree today, and I followed your tracks here, so you must have been here before."

"No, I haven't been that way at all. I just came from the road and followed your tracks."

So we had an argument on which way the road was and by this time Stone had reached the nest and said: "Pshaw! It is empty."

Now, after he had come down and we had walked around a while he found that he was completely turned around and had climbed twice to the same nest after eggs, and of course was disappointed.

This Herony contains about thirty nests, all in tall ash trees. One tree contained three nests, two others two nests each and the others a single nest to the tree. There was formerly one tree with five nests, but some of them got blown down.

We took seven sets of eggs, four of five eggs each, and three of four eggs each. The eggs were in all stages of incubation, there being fresh and badly incubated eggs in the same set. Five eggs seemed to be a complete set, although Mr. Stone took a set of seven three years ago.

After climbing one of the trees it was a great sight to look around and see the other nests. Some in the distance with the bird sitting on them, and on others nearer by the birds had their long necks stretched out or were standing up ready to leave. The nearest nests were empty and their owners were flying about protesting about our intrusion.

Among the Heron's nests and within fifty feet of them I found a nest of Red-shouldered Hawk containing three very small eggs. It was in a large maple about forty feet from the ground.

In the open marsh quite near the Heronry we found breeding, Virginia Rails, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, American Bitterns and Marsh Hawks. But I will leave these for some future paper.

Penn Yan, N. Y.

Petrels of Sitka, Alaska.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

ST. LAZARIA ISLAND lies within the limits of Sitka Bay, about twenty miles southwest of the capital of Alaska. It is irregularly shaped, approximately a quarter of a mile in length, by three hundred yards in width at its widest portion. It has the general outline of a huge rock with steep sides, but in the main it is crowned by a heavy growth of large firs and hemlocks. There is a rank growth of tall grass on those parts where there are few trees or none at all, and among the trees there are scattered clumps of salmonberry bushes, while the porous sod is carpeted by deer's feet and other low plants.

This island is the one in the vicinity of Sitka chosen by thousands of sea-birds for a breeding ground. The exposed, broken precipitous sides of the island are the resorts of the Violet green Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots and California Murres, while the Glaucus-winged Gulls and Tufted Puffins select the grassy banks and promontories above the cliffs. But the Petrels, to be considered in the present paper, seem to prefer the dark forest, although their burrows are abundant wherever there is enough soil to hold them.

I found two species of Petrel inhabiting St. Lazaria Island, Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*), and the Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*.) The former outnumbered the latter fully five to one, but even the Fork-tails were present in thousands.

On first visiting the island, I had no idea that there were besides the conspicuous Puffins, Cormorants and the like, other avian inhabitants, and being unacquainted with the nocturnal habits of Petrels, it was only by chance that I discovered them, though they outnumbered the other birds many times over. In climbing to the top of the island, to which I was attracted by a shy flock of Crossbills, my feet frequently crushed through the sod into subterranean cavities. In one instance as my foot went deeper than usual there was a smothered squeal, and it soon dawned on me that the ground was inhabited by some kind of animal, not one of which was to be seen above ground. The sod was light and flaky, and I had soon laid open several of the Petrel burrows, disclosing their bewildered inhabitants. On being handled, both species of Petrel disgorged large quantities of the yellowish oil with a musky odor, so characteristic of this family. This oil rapidly saturated the plumage of the head and breast, and the birds had to be caught and killed with great care or else they became almost spoiled for specimens. I finally found that the best way to manage them was to hold them head downward until they had vomited most of their oil, then to kill them by compressing the thorax, plugging the bill and throat with a copious amount of the damp soil. If cotton plugs or corn meal were used, the oil soon saturated them and spread out over the feathers.* Even the young barely out of the shell, although I am sure they had not as yet been fed by their parents, had a good supply of the oil.

Most of the burrows each contained an egg, in which case one bird, either male or female, was sitting. In case there was a young one, neither parent bird was present. When there were neither egg nor young in the hole, both old birds were at home together.

On June 17 the eggs of Leach's Petrel were all fresh, but those of the Fork-tailed Petrel were nearly hatched, and several young of the latter were found. On July 7 the Leach's Petrels' eggs were nearly hatched and a few newly-hatched young were found. Thus the incubation period of *O. leucorhoa* is about twenty days. Of course these last statements are based on the majority of nests examined. I collected a few nearly fresh eggs of both species on the latter date. The young are puffy balls of down, those of Leach's being dark slaty, while the young Fork-tails are light gray. The down is superabundant, and the young of the age of about two weeks are much bulkier than the adults. The feathers grow from the same follicles as the down, and in continuation with the latter. As the juvenile grows larger, the down wears off from the ends of the feathers and thus gradually disappears so that finally hardly a trace is left. This wearing away of the down is first noticable on the wings, back and breast, and is due to the bird's movements in the narrow nest-cavity. I took specimens that showed this process plainly.

The two species of Petrel possessed the same nesting habits. The entrance to the burrows are semi-circular and usually open out under some clump of grass or a bunch

of leaves, so that it is partly hidden. From the entrance the burrow runs at an easy slant for a few inches and then parallel with the surface of the ground, from two to five inches below. The total length of the burrow varies greatly, being from one to three feet. It is seldom straight but usually very crooked. The birds in digging evidently follow the direction of least resistance. The debris is scratched out into a slight mound in front of the entrance. The cavity at the end of the burrow is about three inches in height by five inches broad, and contains on the saucer-shaped floor a slight lining of dry grass-blades. The eggs of the two species are much alike, though those of the Fork-tail average somewhat the larger. Five eggs of the latter measure in inches: 1.26x 97, 1 24x1.00, 1.33x.94, 1.31x.98, 1.30x1.02. Five selected eggs of the Leach's Petrel measure 1.14x.88, 1.21x.91, 1.24x-.92, 1.33x.93, 1.30x.97. The eggs when fresh and unblown are light pink, but soon become nest-stained. A faint suggestion of dark brown dots about the larger end is frequently to be seen, though the majority of the eggs of both species are immaculate.

The sitting Petrels when pulled out of their nests are quite pugnacious, biting and squealing most vociferously. They are exceedingly awkward on land and progress with a shambling, unsteady gait. They only succeed in launching themselves on the wing after several attempts, and even after well started, an interposing weed-stock will throw them back to the ground. When tossed into the air they instantly take wing and dodge bat-like among the trees and are soon lost to sight as they skim swiftly onward toward the open sea.

The Petrels seem to have some formidable enemy, as was shown by their remains, together with egg-shells scattered on many parts of the island. I think the hundreds of Northwest Crows which breed on the island are accountable to some extent.

As I was walking over one of the ridges of the island, I was attracted by a movement in the grass and upon examining found a Crow which was evidently digging into a Petrel burrow for either the egg or bird or more probably both. I nearly caught the Crow but it dodged me and flew away in a very culpable caught-in-the-act manner. This was the only instance which would go to prove that the Crows prey on Petrels, but I think that the hoards of Crows on the island must have an attraction greater than the exposed eggs of the Gulls and Comorants which are not available in sufficient quantities to feed so many Crows. I saw Crows several times carrying Cormorant's eggs spitted on the ends of their bills.

On July 7 and 8, through a misunderstanding with the Indians, I was left on the island over night without either "grub" or blankets. Thus, in anything but a voluntary manner, I was given an opportunity to observe the Petrels, which I would probably not otherwise have had.

After the sun set and the long summer twilight began to make the woods a little gloomy, the Petrels became more active. Their curious calls came from every direction in the ground, though as yet not a bird was to be seen. Presently a little stir in the grass called attention to a Petrel which clumsily scrambled from his hole, and after the usual fumbling put himself in flight, and betook himself speedily out to sea. Soon others appeared, and others and others. The Crows, their enemies, had by this time gone to roost, and as the gloom grew deeper the Petrels became more numerous. Those which had been out to sea all day began to arrive among the trees, and were even more awkward then those leaving. They flew against branches and bushes and into my face, but all ultimately seemed to know where their respective homes were. The chorus of their cries was curious, and depressing to one's spirits, and the chilly air was constantly being fanned into my face by their noiseless wings. The light-colored ghostly forms of the Fork-tails were much more readily discernible than the dark Leach's.

The ground was alive with struggling Petrels, and I picked up as many as I chose. It took fully three minutes to properly kill and pluck each bird, so I was occupied for a considerable part of the short night. As the twilight of evening slowly merged into dawn, the height of their activity was reached. I walked from end to end of the wooded part of the island, and everywhere the Petrels were equally numerous.

As I began to feel cold and likewise hungry, the novelty of these strange experiences naturally wore off. After considerable searching for dry fuel, I started a smouldering little blaze, which lighted up the dusky surroundings, together with the flitting forms of the birds, thus disclosing a very

impressive scene. But presently several of the Petrels were attracted by the light and flew pell-mell into the fire, extinguishing the feeble flames in short order. After several similarly frustrated attempts, though partly on account of the damp wood, I gave it up.

Luckily, in going back to Petrel-curing, I found a couple of hard-tack in the cotton in my collecting basket, and I lost no time in putting the crackers where they were of the most use under the existing circumstances. I noticed that they had a peculiar flavor, but that didn't bother me much at first. Finally I closely examined the crackers, and found that in killing the Petrels and putting them in the basket, the hard-tack had become sprinkled with the odoriferous oil from the birds. So I had the "rare and wonderful" experience of eating hard tack soaked in Petrel oil, or possibly more correctly Petroleum!

As soon as the dawn became perceptibly brighter, the Petrels became quieter and fewer. Part went out to sea, others returned to their nests. By sunrise at 2.30 A. M. not a Petrel was to be seen nor a note heard, where two hours before had been such a tumult of nocturnal forms and voices. The Crows set up their saucy cawing, and the Western Winter Wrens and Sooty Song Sparrows announced their presence with their clear musical trills.

Fresh Puffin's eggs served as my breakfast that morning, but before night, the Indians having returned, a favorable wind landed us at Sitka. The next day and for four days thereafter I was engaged in scraping fat from greasy Petrel skins.

I might here mention that I sent the series of Leach's Petrels to William Palmer at the National Museum. He informs me that they are not typical of *O. leucorhoa* as found on the Atlantic. Possibly they may approach Loomis's new Petrel, though as yet I have not been able to find a description of it.

Pasadena, Cal.

HARD ON ROGUES.

JUDGE J. N. CLARK, of Saybrook, Ct., writes: "One of the best things you do is to hold a club over the heads of rogues, and you deserve the support of all honest folk for your course—which is a saving to the honest and a restraint upon the rogues, though you haven't driven them all to the wall."

Cooper Ornithological Club.

THE Southern Division met at the residence of M. L. Wicks, Jr., in Los Angeles. Prof. A. J. Cook of Pomona College was elected to membership in the club. The donation to the library of Cook's "Birds of Michigan" by the author, was acknowledged. Mr. Evan Davis's paper was presented on

Nesting of the Bald Eagle in Orange Co, Cal,

"The summer tourist whose tastes incline toward hunting or the study of natural history, and who spends his time at any of the numerous seaside resorts of Orange county, may vary the pleasant monotony of boating, fishing or bathing by excursions inland, wandering through rugged canyons and over sloping ridges that reach down almost to the ocean's side. Delightful hours can be spent in exploring these narrow gorges, where occasionally a startled deer will prove a tempting target, and where both flora and fauna offer grateful surprises to the intruder upon the almost primeval conditions of these secluded regions.

"On August 15, '94, the early dawn saw our party of venturesome hunters sailing along the coast duly equipped with suitable weapons and with supplies for the inner man. After an exhilarating run of about five miles we landed. We had been ascending a sharply sloping ridge, which divides two characteristic canyons, for less than half an hour, when we espied two deer lying down, presumably resting. This presumption was clearly at fault, judging from the remarkable activity of the game as soon as it had observed our approach. With long leaps the graceful animals bounded down the canyon side, presenting but a fleeting target for the marksmen. I myself was out of range, but one of my companions, Parker, skillfully brought down both deer with three shots, while Wilbur, less accustomed to such sights, gazed upon the scene with undisguised amazement.

"While securing our quarry on the limbs of a large sycamore which stood on the banks of a creek in the bottom of the canyon, I observed an unusually large nest in the upper branches. It was by far the most imposing one I had ever seen, measuring fully five feet in diameter and five feet in height. It was not difficult to determine that it belonged to a pair of Eagles, and I promised myself the next set of eggs

which the owner should deposit therein. A visit to the nest on March 15, 1895, discovered two active young Eaglets perhaps a month and a half old. These we did not disturb, concluding to await another setting. From Mr. A. M. Shields of Los Angeles and Mr. A. W. Anthony of San Diego I obtained information which subsequently proved very valuable. Mr. Anthony although he had never taken a similar set inland in California, advised January 5, 1896, to be "collecting my rents." On January 15 a trip to the canyon resulted in the discovery that the tree had blown down and the nest lay among the rocks, a sorry looking heap of ruins. Further investigation showed that the Eagles were constructing a new nest but a short distance away. By February 25 this was finished and on March 4, accompanied by my friend Oscar Farman, and a photographer, I took my first set ½ Bald Eagle.

"While taking this set from the nest, seventy feet up in a sycamore, both Eagles kept up a continual scold. The male was somewhat shy, yet both alighted on the nearest high tree not 60 feet distant from the tree in which the nest was being despoiled, and about the same distance from the camera. Both birds were sitting on the same limb, but just as a photograph was attempted, the male flew. A Western Red-tail made life a burden to the male, while the latter was on the wing, by repeatedly swooping down upon it with vicious speed. With wonderful ease, however, the latter would swing over, extending upwards a pair of formidable talons which were carefully avoided by the Hawk. Thrice the infuriated Eagle turned complete double somersaults in his efforts at both attack and defense. Acting upon the advice of Mr. Shields, I had my friend keep a careful watch over the nest, as these birds are supposed invariably to deposit a second set when deprived of their first. For two weeks they remained in the vicinity of their spoliated habitation and then began building a new one about four miles distant. May 1 this was completed to their satisfaction, having required about seven weeks for its construction. I was disappointed however, inasmuch as they failed to deposit a second set. Under the circumstances this energetic pair now have a new nest ready for occupancy during the coming month and it is to be hoped that they may not fail to properly furnish two full sets for the good of the cause.

"I am of the opinion that the expected second set would have been forthcoming had not so long a time been occupied in building, thereby carrying the birds far beyond their normal period of nidification. From my observations I am satisfied they nest early in January and if the first set be taken or destroyed they will ordinarily deposit a second within thirty to forty days. Judging, however, from the actions of the pair in question, it seems highly probable that any marked disturbance of their abode such as ours had been, would lead them to abandon their nest, even though it be a new one, and to build another rather than return to the one which had been so seriously interfered with. On our return trip I took a set of two Western Horned Owl, thus having enjoyed not only a highly interesting and pleasant excursion, but having also secured entirely acceptable and profitable booty, judging from the standpoint of the collector."

Northern Division.

The Northern Division of the Club met at the residence of H. R. Taylor in Alameda February 6. Messrs. Wm. Steinbeck of Hollister and John Neuenberg of San Francisco were elected to membership in the club. Several committee reports were presented. A paper by Rollo H. Beck of Berryessa was read, on

Nesting of the Hermit Warbler.

"On the 10th of June last I first became acquainted with the nest and eggs of the Hermit Warbler. For a week or so I had watched females while feeding, but when ready to go to the nest they would light out across a steep gulch or across some thick patch of brush ten or fifteen feet high and be lost to sight in a few seconds. My attention on the 10th was attracted to a pair by a lively battle between two males who screeched and flew about for some time while the female, whose charms had evidently caused the commotion, kept up a busy search for insects among the leaves of an oak tree. She soon flew to a young pine tree some distance away, followed by her mate, who had vanquished his rival.

"I followed after, determined to watch her as long as possible. After spending ten minutes in the pine tree she flew by me into a large pine, and a further flight of ten feet placed her exactly behind the body of the tree from me. After waiting several minutes for her to reappear, which she did not

do, I walked around the tree, and saw the nest with the bird upon it. I fired a load of dust shot at the limb about four feet from the nest but with no visible results. A load placed 18 inches from the nest caused the bird to leave. The next three hours were spent in attempting various methods to reach the nest. I succeeded after packing a heavy ladder one-half mile up a steep hill from a hotel near the American River. After raising the ladder it was necessary to nail a number of steps up to the first limb, which was thirty feet from the ground. And then came an easy climb away out near the end of a limb forty feet from the ground. The nest was placed upon the sloping limb and supported on the lower side by a limb crossing the one on which it rested.

"The nest was mostly composed of fine dry pine needles and small rootlets and heavily lined with reddish shreds of bark, and finished off with a lining of cow's hair. The upper part of the nest is little more than a rim, while the lower part is much heavier and thicker. The outside diameter is four inches; the inside one and three quarters inches. The depth of the upper side was one inch; the depth of the lower two inches; inside depth, one inch. The eggs are quite similar to some of those of the Redstart, being spotted quite heavily, chiefly in a wreath about the large end with cinnamon, brown and lavender. They measure .71x.51; .71x.52; .72x.51 and.70x .50. The female was shot after the eggs were taken, but she did not appear while I was in the tree. The nest was in a yellow pine on a deep mountain side 300 yards from the American River,at 3,500 feet elevation in El Dorado County, Cal. The Hermit was the rarest of the five Warblers we found breeding in the Sierra, while the size and thick foliage of the pines in which they breed,as well as the brush and roughness of the country, make their nests difficult to find."

Curious Sets of Kingbird's Eggs.

IN glancing over a large series of eggs of any species, one cannot fail to notice some odd and abnormal ones. And such is the case with the series of the Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannns*) now before me, and common as they are the following sets are so very peculiar that they seem to be worthy of mention.

July 17, 1888, Taunton, Mass. Two eggs, fresh, ground color and markings normal, but their sizes are extraordinary, one of them measuring r.12 x .69, and the other .77 x .57 Taking .95 x .68 as the average size of the eggs of this bird it will be seen what a very odd pair these are.

June 17, 1895, Smithborough, Ill. Three eggs, fresh. Light creamy-white, marked with lilac-gray and heliotrope-purple almost entirely, there being only two or three small and indistinct spots of the chestnut which is typical of the normal Kingbird's egg: .89 x .67; .90 x .67; .93 x .68. No one could recognize these for eggs of this bird.

June 6, 1886, Rozetta, Ill. These must unquestionably belong to *Tyrannns tyrannus* for no other *Tyrannus* is found in Illinois, but they exactly resemble typical eggs of the Gray Kingbird, (*Tyrannus dominicensis,*) having the peculiar deep cream or pinkish–buff ground color characteristic of that bird's eggs: .98 x .74; .98 x .73; .96 x .73; .95 x .73.

The smallest sized sets measure .81 x .65; .81 x .65: .82 x .66; and the largest sets: .96 x .79; .94 x .78; .94 x .78; (extremely broad) and 1.06 x .77; 1.01 x 76; .98 x .74.

J. P. N. Jr.

Correspondence

On the Chimney Swift's Habits.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—In response to the request in your last issue concerning the manner in which the Chimney Swift obtains material for its nest, I would offer the following:

While at "The Elms," Amoskeag, N. H., in 1894, as well as the three previous years, I had exceptionally fine opportunities to observe the habits of this species, inasmuch as the chimneys of the old mansion were "alive" with them Often have I watched them through a pair of glasses as they flew about some of the large elms nearest my window. At first I was unable to determine the exact nature of their endeavors, for they kept continually about the few half decayed limbs that appeared near the tops of the trees, but at last when they selected a maple tree almost beneath my point of view, I easily saw what they were doing. Darting up suddenly and quite fast they would nip the dead tip of a small branch in their bill and without the slightest pause or alteration in their line of flight would carry it off.

Going out of doors I lay back upon the grass almost under the tree with my glasses upturned watching the little fellows. Sometimes they would not be successful and then they rarely returned to the same limb again. But when they did get a twig they would sail away over the orchard for nearly a hundred yards and then come curving up again to the house and down the chimney with their prize.

Down under the bank in the orchard where it almost touched the brook, was a large quantity of dead brush piled high and thick. This also seemed to furnish the

Swifts with much material, as they maneuvered about the brush heap almost as much as the standing trees.

ARTHUR M. FARMER.

Clinton, Mass.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—A correspondent in your January issue asks for information about the Chimney Swift and its manner of obtaining the small articles it gathers for nest building. The birds will fly rapidly at a dead limb, and just as it approaches it slackens speed somewhat; then grasps a small twig firmly in its bill and gives it a twist to get it loose, keeping all the time on the wing. Very frequently it does not succeed, but flies away and circles around again to the tree and makes another effort. R. P. SHARPLES.

Elgin, Ill

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—Several years ago, while at my boyhood home in Monroe County, N. Y., I took many notes on the Chimney Swift, some of which may be of interest in the light of the question raised by Dr. Coues in January NID. I watched the birds on many occasions to settle the question in my mind as to whether they used beak or claws in breaking off twigs. I had the best of opportunities, for as far as I could discover, all my birds secured their twigs from three partly dead cherry trees in the yard.

My observations extended over many years and certainly did not all refer to one pair of birds, as I had sometimes three pairs under observation in one season. In every case the bird would swoop down from a considerable height and break off the twig *with her beak*, describe a semi-circle in the air to the barn gable and on my gaining the barn floor, she would be found hanging by the claws under the nest and placing the twig with her beak. Before starting for another she would seem to be covering the last one with glue.

Albion, N. Y. ERNEST S SHORT.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—I have watched Chimney Swifts break off twigs a number of times and know how they do it here in Brockton regardless of how they act in any other part of the country.

They generally break off the end of a dead twig, but from the examination of several nests I am led to believe that they occasionally break the end of a live limb. They do not seize the twig while going at full speed as generally reported, but stop an instant in air as they seize it *with their bills*. They give it one, and sometimes two sharp twists sidewise; and when this fails to break it off they go on far enough to swing around in a large circle and try the same twig again. It is not until after repeated efforts that they leave a twig they have once attempted to break. The trees generally chosen are the wild cherry, red oak and poplar, with preference in the order of their naming.

Of course to stop in the air it is necessary for the Swift, as for all birds, to drop the body more or less near to the perpendicular and this might give the impression to some that it grasped the twig with the feet, but this it never does. The nest I have found invariably placed in a chimney, to the inside of which it is firmly glued with the broken ends of the twigs *down and out*, so that there are no sharp ends or projections on the inside of the nest. No feathers are used in its construction, although a few sometimes are worked in accidentally. Twigs of nearly the same size are used for the same nest, so that a nest is composed of nearly all small, medium or large twigs, as the case may be. R. H. CARR.

Brockton, Mass.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—In reply to Mr. Short's query in January issue of THE NIDOLOGIST will say that according to my observations, extending over a period of eight years, the Chimney Swift invariably nests in chimneys in this part of central Wisconsin, and I am yet to learn of its nesting elsewhere with us. This is also true of it in Fayette County, Ill., my former home. When the chimney of the old grist mill at Farina, Ill. fell a few years ago I am informed by competent authorities that by actual count over 400 Swifts, young and old, were killed, besides great numbers of eggs destroyed. The chimney was of red brick, 65 feet high. Here at Beaver Dam it is necessary to cover the openings of the chimneys of the public school buildings in order to keep out the Swifts during the summer months. Every year a few pair nest in an unused chimney at my country home. Hollow trees are common here, but I have never known the Swifts to use them as nesting sites, nor have I ever known them to nest in barn gables, as cited by Mr. Short.

Beaver Dam, Wis. W. E. SNYDER.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—Dr. Coues asks for facts about the Chimney Swift, which the following, copied from my note book, may do something towards supplying.

The date is July 1, 1893, when the birds were building a second nest to replace one taken on June 24, with four fresh eggs. I was riding down the road on my wheel, and got off to watch them just opposite the trees where the twigs were taken, so had a good view of the operation. To quote from the note: "The Swifts were flying around the old elm trees (about 100 yards from the chimney) and sometimes hovering an instant at the end of a dead branch—a 'sucker' which left the trunk about ten feet from the ground. Finally one of them broke off a stick and flew away toward our house. The mate now got another from a little maple across the street. They do not 'dash past' the twig but stand almost still (hovering of course) when they take hold, and probably break the twig by a twist of the head, as the stick, if I remember rightly, did not shake very much when the bird flew away" (as it certainly would had they pulled or bent the twig off simply by flying on).

This was written as soon as I reached the house and seems to show that the birds make some examination to be sure they can break the twig before they touch it; that both birds carry nesting material; and that they certainly do not use the feet in getting the twigs.

Wethersfield, Conn. HENRY R. BUCK.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—I see in the January number that Dr. Coues asks about how the Chimney Swift breaks off the twigs for its nest; whether they do it with their bill or feet There are a few dead trees near our house which are favorite resorts for Swifts that are "house building" and I have often watched them take the twigs, but to me they always seemed to take them with their feet. They would circle around a few times until they could grasp it with their feet; and after clasping it tightly they would give a few sharp strokes with their wings and seeming to turn their bodies at an angle to the limb, and in this way break it off. I am sure that they always clasped it in their feet as they were well over the twig while seizing it, and I could sometimes see it sticking out from their feet as they flew away. Also while watching them build in our chimney they brought in the twigs in their feet although they used their mouths to assist in putting them in place. SIDNEY S. WILSON.

St. Joseph, Mo.

Recent Publications.

NUTTALL'S ORNITHOLOGY, edited by Montague Chamberlain, second edition; from Little, Brown & Co., Boston. The new edition of the "Popular Handbook of the Ornithology of Eastern North America," land and water birds, appear with 110 illustrations in colors, which are unusually good, and mark advancement in the art. Mr. Chamberlain's numerous corrections and additions have brought the classical writings of Nuttall "down to date," making numerous improvements over his first edition. It is a valuable contribution to science which deserves liberal appreciation.

A-BIRDING ON A BRONCO, by Florence A. Merriam; Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston and New York, price $1.25. Miss Merriam has a very pretty way of putting her enthusiasm for the study of her bird friends into words, and the reader follows her with unflagging interest as she writes of charming excursions afield in the vicinity of Twin Oaks, Southern California, where she spent two delightful summers. The Western Home Wren, Western Gnatcatcher, Road Runner, Phainopepla and many others are described as the author saw them daily in their home life. Observations are made, in all, on about sixty species. Numerous halftones, with life-like pen drawings by Mr. Fuertes furnish the illustrations for this latest and praiseworthy addition to popular Ornithology.

CROSSBILLS, by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, is a characteristic and comprehensive article on these curious birds, appearing in "Popular Science News" for March, '97. The paper is accompanied by a good drawing by the author of two of the birds, one being represented in the attitude of extracting a seed from a pine cone. He writes: "The Crossbills present a character no less unique than the crossing of their bills—a feature not at present known to exist in any other species of the entire class "Aves." Both the upper and lower bills are sub-crescentic in form, the margins being sharp and the apices extremely acute. Passing from base to apex, the lower bill is gradually curved to one side, the upper mandible having a corresponding curve to the opposite side, and both present a decided curvature of their own. This arrangement admits of the mandibles crossing each other near their middle thirds, and in this crossing the point of the lower jaw turns out to the right side. I have met with about one specimen in fifteen where the crossing takes place in the other direction. By this contrivance the bird has the power of forcibly pressing apart the firm leaflets of the cones of various pine trees, and by a dexterous use of the tongue, whipping into its mouth the seeds concealed in the deeper recesses."

BREEDING GROUNDS OF THE ROSY GULL. Dr. T. S. Palmer of Washington, D. C., has published a timely article in "Science" for January, on Nansen's discovery of the breeding grounds of the rare *Rhodostethia rosea*. The Rosy Gull is a typical Arctic circum-polar bird, reaching a remarkably high latitude. "No one has yet been able to explain," writes Dr. Palmer, "what becomes of the thousands which pass Point Barrow in the autumn, and less is known of the winter home of this Gull than of the region where it breeds." Murdoch supposed its nesting grounds to be located somewhere north of Wrangel Island. In a letter published in the "London Daily Chronicle" Dr. Nansen stated that he observed Rosy Gulls in flocks August 6. These were seen near four small islands called "Hirtenland" by Nansen, a little northeast of Franz Josef Land. Although no nests were actually observed by Dr. Nansen he found the birds abundant and concluded that their nests were near by. Dr. Palmer finds no reason to question Nansen's views, but concludes, quoting Schalow, "When will man's foot again tread the dreary wastes of those high latitudes where one of the greatest rarities of Northern Oology is to be found?"

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF WINNEBAGO AND HANCOCK COUNTIES, IOWA, by Rudolph M. Anderson, Forest City, Iowa, 20 pages, published by the author, 1897. The list records 216 species, and is accompanied by careful annotations, and a short description of the topography and characteristics of the region. Notes are given on the breeding of the Whooping and Sandhill Cranes.

BIRDS, a monthly serial, Nature Study Publishing Co., Chicago, $1 per year. We have received No. 1 of this magazine (January 1897), and accord it a hearty welcome. Enclosed in a very attractive cover are thirty-six pages of popular matter well chosen to interest the young in schools and homes, including ten page plates in color photography of such birds as Cock-of-the-Rock, Australian Grass Paroquet, Red-throated Toucan and many other brilliant and curious forms. Aside from the excellence of its arrangement the best encomium for the new venture lies in the fact that its publishers, not content to be mere copyists, have devised a new thing and entered a field entirely their own.

BULLETIN OF THE MICHIGAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB, quarterly, Grand Rapids, Mich., 50 cents per year. No. 1 of this excellent publication starts off at the beginning of 1897 with twelve pages filled with valuable articles pertaining to the Ornithology of Michigan. The style of the new journal does credit to its editor-in-chief, L. Whitney Watkins, and to his associates, T. L. Hankinson, N. A. Wood and W. A. Davidson. W. E. Mulliken and L. J. Cole are the managing editors. A good half-tone portrait of Prof. Walter B. Barrows accompanies an able article from his pen entitled "Michigan Ornithology to the Front." We trust the new publication, which indicates progress in Ornithology, will receive the enthusiastic support which it certainly deserves.

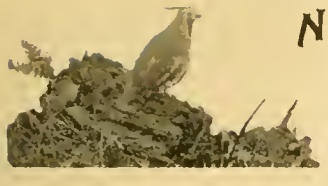
THE third annual meeting of the Northwestern Ornithological Association met at Salem, Or., December 29 and 30, 1896. The meetings were enthusiastic and attended by members from various parts of the state. Several interesting papers were read and Mr. George D. Peck gave an instructive lecture on Taxidermy. A fine exhibit of Oregon birds and eggs were made.

THE "Story of the Farallones," the beautifully illustrated souvenir, will be out soon. It will be most interesting and cheap at the price, besides being a brochure of permanent value to Ornithologists.

WE READ in a Haverhill, Mass. paper, that Mr. Chas. S. Butters has recently had on exhibition there a fine lot of birds, shot on the Maine shores last fall and mounted by himself.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR desires us to state that during his absence in Lower California, state lists, books or other material sent to his Palo Alto address will be received and cared for.

FIELD NOTES.



NOTES ON ALBINOS.

On a recent visit in the neighborhood of Point Conception, I had the good fortune to capture a partially white California Towhee, and a perfect albino of what I take to be Gambel's Sparrow. In the *Pipilo*, a peculiarity is noticed in the alternate of the wing feathers, the first primary on one side being white, and brown on the opposite wing, and so on with more or less regularity. I was told that this bird had been seen in the same locality for nearly three years past. Several persons have reported seeing a partially white Turkey Buzzard during the past two seasons in the vicinity of the settlement known as Naples on the coast.

A. P. Redington.

Santa Barbara, Cal.

***

WINTER NOTES.

Bird life is never very abundant at this season of the year with us. The present winter has been an open one with very little snow or severe cold. The following are some of the species noted:

Pine Siskin—A large flock of these birds was seen October 22. They seemed to prefer the yellow birch trees, feeding on the seed-cones. When actively at work there was a rain of seed-husks and excrement beneath the tree. They remained very common until about the middle of November, when their place were taken by the Redpolls.

Redpoll—Arrived in November and have been common ever since. They are seen quite as frequently in the open fields feeding on the seeds of weeds, as in the woods. Apparently about one quarter of them have rosy rump and breast of varying intensity.

Pine Grosbeak—First noted November 19. Since then they have been occasionally seen in small numbers, two to five at a time. All I have seen have been in dull plumage with yellow on the head and rump. The tail feathers of one shot November 30, were only partly grown, as though the moult was not complete, but the date would seem too late for that. Perhaps the bird had a narrow escape from the Hawk or in some way accidentally pulled out its tail. Some winters these birds are entirely absent, and only rarely are they common. They are usually tame and unsuspicious and may be closely approached if one moves slowly and quietly toward them. Birds in full red plumage are rarely seen. I once saw a pair of Grosbeaks alight on the ice near an opening in the river, apparently to get a drink. Hopping to where the water overflowed the ice, they turned their heads, placing the side of the bill against the ice, and scooping up the water by a forward motion of the head. Their locomotion on the ice, which was very "glare" was amusing. They got along very well as long as they continued to hop, but when they tried to stop their legs spread apart and slipped from under them leaving them sliding along on their tails.

Northern Shrike—A winter visitor rather than resident. Never very common. First seen this year on October 31. I once saw one of these birds fly some distance with a mouse, which must have been quite a burden. Unless I am much mistaken the mouse was carried in the claws, not the bill.

Snowflake—This birds are most numerous during winters of much snowfall. This winter they have been scarce, only being seen at intervals. The first noted was a flock of thirty on October 30, twenty-three days in advance of the first snow. My earliest date of arrival is October 20, 1892; latest date, April 10, 1893.

Pileated Woodpecker—Seen once or twice winging its heavy, bounding flight from one block of woods to another. The few birds here do not seem to be decreasing in numbers. I think there are as many here now as there were five years ago. Later in September I was given one of these birds by an acquaintance, who had shot it while out gunning. He said it flew from the ground to a stub where he shot it. It was a bird of the year, very "finefeathery" with tail and primaries but partly grown. The red malar patch was complete as in an adult bird, however. The stomach was well stuffed with large black ants, wood-boring larvae and a considerable quantity of whole fruits and stones of the choke-berry, besides indistinguishable remains.

THE NIDOLOGIST.

Published and Edited by HENRY R. TAYLOR

THE PIONEER Magazine of Illustrated Bird Life.

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & Co., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

Charles E. Bendire.

ORNITHOLOGISTS and Oologists the world over will deplore the death of Major Charles E. Bendire, which occurred at Jacksonville, Florida, February 4. Major Bendire had been failing for months in Washington, under the dread influence of Brights' disease. He removed from Washington to Florida, hoping to improve, but died soon afterward in the presence of his old friend, Dr. William L. Ralph.

Major Bendire was a unique figure in the progress of American Oology; of vast learning, the fruit of many years spent in the field, scrupulously exact in all his statements, he was an authority in his specialty such as science may not soon see again. Under a bluff, military exterior, Major Bendire could not conceal a kindly, sympathetic nature. In his position of Honorary Curator of Oology in the United States National Museum, caring for all the great egg collections, of which his own, a gift to the Museum, was the real foundation, he was unfailingly patient in answering the queries of amateur Oologists and in identifying specimens sent to him. Volumes I and II of his "Life Histories of North American Birds," a life work of which he vainly hoped to complete the series, will remain for generations an enduring monument to his genius.

Major Bendire was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, April 27, 1836. He was related to Weyprecht and Payer, the Austrian explorers who discovered Franz Josef Land. He came to America in 1852, and in June, 1854, enlisted as a private in Company D, 1st Dragoons, U. S. Army. He was later transferred to the first Cavalry, and served for 19 years with distinction, rising to the rank of Captain. He was retired in 1886 on account of an injury to his knee. Again, however, he took the field, and in 1890 was breveted Major for gallant services in fighting the Indians at Canyon Creek, Montana. During his years of service in the Army he was stationed at many remote points in the West, where he carried on investigations in Oology which were destined to later make his name famous. His earliest writings were in letters to well-known naturalists, Baird, Brewer and others. In 1877 he published a valuable paper on the "Birds of Southeastern Oregon." He has written about 50 papers in all, mostly relating to avian Oology, though a few treat of fishes and mammals.

CAPT. (BREV'T MAJOR) CHARLES E. BENDIRE
(Photo taken about 1884)

Major Bendire was conscientious, and noted for his unusual directness of speech and fearlessness in supporting his convictions. He was to the last an enemy of the dishonest, while a ready friend to all who proved themselves worthy. His death is a loss to science which it will take a long time to fully measure. When shall we see his like again?

GEORGE A. MORRISON took a set 1-3 Great Horned Owl on February 21 at Fox Lake, Wis. Incubation was advanced about one week, but differed in individual eggs, so that it must have commenced upon the laying of the first egg. The eggs were in a nest in a black oak 60 feet up, where a set of Red-tailed Hawk's eggs were taken March 31 last year.

IF you get a paper this month to which you are not entitled it is because we overlook our rule as to non-renewels for once to call your special attention to our "Farallone Souvenir" and our new premium offers. We do not promise that the eggs will last forever, so take the opportunity while it is yours.

FRIENDS OF OUR SCIENCE

INCREASING THE VALUE OF A STANDARD JOURNAL AND PERPETUATING ITS USEFULNESS

AT the first of the year the publisher of THE NIDOLOGIST issued a circular letter to many of his subscribers and friends, setting forth the history of this journal, something as to the enduring patience, time and money expended to accomplish results for Ornithology and Oology, and submitting for earnest consideration the problem of its success, which should be dear to all bird lovers.

Of this communication, William Brewster, President of the American Ornithologist's Union wrote: I have read your appeal with sympathy and admiration. It is the frankest statement of the kind that I have ever seen, and if it does not bring the required help, nothing will."

The many responses indicative of appreciation and hearty support which have come to hand are most gratifyiug, and back of the substantial aid "for the cause" the spirit actuating it has spoken louder than words and will never be forgotten.

The sentiment is generously expressed that the NID is "all right," that the editor is satisfactory and that the publication *must* be pushed on to an adequate full support. Every little helps and one new subscriber is a *big* help. See what will be accomplished if *half* of our subscribers get *one more each!*

As an ardent Oologist the editor is interested with the subscribers equally in the success of a good magazine, extending researches into new fields, recording rare "takes," and furnishing a medium worth much more to each collector than his one dollar per year. As the publisher, he gives his time, where he has already given largely of time and money, to develop such a first class publication, with a very distant prospect of returns, financially.

Disregarding the educational factor, such a journal is worth $'s from a purely material standpoint, to every active collector. This is why we "laid the whole case" before our friends. That the facts are appreciated we have already abundant evidence.

Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, of Avery's Island, La., has very generously volunteered a contribution of $100 worth of southern bird's eggs in sets, now offered as premiums with THE NIDOLOGIST, thereby attesting substantially his good will toward the magazine and his desire to see it have a wider circulation—such as it will have, we believe, with our friends' earnest co-operation.

The following list includes the support received "for the cause," and from good friends of Ornithology, to March 7, and represents the number of subscribers secured, or their equivalent, with those pledged to be secured during the next five months. The first two objected to the publication of their names:

A Western Ornithologist	10
Pasadena	10
Chase Littlejohn	10
J. Parker Norris, Jr	3
Otto Emerson	2
J. B. Neal	2
H. B. Hollis	2
F. E. Newbury	2
Eugene S. Rolfe	1
E. J. Wheeler	1
Philo W. Smith	2
John A. Brandon	2
A. M. Ingersoll	1
Reginald G. Pape	1
Claude Fyfe	1
W. E. Snyder	1
Frank L. Burns	2
R. W. Williams, Jr	1
R. C. McGregor	1
A. W. Johnson	4
M. C. Howe	1
Virginius H. Chase	5
R. H. Beck	1
Albert Lano	1
W. A. Davidson	1
Mrs. Agnes Chase	1
Verdi Burtch	1
Francis R. Cope, Jr	1
C. F. Stone	1
D. D. Stone	1
Dr. Louis B. Bishop	1
Walter E. McLain	1
H. W. Flint	1
Hartley Jackson	1
C. H. Morrell	2
C. Barlow	2
N. A. Eddy	5
Dr. H. V. Ogden	1
Prof. D B. Burrows	1
G. P. Bourne	1
Miss J. F. Hecox	1
Dr. W. M. Martin	1
C. P. Fore	1
Charles S. Butters	1
R. P. Sharples, advertising	
Bert H. Douglass, engraving	
Oliver Davie	8
C. W. and J. H Bowles	6
A. H. Frost	5
B. T. Gault	1
George A. Morrison	1
C. J. Penuock	1
Thomas H. Jackson	2

How many will add to this list? The editor has done all he can, do a little yourself for *your own* paper, and you will see it all come back, benefiting Ornithology and yourself a good Ornithologist and a member of THE NIDOLOGIST'S widening circle of enthusiasts. Keep up the good work. May we not hear from *you* and that early? Let us have something to publish next month from every one who feels that he is *with us*, and let it be a record to be proud of, and to remember when the magazine gets to be double its present size.

TUFTED PUFFINS—FROM LIFE

Clearance Sale of Valuable Magazines

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH WILL NOT "COME AGAIN"

OWING TO THE FACT that "sample copies" were sent out too liberally of certain numbers of THE NIDOLOGIST, we cannot supply *complete* files to date, and consequently we have on hand a disproportionate, though not a large quantity of NIDS of certain issues. These are ALL BRIMFUL OF EXCELLENT ARTICLES, each number *handsomely illustrated*, and rather than hold them in small quantities at stiff prices, we have decided to send them out to advertise us, giving Ornithologists the benefit of them now at *very low figures.* Many of our friends are thus afforded an opportunity to complete their files at small cost and others can secure very interesting back numbers at cost. Just *as valuable as current issues*, which will no doubt in future be worth several times over what we now ask. Where we cannot supply certain numbers you may succeed in filling the gaps inexpensively through exchange.

WHILE THEY LAST, OUR PRICES for the following will be, prepaid: *Single numbers*, 10 cents; *any four numbers*, 25 cents; *10 numbers*, 50 cents; *19 numbers*, 90 cents. These *cost us*, to prepare and print in quantity, an average of 7½ cents per copy. On the last proposition offered you get them for less than 5 cents each. When the bulk are gone these prices will be cancelled. Following we enumerate briefly *a few* of the articles in each number. The surplus *will not last*—don't neglect this chance while offered.

VOL. I., JANUARY, '94—The late B. F. Goss (portrait, with biographical sketch by the late Major Charles Bendire), A Study in Nest Construction, Notes on the Osprey, Screech Owl and Blue Jay, Do Wading Birds Swim?, etc.—4 illus.

MAY, '94—Nidification of the California Poor-will, All About Dick, Bird Destruction Again (a rejoinder by Olive Thorne Miller), Feathered Butchers Western Gnatcatcher, Snow-eaters, Birds of Smith's Island, Virginia, etc.—4 illus.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

TERMS:—ONE CENT PER WORD. No notice for less than 25 cents. Address printed free. Dealers advertisements 15 per line.

FINE GEODES—20 varieties; fossils, 150 varieties; minerals, curios, shells, beautifully polished onyx and cave specimens and Indian relics for sale- Indian relics (stone) and Oregon bird arrows wanted in exchange. CORA JEWELL,
Mont. Co. Shannondale, Indiana.

EIGHT SHOWY SEA-SHELLS for $.50, fourteen for $1.00, or both collections $1.25 sent by mail postpaid, and safe arrival guaranteed. All are perfect specimens. Illustrated price list mailed free. Dealers supplied at low prices and all inquiries answered promptly. J. H. HOLMES,
Dunedin, Fla.

FOR SALE—10 Copies of Davies' Taxidermy (new) Will send them prepaid anywhere in the United States for $40 00 cash. Single copies prepaid $4.50. Also fine Elk Heads for sale.
NATHAN L. DAVIS,
Box 224. Brockport, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE—About 90 Philatelic papers all A1. for birds in the meat, mounted birds, books, eggs, skins, or anything that I can use. If you have anything to exchange let me know by return mail. Address, WALTER E. MCLAIN,
Box 70. New Vineyard, Maine.

FOR SALE—Oological and Ornithological specimens from Europe, India, Africa, and the Polynesia. African Mammal's Horns; Weapons of Savage Tribes. Correspondents please send lists of desiderata.
DR. JAMES REED,
131 Iermyn St., London S. W. England.

EVERYTHING in Microscope Slides to exchange for Ornithological material; i. e., sets of eggs, mounts, or standard books—or will sell. Physiological series of systems and organs a specialty.
C. C. BASSETT,
Depauw Univ. Greencastle, Ind.

IN ORDER to help defray the expenses of a long trip I shall be prepared to fill orders for choice Alaskan Bird Skins, curios, etc., till June next. Send stamp with inquiries.
GEO. G. CANTWELL,
Howkan, Jackson P. O., Alaska

The Nidologist.

Published by
Henry Reed Taylor
ALAMEDA, CAL.

April, 1897

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

Vol. IV. No. 3 ALAMEDA, CAL., APRIL, 1897 $1.00 Per Year

AN AVIAN TRAGEDY

The above is a sketch by B. H. Douglas from photo furnished by B. S. Bowdish of Holley, New York, who writes:—I send by this mail, photos of a little tragedy, proof of which was collected by E. B. Peck and myself and which said proof still hangs in our "den." A female Baltimore Oriole while engaged in building her nest was caught by a portion of the horsehair which she was employing in the building, and several strands becoming firmly twisted through her beak and around her throat she was effectively "hung by the neck until dead."

The Little Black Rail.

BY JOHN N. CLARK.*

MY FIRST acquaintance with the Black Rail began in the Centennial year, 1876. A neighbor of mine came to me on the 13th of July inquiring if I cared for a set of Rail's eggs—in a kind deference to my well-known interest in Oology. He said he had that day, on the salt meadow, mowed over a nest of nine eggs, and cut off the bird's head. He had left bird, nest and eggs on the deck of a small boat near the place some two miles away, and I was welcome to the same if I had any interest in them. What species were they? He did not know. He was an old hunter who had bagged a great many Rails, long-billed and short-billed but a Rail was simply a Rail to him regardless of the length of his bill. I had no very deep interest; the only species I had found here (Virginia) were too common to excite much attention; yet the one nest of King Rail I had found some years before, moved my curiosity enough to ask him to look at my sets of Rails. He repudiated the Carolinas promptly. "These are white," he said; and the King Rails, "these are much smaller," and he was quite confident that they were unlike anything in my collection; so much so that at my request he promised to bring them to me next day. But he did not succeed in inspiring me with sufficient interest to go after them, as I should have done had I entertained the faintest conception of the reality. My kind neighbor brought me what was left of the eggs, four sound and three cracked ones, loose in his pocket. Disaster had overtaken them—a hungry cat had found the bird a delicacy, and a boy had found the eggs. He had followed up the boy and brought me to the relics, which were a startling surprise for they were distinctly unlike any I had ever seen, and of course highly valued when at last their identity had been unmistakably established as Little Black Rails'.

Since that time I have met with eggs of the species from four different nests. One was found on the salt meadow near the West shore of the Connecticut River near its mouth in Old Saybrook. The situation was on the bank of a small ditch which was partially grown up with sedges and nearly dry at the time of the find. The meadow was a tract which had not have been mowed in some years and on the ditch bank was a large growth of old dry blue grass, of previous years, partially prostrated by winter's ice and snow and held up from the ground by the new growth sparsely working its way through to the light. As I lifted a bulging tuft of it I was startled to find a nest beneath with a beautiful set of six eggs of the Little Black Rail. Carefully smoothing back the drooping grasses I left them hoping for an increase which however failed to develop. Four days later I again gently lifted the covering and found the bird sitting closely on her treasures. At a motion on my part she darted from the nest across the ditch and stopped without taking flight in a little tuft of grass within an inch of my boot; at a slight movement on my part she darted into another tuft a few feet behind me, and as I essayed to turn she darted back to her former position by my boot. I say darted, for I can think of no other word that so nearly express her every movement, which was so swift that the eye could scarcely follow it. I wanted that bird greatly for still I have no representative of the species in my collection, though it is quite complete of that class found in Connecticut otherwise, but vain was every effort to get a stroke of my staff at it. Its next movement was to spring into the air and take flight, dropping into a patch of cat-tails a few rods away. Its flight was after the manner of the Rail family and I could easily have shot it on the wing had my gun been with me. This is the only bird of the species I have ever seen.

On the 13th of June, 1884, I took a trip to the salt meadows of Lynne on the Eastern shore of Connecticut River in pursuit of the nests of Seaside and Sharp-tailed Finches. This tract of salt meadow extends for two or three miles along the shore of the river from its mouth and must be about a mile in width, separated into islands by many winding creeks and coves. A large quantity of hay is taken annually away in scows by farmers from adjacent towns, but there are many acres of rushes and even of the finer growth so far from shore as to be almost inaccessable for practical purposes; these abandoned tracts form a paradise for the various species of marsh birds. Red-shouldered Blackbirds, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, with an occasional Least Bittern in the cat-tails and sedges, and Virginia Rails

* Read before the American Ornithologist's Union.

and Seaside and Sharp-tailed Finches in the finer grass meadows abound; an occasional pair of Bobolinks is seen, and here I found a nest of the King Rail. Over this tract I had tramped that day with good success and had almost filled my basket with nests of the species sought when I saw before me a bower of the standing grass twisted and woven together as I had frequently found over the nests of *maritimus*. Almost exclaiming aloud "another Finch's nest," I roughly pushed open the bower with my staff to be surprised with the revelation of four Little Black Rail's eggs. Carefully re-

ARCH ROCK
(Courtesy Publisher "Story of the Farallones")

arranging the grasses, and marking the exact spot,—a mere speck in the vast marsh —I withdrew, to return a week later and find a full complement of nine eggs. All my efforts to secure or even see this bird where in vain although the whole day was devoted to that purpose. The eggs were always warm but not even a quiver of the grass would indicate when or whither the bird had departed. The nest was located in a patch of stiff bristly grass known among haymakers as red-salt; no mower's scythe had been over it in many years and the green spires were struggling through the dry growth of many previous seasons about ten inches in height. The eggs of this set average just about one inch in their longer and about 27-32ds of an inch in their shorter diameters, while those of the previously mentioned set are noticeably smaller though of very nearly the same length, the smaller diameters being considerably less and averaging only about 24.32ds of an inch. The markings of the larger set are much more conspicuous for size, though never to be compared with Virginias or other Rail species, most of the markings in each set being simply inconspicuous specks and dots.

One of the five sets to which I have alluded was observed in the miscellaneous collection of end-blown, named and unnamed eggs of a lad who had recently deceased, and to which my attention was invited by a friend. There were no notes of the find and probably the lad had no idea of the rarity or even name of the species he had found any more than the collector of the others alluded to, who called his Meadowlark's. There are a number of species of birds in this section of whose

nesting so many times I have never had knowledge which are yet not considered rare, because their presence is so abundantly manifested by their open habits and familiar notes; and yet this bird with all its retiring habits, closely concealed nesting methods, and, as far as my knowledge and experience extends, total absence of song or call notes, has been detected nesting within a limited extent of territory near the mouth of the Connecticut River and the adjacent Sound shores on these five different occasions within a brief period of years. I am led to the conclusion that the bird's actual presence among their favorite haunts in the salt grass meadows is not an event of such exceeding rarity as has been generally supposed. Arriving late in summer, and retiring early, affecting places so secluded from ordinary observation and far from the foot-steps of any but the casual observer, most of them and possibly many of them may spend their brief summer and rear their broods unnoticed and almost unknown.

Saybrook, Conn.

To Protect Farallone Birds

The movement to protect bird life on the Farallone Islands has apparently proven successful. Mr. William Dutcher writes us: "You may be interested to know that the Light House Board, at Washington, D. C., under date of November 6, 1896, issued the following order: "The Board directs that all egg and bird business on the Farallone Islands be prohibited in any form and by any persons. This order will be carried out by the Inspector of the 12th Lighthouse District, San Francisco, Cal., and by the keepers on the Farallones."

Brunnichs' Murre—On the 31st of December I found one of these birds frozen stiff upon the ice in the middle of the river. It was apparently uninjured and had evidently alighted in an exhausted state and frozen to death. Its appearance indicated that it had not been there long. As we had no storms at that time to drive the bird inland, its occurrence is the more unusual. For the positive identification of the specimen I am indebted to Mr. Knight of Bangor.

C. H. MORRELL.

Pittsfield, Maine, February 1897.

Minor Nesting Notes from North Dakota.

BY EUGENE S. ROLFE.

THE sober-hued little Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) is an humble, unobtrusive resident here; silent even in the breeding season, except for a plaintive *chimp* that, together with similar structure, plumage and eggs, proves its close relationship to the familiar chipping sparrow.

It keeps to the prairies strictly, building from eight inches to two and a half feet from the ground in some cluster of badger or greasewood bush, generally preferring the former, of a growth of one to two feet in height. Somewhere in my reading I have observed the statement that this species nests on the ground, but in some thirteen nests observed, I have not met with a case of the kind. The nest is in its foundation very loosely constructed of fine dried weed stalks very insecurely stayed in place, while the lining of fine dried grasses and horse hair shows skill and care.

This common use of horse hair lining is another trait this species has in common with *domestica*. The earliest nesting record I have is June 10 and the latest July 20. In the first case the set consisted of three fresh eggs and was accompanied by an egg of the Cow Blackbird (which has a special fondness for the nest of this species), and in the last of four eggs also fresh.

In July, 1895, I spent several days on one of our farms some miles out, attending to some needed repairs, and on the 12th caught sight of a Clay-colored Sparrow carrying nesting material to a small cluster of badger brush a dozen yards from the well. Investigation showed but the slightest beginning made, only two or three fine dried weed stalks being then adjusted in the nucleus of a foundation. During the next three days I frequently observed this single bird working briskly at her task; at no time do I recall signs of a mate in the vicinity. On the 17th I was amazed to see her resting quietly upon a completed nest containing one egg. On July 20, eight days from the time of her initial work on the nest, the full set of four had been deposited and the bird was sitting! It is true the nest was exceptionally flimsy in construction, and though holding together well, was so poorly stayed in place that inverting the bush caused it to drop out

entirely; nevertheless the feat accomplished by that little body in little more than a week seems to me most remarkable.

The eggs are pale greenish-blue, slightly sprinkled and speckled, principally at the greater end, with small brownish and blackish spots, dots and freckles, with occasionally pale shell markings of lilac. In size they range slightly smaller than eggs of *domestica*.

The Maryland Yellow throat (*G. trichas*) has thus far been able to conceal its nest from me except in one instance. I have not yet taken the eggs, though the species is fairly common here, and a sense of pique has rendered my search persistent. I did, however, discover a nest containing young and it was, for me, such a feat that I recount the simple circumstances.

I find these birds nearly always dodging in and out through the labyrinth of flags and rushes that thrive in the shallows about the edges of our sloughs and small lakes. At such a spot on July 9 I spent an entire afternoon, and in that time scarcely stepped outside a space fifteen feet square, and the secret I sought to solve was, where in that small area, and under my very nose, was concealed a nest of the Yellow-throat containing a brood of hungry young that kept both parent birds most busily employed to feed?

The bank of the lake at this point was abrupt and about three feet in height, but supporting up and down its face a considerable growth of grasses and mint. Out into the knee-deep water in front grew a dense tangle of bullrush and flags, and just where the water lapped the foot of the green bank, there again and again did the birds disappear carrying larvæ for their young; and, anon, reappearing at nearly the same place, they quickly vanished among the reeds or away over the bank and the hillside back of it. And then would I once and again and again search every nook and cranny where those birds had entered, and for half a dozen yards along the foot of that bank and up its face examining most minutely every scrap of vegetation many weary times over and over, and then nonplussed withdrew ten feet and awaited the return of the birds once more. The lapping of the water had partly undermined a boulder embedded in the gravel at the foot of the bank, and here among the fragrant mint the male once disappeared with some hideous fragment of catapiller. Now who ever heard of a nest of the Yellow-throat in a veritable burrow underneath a big rock? And yet in this case that seemed a possibility, and I waited only for the reappearance of the artful bird in the same place to assail the spot confidently till the ends of my fingers were fairly worn out, and my folly seemed too evident.

If the proof had been less absolute that an actual nest really existed within reach of my hand I had abandoned the search in despair. As it was, what Mr. Peabody calls "pride of nidological acumen" kept me at my post. And, finally, when the shadows were lengthening, and the three-mile tramp homeward was looming up as an imminent necessity, back came the worm-laden female from over the hill-side and incautiously *went in from the verge* instead of the base and quickly reappeared with empty bill at the new point of entry, and the secret was out!

In all their previous journeys to the nest each one had entered at the foot of the bank and crept up the face to the verge, completely concealed from me by the rank growth of vegetation, and on leaving the nest they had simply retraced their steps to the foot again and so completely deceived me. Growing out of the verge was a rank, thick tussock of grass fully two feet high. In the center of this, barely off the ground, was set down the singular nest with an inside diameter of one and three-fourths inches and an outside depth of four inches, composed entirely of dried cat-tail leaves, with an inside lining of fine dried grasses and the tops of red-top grass, and a few horse hairs, all held firmly in place by the stiff, upright grass stems surrounding it. Within appeared three well-fed youngsters at least two, and probably three, weeks out of the shell. Some weeks later, after the young had flown, I stopped here long enough to gather up and carry away this nest as a souvenir.

Major Bendire's assertion (p. 311, Vol. II, of "Life Histories") that the best way to settle the uncertainties over the differences between the Little Flycatcher (*E. pusillus*) and Traill's Flycatcher (*E. pusillus traillii*) is to recognize but one species is probably good sense. And almost all the sections on *pusillus* in Coues' Key, p. 442, is given over to such discussion as leads one to question whether there is any such difference as warrants a separation into different sub-species.

But however the controversy may terminate, the bird which forms its subject is found here frequenting the occasional clumps of stunted timber and patches of brush growing under the rugged bank of small lake or coulee. In such a spot on July 17, 1895, I took the nest of what I am content to call Traill's Flycatcher.

Four feet up in the upright crotch of a thorn apple bush growing at the margin of a running coulee, one side impaled on a long thorn, the nest presented a slovenly appearance from the outside, being composed of a great variety of fuzzy material, including weed stalks, weed and flax fibre and thistle down, while the walls were thick, compact and deeply cupped, and the inside lining was neatly finished off with the fine, spray-like filaments of the heads of red-top grass, with two or three tiny feathers. It contained but two eggs about .76x.52, of creamy white, faintly dotted, mostly toward the greater end, with a few small scattering specks of brown and pale lilac, incubated beyond my skill to save at the time.

The birds seemed very shrinking and timid, and would quickly retire out of sight in the thickets whenever I approached, occasionally uttering a soft note difficult to describe.

On first discovering this nest and noting the apparently incomplete set, after vainly trying to observe the owner satisfactorily, I left the spot, and returning two days later and finding no change, settled down a few yards away with my glass for perhaps an hour, and upon each return of the bird to the nest I sought to gain something more than a transient glimpse. Failing in this I repeatedly chased her about the little thicket, no more than a dozen yards square, but dissolving views were all I succeeded in obtaining, and when it had become probable that I should drive her away entirely I reluctantly used the gun and carried her away, with a sprig of the thorn apple holding nest and eggs.

The Bartramian Sandpiper (*B. longicauda*) is a characteristic prairie species, and an abundant breeder hereabouts. Except in structure and appearance there is little about this species to suggest the Sandpiper family, and they seem to avoid the wet and the marsh for which nature has apparently so well adapted them, and have become strictly an upland bird, as indicated in one of their popular names, "Upland Plover." Their gentle, confiding demeanor, soft, liquid, whistling notes, and their general absence of disagreeable features make this species a general favorite, and probably has much to do with the fact that they are rarely molested or shot, for whatever may be the custom elsewhere, they are not regarded in the light of a game bird here.

If not already paired upon their arrival in mid-spring they become so at once, and are never seen in bunches.

From two to four weeks are apparently happily idled away, for I find that June 4 is my earliest record of a full set taken. When flushed these birds fly but a short distance, and when settling down upon the prairie have a pretty habit of holding both wings raised a moment, the points nearly meeting overhead, giving utterance at the same time to their long, drawn-out, plaintive whistle.

Their nest is small and a shallow depression in the ground on the open prairie scantily lined with fragments of dried grass. The eggs number four, are pyriform and so large (about 1.70x1.25) as compared with the nest that when arranged with small end towards the center, they rest partially on their points. Few eggs when taken fresh present happier combinations of tint and coloration. The ground is a warm, light creamy-brown or wholesome clay, speckled or dotted and blotched with rich umber-brown and paler shell markings of lavender and lilac.

To discover the nest of this species in any other way than by flushing the bird accidentally after incubation has commenced would seem very unusual. I have never surprised the birds in nest-building, nor do I feel certain that I ever saw it approach its nest or leave it except when flushed. After incubation has commenced, however, the female is a very close sitter, and will permit herself to be almost trodden on before leaving the nest. Once walking abreast with wife and children on a sandy ridge to cover as wide a strip as possible, a Bartramian flushed from under the very skirts of my little girl, startling her sorely by its sudden, sprawling flutter off the nest. Four times since while driving on the prairie sitting birds have flushed from under my cart after the horse had passed over the nest, in one case the bird flying out, as near as I could judge, between the spokes of the wheel. The familiar pretense of a

broken wing is commonly resorted to, and sometimes the conduct of the distressed bird is very pathetic.

North Dakota is essentially a prairie state, but the Devil's Lake region is favored with some goodly stretches of heavy timber and here breed many species common to the older states where great trees are plentiful.

April 20, 1896, a lad brought me a female Great Horned Owl shot at the nest, which was apparently an old nest of Hawk or Crow, 28 feet up in a large elm in a thick grove near the former shore line of Devil's Lake. It contained two eggs, one of which came to grief before it reached my hands, and the other was surprisingly small, measuring only 2.06x1.75, considering that the bird showed dimensions of 27½ inches in length by 47¾ inches in extent. Incubation was far advanced.

On May 2 last, while on a trip to the wild country some 40 miles west, my companion, J. R. Craigue, in a fringe of timber bordering Antelope Lake discovered a nest of this Owl containing two young, pretty well feathered and apparently a couple of weeks or more out of the shell.

It is possible we have here the western form of the Great Horned Owl (*subarcticus*), but the species observed were plainly referable to *B. virginianus*.

Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

An Idea for Drying Eggs.

Edwin C. Davis describes in the "Ornithologist and Oologist" a new way to dry eggs. He says: "The old way of drying eggs by absorption on blotting paper oftentimes causes a valuable specimen to be broken near the hole by the egg sticking to the paper. Now my way does away with blotting paper, and the art of drying is done perfectly and instantly. This is my way: After blowing the eggs, and after rinsing them with water, hold them over a hot stove, or anything where hot air may touch the egg (hole down); and if you have never seen it done, I think you will be wonderfully surprised at the rapidity in which the water is forced from the egg, and how soon it is dried.

MR. W. E. BRYANT of Santa Rosa, Cal., has removed to Los Angeles, where he will remain for at least a year.

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Southern Division

THE Division met at the residence of Joseph Grinnell at Pasadena, February 27. Harry Swarth of Los Angeles was elected to active membership. Mr. Grinnell exhibited a number of valuable photographs taken from life during February 1897, of Anna's Hummingbird, nest and young. The photographs show the female in the act of feeding the young by regurgitation, and in many other interesting positions; among the most notable being one showing her perched on the edge of the nest, which together with the branch on which it is situated, has been detached from the tree and held in the hands of a person. The whole is a series of remarkably clear and valuable photographs showing what an indispensable aid the camera is to the student of Ornithology. A paper was read by W. B. Judson on

The White-Throated Swift

"A small colony of these birds had been breeding in the cavities and caves of a large rock, a few miles from town and close to the Los Angeles River. About the first of June, 1894, Howard Robertson, Harry Swarth and myself made a try for a set of eggs of the Swift. I located a nest in a small cave about 75 or 100 feet from the bottom and about 20 feet from a small ledge that ran across the face of the rock. We had a one-half inch, 50 foot rope which was lowered from the ledge and held in place by the others while I went down it. I landed in a small cave and soon discovered the small round hole in the top of the cave from which I had seen the Swift fly.

"I succeeded in getting my hand into the hole, after losing a little spare skin and found that the hole went straight up for about a foot and then formed a letter T, the nest being situated at the end of one of the arms. The nest was just completed and ready for the eggs, but unfortunately for us we were a few days too early. The nest was composed of straw, small soft twigs and feathers glued fast to the rock. We were unable to pay the rock another visit for several weeks on account of being absent on a collecting trip. On our return we collected the nest for Major Bendire of the Smithsonian Institution.

"My next try for eggs of the White-throated Swift was made in the Huachuca

Mountains, in Southern Arizona. We had been watching the birds for several days, as they chased each other up and down the canyon, before we decided to disturb them. There were several large colonies in the different cliffs close at hand.

"It was on June 10, 1896 that I discovered a nest that I thought we could reach. The cliff that contained it was about half a mile up the canyon from our camp. As soon as we were satisfied we could get the nest we went back to camp and carried our rope to the bottom of the cliff. The rope was ¾ inch and 400 feet in length. Mr. O. W. Howard went around the cliff to the top, dropped us a string, hauled up the rope and made it fast to a small pine. We were about 150 feet from the bottom of the canyon on a shelf of rock while Howard was a hundred feet higher. The cliff was overhanging and the rope hung out from the foot of a rock about 15 feet. The nest was about twenty feet from the top of the rock, thus the rope hung out from it. There was a large cave just beneath so we boys at the bottom pulled the rope in about 50 feet and pulled it tight so that the center of the rope was against the rock by the nest.

"Howard slipped down the rope and looked in o the nest. It contained one fresh egg, or rather the egg was laid about six inches to one side of the nest. He could not reach the egg with his hand, so he slid to the bottom and we manufactured a couple of scoops. One was a spoon on a stick and the other a miniature butterfly net Another trip was made down the rope and the one egg secured. Several days later three more eggs were taken from the same nest.

"Five trips in all were made down the rope in securing the set and nest, three by O. W. Howard and two by myself. Another crevice was discovered a few yards from the one from which eggs were taken. We were all at the bottom of the cliff, so we thought it would be too much trouble to climb around to the top of the cliff. I decided to try a little rope-climbing. The first twenty-five feet was easy climbing, as the boys kept a heavy strain on the rope, but the next ten feet was anything but pleasant. The rope turned around with me and I had a good view of the bottom of the canyon a few hundred feet below several times in quick succession. When I reached the crack I could not get into it as it ran straight into the cliff for several feet.

"A few days later another cliff was tried but with poor luck, for we could not get to the nest after reaching the place where the birds went in. The nest obtained was composed of grass, soft twigs and feathers, glued to the rock so tight that I had a hard time in removing it. The nest was about eighteen inches from the mouth of the crevice."

The Southern Division met March 27 at the home of Otto J. Zahn in Los Angeles. It was reported that a list of Ornithological books had been placed in the Los Angeles Public Library at the request of the Southern Division, for which a vote of thanks was passed. The meeting had been called in honor of the memory of Major Bendire, but the rendition of the program was deferred until April 24, when the Division will meet at Highland Park. The Secretary read a review of the life of Major Bendire by Dr. Merriam in "Science." Personal reminiscences of Major Bendire were given by Walter E. Bryant; they but repeated the sentiments of all who knew this great scientist, that he was "a man of energy, perseverance and courage," and in his scientific work was satisfied with nothing short of the best results that could be obtained.

Northern Division

The Northern Division combined its March and April meetings April 3, when it met at the Delta Upsilon Fraternity House, Stanford University. Five visitors were present. John M. Willard and C. W. Randall Jr. of Oakland were elected to active membership. The resignation of Rev. E. Lyman Hood, owing to his total lack of time, was accepted.

The case of Oscar P. Silliman of Castroville, who was charged at the February meeting with defrauding a certain party with spurious sets of Townsend's Warbler, Vaux's Swift and other rare species of eggs was taken up for final action. The evidence being complete the following resolutions were unanimously passed, having been concurred in by the Southern Division:

"Whereas, Oscar P. Silliman of Castroville, Cal., a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, has shown conclusively by a written confession to a certain party, that he has indulged in numerous fraudulent

transactions in the exchange of certain sets of birds' eggs, be it

"*Resolved*, that his fraudulent practices are hereby severely condemned by the Club, and that he has forfeited his right to membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club of California forever hereafter, and be it further

"*Resolved*, that he be, and is hereby ex pelled unconditionally from all his rights and privileges as a member of the Club, and that notice of his expulsion be published in the official organ."

Mr. Lyman Belding presented to the Club his bound MSS. of "Water Birds of the Pacific District," which is a companion part to his published "Land Birds," representing a most valuable compilation of observations. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Belding for his generous gift.

The matter of Major Bendire's death was brought before the meeting and the following resolutions of respect adopted:—

"Whereas, Science has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of the distinguished Ornithologist, Major Chas. E. Bendire, be it

"*Resolved* that the Cooper Ornithological Club expresses its deep regret at the passing of America's greatest authority in Oology,—scholarly in attainments and untiring in the pursuit of exact knowledge, which it was ever his pleasure to disseminate for the benefit of all—and be it further

"*Resolved* that this Club is profoundly sensible of the loss of a generous friend and appreciative patron."

R. B. McLain was elected Vice-President pro-tem of the Club to serve during the absence of Mr. Kaeding. Ralph Arnold presented an interesting paper on "Nesting of the Black-throated Gray Warbler in Los Angeles County."

The Northern Division meets May 1, at the home of W. Otto Emerson at Haywards, when Dr. J. G. Cooper will be present and deliver a talk. A large attendance is desired.

WE ARE informed that Mr. Anthony will describe a new bird, *Carpodacus mcgregori*, in the next "Auk."

CLAUDE FYFE of San Francisco has departed for London, and will be absent about six months.

A MOCKINGBIRD was observed in Alameda, Cal., by the "Nid's" editor February 18; first ever seen here.

LEVERETT M. LOOMIS of the California Academy of Sciences is visiting his home in North Carolina.

GEORGE F. BRENINGER has returned to Phœnix, Arizona.

LEAST BITTERN.

I have heard of several writers who say they have never heard the Least Bittern utter a sound, but that it was a perfectly quiet bird. This last summer when in Hillsdale County, Michigan, I discovered but one place where this Bittern could be found. This was where a lake of about three miles in length joined a smaller lake, which contained about fifteen acres. The two lakes were connected by a narrow stream spanned by a bridge and bordered on each side by cat-tails, reeds, and rushes. Here as many as four Least Bitterns were seen at a time. Often they would light on the rushes and utter their peculiar notes. The sound resembles the word *cluck*, *cluck*, *cluck* uttered several times. Their note is not loud for they could not be heard more than a dozen rods away.

They would alight behind a log and stick their heads out from behind it. It was difficult to discover them in this position unless they were at the same time "clucking," for their heads closely resemble the logs and brush about them.

GERARD ABBOTT.

Englewood, Ill.

***

NESTING OF BACHMAN'S SPARROW.

Amid long-growing weeds, by the side of the Wabash railroad and within twenty feet of the roar and clash of passing trains—this, according to my data, is where I first saw the home of *Peucæa bachmanii*.

Previous to the season of 1896, little *Peucæa* was unknown to me and the set of eggs I obtained is of double value to me, in that it adds another name to my list of birds nesting in this vicinity.

So few are the accounts given regarding the nidification of the members of the Sparrow family, that my notes may prove of interest to some of the many readers of the NID.

On May 14, I was making a systematic search for nests of the Maryland Yellow-

throat along the Wabash right-of-way, a short distance west of town. I had already taken a beautiful set of five, from this trim little Warbler and was entering a more open spot, when I flushed a small bird, just to the left and a little behind me. I turned quickly but not soon enough to see the bird, which probably darted into tall grass beyond.

I had no difficulty in locating the nest, but found it empty. A glance, showed me that it was hardly finished and I passed on, with a look of innocence and indifference on my face, that must have deceived the little bird, if watching me. I did not fail to notice however, a bird-home, strange to any of my former experiences. I spent a goood many hours woudering what I had in store for my cabinet and could wait no longer than May 18, to make my second visit.

As I expected, strange eggs were there, two in number.

I passed on as before, and on my third visit, on May 21, I took four white eggs, which proved to be those of Bachman's Sparrow. Two of the set are dotted with three or four nearly obscure spots of a neutral tint, the others are of immaculate white.

The eggs average .54x 65 inches in measurement, and present an almost round appearance. The nest was placed flat on the ground in the center of a small clump of weeds, and the foundation was composed entirely of corn-husks, as was also the sides, with the addition of large grass-blades. The nest measured as follows: Outer diameter, four inches; height, four and a half inches; inner diameter, two and three-fourth inches; depth, two and a half inches, being neatly lined with fine grasses and horse-hair.

ISAAC E. HESS.

Philo, Ill.

Breeding of the Turkey Vulture

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST:—Mr. J. K. Strecker, Jr., in his article headed "Habits of Audubon's Caracara" in January issue of NID when speaking of the extent of the breeding season of several of the birds in that section mentions in particular the Turkey Vulture, as having a longer breeding season than in any other section of the South. I may say that my notes on the same bird will cover about the same length of time, although a little later in the season. I have taken perfectly fresh eggs in this county (Guilford) from the last of March to the first half of June, but most sets are taken in April.

JOE H. ARMFIELD.

Greensboro, N. C.

An Early Eagle Trip

AFTER giving the Golden Eagles a three years respite, on February 23 of this year, in company with H. C. Ward of Alameda, I took the train for my old range in San Benito County. As one such expedition is very like another, and as I might tresspass upon space alloted to other more interesting matter if I got well started, I shall not attempt to make a long story, more especially as our "take," after examining five nests, situated many miles apart, was but two eggs, secured on the day of our arrival. If I say anything more soon on the subject it will be in collaboration with Mr. Barlow in an illustrated disquisition on the momentous question, "Should the Price of Eagle's Eggs be Raised?"

It was on February 24 that Ward and I discovered a pair of Golden Eagles building their nest. There is nothing remarkable in this, but our find was so unexpected that it was to me the most interesting incident of a four days' trip. We were riding, "saddle-back," along a well traveled road in the low hills when Ward espied an Eagle sailing low over a hill near by on our right. "I see the nest!" he cried, "see that black thing up there?" and he pointed to an almost indistinguishable object half a mile off.

At this moment the Eagle flew across the road not fifty feet over our heads. "Didn't I tell you! see the stuff in his beak," yelled Ward. Sure enough, the Eagle carried in his beak a handful of dry weeds. We watched him until he deliberately settled in a small oak tree on an inconsequential eminence on the left of the road and not over 80 feet from us. And then we saw in the center of the same tree, situated on a fork, the nest, which otherwise we should have undoubtedly overlooked. Who would ever think of seeing an Eagle's nest in such a spot.

Ward was off his horse and over the fence in a minute. As he reached the tree, the other Eagle, also with nest lining in its beak, circled toward the nest, and as he started to climb, the first one flew out from among the branches with a frightened clatter and winged its way toward safety not over *forty feet* above my horse. It was followed by its mate, still hanging to the bunch of weeds. One could almost hear

the wing beats of the great birds as they passed over. The whole situation was grotesquely comical, and I could not help imagining the surprise of some of our collectors in less favored sections were they present with us at the show. Is it any wonder that Westerners get a reputation for exaggeration? But the foregoing is true as set down, "Wm. Henry," *et al* to the contrary if they choose, and Ward will bear me out. The nest, as I expected, was complete except for the lining. Possibly the Eagles were a young and inexperienced pair; yet if they sought security in an unlooked for spot, they were certainly in a way to succeed.

H. R. TAYLOR.

A Glimpse of *S. auricapillus*

I WAS SITTINC there on the sunny side of a deep ravine when he hopped into view. So silently he came, that had I not caught the queer rustle of the chestnut leaves among the pine needles as he came around the base of a large birch, I should not have suspected his presence.

He was then not more than ten yards from me, across the hollow, and I could even catch the light reflected from his pretty bright eyes as he stood there a moment irresolutely watching. Then, appearing satisfied of my peaceable intentions, he continued his interrupted search among the leaves.

Occasionally something he attempted to pick up would escape him and roll down the bank a few feet only to be immediately snapped up again by the bird who rapidly pursued it. If a fallen twig lay in his path he would hop upon it, sharpening or cleaning his bill by a single stroke, never bending the body but using the neck alone, and in a very dignified manner.

Near me, on my right, lay a thin patch of snow, as large in area, perhaps, as a dining table, which the heavy shade of a thick hemlock had preserved longer than most of the "beautiful." When the Thrush came to this he paused to deliberate scarcely half a second, and then, running into the deepest of it, began scratching much the same as he had the leaves but a few seconds before.

In a moment, having a hollow suitably prepared, he crouched down and gave several sharp flaps of his wings that sent the snow over him in showers and when he had ceased it left him nearly buried from view. After this novel proceeding was over he continued feeding as unconcernedly as before, having never since he first came into sight deigned to cast an open glance at me, although covetly watching me, I daresay, all the time.

But what is that, *fwhi, fwhi, fwhi, fwhi, fwhi*, five times in quick succession? The quick whistle of a Cooper's Hawk as he darts low down through the trees, closely pursued by two Crows, and as I glanced at my little companion, I saw him tremble and cringe to the ground for a second and then go scurrying off into some distant underbrush as fast as his pretty brown wings could carry him.

ARTHUR M. FARMER.

Clinton, Mass.

Willard Safe—A Correction

Mr. John M. Willard of Oakland, Cal., writes: "While looking over THE NIDOLOGIST for February I saw on page 58 the little note of mine about the nest within a nest, and noticed that the date given is *January* 9, 1896. I think I said *July* 9. If it is my mistake I am willing to take the consequences, but, 'Next month we shall most likely have to expose an unusually audacious fraud,' which you have put on the next line below, might be taken as an insinuation that you were going to expose the writer of that note as a fraud, as Arkansas Goldfinches' and empty Grosbeaks' nests do not often grow in early January."

Pine Siskins Far South

On March 13 I saw a flock of about 30 Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) in a gum and maple swamp just across the river from New Orleans. I secured a female from the flock which quickly disappeared when I shot. As far as I know this species is rare here; have never seen it before.

Spring has been very early in southern Louisiana, and most of the birds have come a little earlier than usual. The first Chimney Swift was seen March 13; first Red-eyed Vireos March 20; first Prothonotary Warblers March 20; first Orchard Oriole March 23, with bulk of males March 30. March 26, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen; this bird is rare here. March 27 several arrivals were noted: Crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Warbling Vireo and Indigo Bunting, while on March 31 the first Barn Swallow was seen.

H. H. KOPMAN,

New Orleans, La.

Great Auks Rediscovered!

IN the famous land of Alaska! How long have I looked with covetous eyes upon this Eldorado of bird life; and now that I am here my wildest expectations have been realized.

It was a beautiful morning in early summer that Bob and I found ourselves at the beach loading an outfit into the boat, bent on an exploration trip down the channel in search of a famous breeding ground of various sea birds that we had learned of through the Indians.

We had caught the tide right and once in the stream, its swift current bore us rapidly to the north, giving an opportunity to stretch out on the blankets and take life easy. Gulls, Pacific Kittiwakes, Glaucous-winged and Short-billed, were wheeling about in graceful curves; great rafts of Scoters rose in front of the boat, hurrying off in a clumsy, spluttering way, to turn and come back on a swift, steady wing, their velvety-black plumage and varicolored bill contrasting sharply with the green sea beneath them. Comical little Marbled Murrelets watch us out of their black eyes, ready to dive under at the least suspicious movement.

We began to look for signs of the locality we were in search of, soon finding a glacier which came down a valley to the water's edge, with a foamy stream pouring over the edge of a cliff on a large island opposite. This was as the Indians had told us, so landing at the mouth, we made camp and started up a little canyon that led to the top. Before we had gone far we noticed many Gulls, Ducks and Geese going and coming from above, which assured us we had found the right place.

Gaining the top at last we feasted our eyes on a sight never to be forgotten. The entire country was as level as a Minnesota prairie, here and there lakes and marshes dotting the surface. Gulls rose into the air in clouds and started myriads of Ducks and Geese to quacking. On our immediate left, rose a rough shelf of rocks which we could see was fairly alive with black and white objects that were moving slowly about. On approaching the place we found them to be birds, and their waddling, helpless sort of a gait struck us as peculiar—Loons, I thought. But no, they would never live in such a place. They must certainly be Great Auks! What a revelation. Here were birds long thought to be extinct. Bob, who carried the camera, stole a march on two old fellows sitting on a rock, and took their picture. Then I lined them up and got them both with a load from the shot gun.

Picking the birds up, we noted their immense size and wingless condition—they were as large as a Goose and formed like a Guillemot. There was no longer any doubt about it now, they were the famous Great Auks. How Mr. Ridgway's eyes would stick out when he received the pair we were to send him.

Not to lose an opportunity, we began to collect a few, but found we could not possibly carry more than half a dozen each back to the boat, as they were, so we sat on a rock and skinned and prepared twenty of them.

At the further end where the cliff was highest, we could see birds that were to all appearances sitting on eggs. The inaccessable places were reached by the birds hopping and crawling along the narrow shelves and projecting bits of rock—a task we found impossible for us—so going back we gained the edge again and following it to the top of the cliff, looked over, and there, sure enough, we could see the single Auks' eggs where the parent birds were not covering them.

Selecting a spot where the eggs were most plentiful, Bob passed the rope under my arms and taking a hitch around a rock began to lower me over the edge. It was a dangerous thing to do, but the excitement of our find had made us reckless. Coming within reach of a bird, I signaled Bob to stop, and made a pass at the Auk with my foot, but in its haste to get out of the way, the poor creature made a misstep and went end over end to the rocks below.

Balancing myself on a narrow shelf, I leaned forward for the much desired egg, when I felt the rope give above me and reeling backward I fell with an awful sensation—down, down, I went till I struck—the hard cabin floor! "Breakfast is ready," yelled Bob, as he released my foot and passed into the kitchen, leaving me to ponder on the sad realities of life.

GEORGE G. CANTWELL.

Howkan, Alaska.

"WINTER NOTES" in our March number should have been credited to C. H. Morrell, of Pittsfield, Maine.

Nesting of the Long-tailed Chickadee

IN THE vicinity of Waco, McLennan county, Texas, this western variety of *Parus atricapillus* is the prevailing form of Chickadee. Although common throughout the year, these little Chickadees are most noticeably abundant during the summer months, as they then form in troops of from four to a dozen or more birds. One would judge these little troops to be family groups, so happy and contented do the little fellows seem as they fly from tree to tree, merrily whistling their "chick-a-dee-de," and searching amongst the twigs and branches for their insect food; now on one side of a limb, now on the other, first on one branch, then on another.

Two other forms of Titmice occur with us, i. e., the Tufted Tit (*Parus bicolor*) and the Plumbeous Chickadee (*Parus carolenensis agilis*), but the first is not at all common, while the last is quite rare.

During the period of reproduction, the Long-tailed Chickadee is rather partial to the bottomlands which border the river, but at other seasons the birds are everywhere abundant, numbers being observed daily in yards and parks of the city. These birds breed quite early in the season, their nests usually being found in the course of construction throughout the month of March.

The latest record was an uncompleted nest discovered on April 7, 1894, by Mr. Pearre and myself. The birds were present and were constructing the nest of a mass of cottony plant fibres, in a hole in an old stub. We did not revisit this nest, in fact would have forgotton that we had discovered it, if I had not come across the reference in my notebook.

Nearly all sets taken after the 30th of March are in an advanced stage of incubation. The nests are usually built in small holes in the posts of division fences in moderately wooded tracts, in dead stubs, and in some cases, in deserted holes of small *Dryobates* in dead trees. A small series of eggs collected during the first week of April, from nests previously located, contained embryos in various stages, and the number to a set was usually four, rarely five or six. All sets had been allowed to advance to such an extent as to remove all doubts as to their completeness. I am inclined to believe, from my observations, though somewhat limited, that four is the more common number composing a set of the eggs of this Chickadee, in this section of the country. Several complete sets of four were taken by a friend during the spring of 1894. This seems to be an unusually small number to compose a full set of the eggs of any variety of the Black-capped Chickadee. Referring to several authorities, I find that the number given as a full set of the typical *atricapillus*, and its two varieties, *septentrionalis* (the Long-tailed form) and *occidentalis* (the Oregon Chickadee), ranges from five to eight.

The eggs of the Long-tailed Chickadee are white, and are very evenly covered with reddish-brown speckles. The only difference between the eggs of the Long-tailed and typical Black-capped Chickadees that I can detect is, that in the first variety, the eggs are most evenly speckled as a rule, while in the latter the markings are more commonly concentrated at the larger end. This difference might not be apparent when a large series is compared, however, but I have not had the opportunity of making such a comparison. About twenty specimens of the eggs of the Long-tailed Chickadee average slightly larger than those of typical *atricapillus*.

This Chickadee is a close sitter, and the collector is frequently obliged to lift the bird from the eggs. The nests are usually built with the rims about an inch or two below the bottom of the opening into the nesting-place.

During the winter months this species may often be found haunting the same localities and associating with Brown Creepers, Carolina Wrens, Southern Downy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates pubescens meridionalis*) and other small woodland birds.

JOHN K. STRECKER, JR.

Waco, Texas.

Death of Arthur L. Pope.

Arthur Lamson Pope died at his home near Salem, Oregon, February 28, after a three months' illness.

Mr. Pope had for a long time been an enthusiastic Ornithologist, and was deeply interested in the study of bird-life in the Northwest.

Through his efforts the Northwest Ornithological Association was organized, and he was elected as its first president; he was actively associated in the work up to the time of his illness.

Published and Edited by HENRY R. TAYLOR

THE PIONEER Magazine of Illustrated Bird Life.

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & CO., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

PROF. D. B. BURROWS writes us from Casa Blanca, Texas, that he has this year taken 40 eggs of the Western Horned Owl, including two sets of four each.

IF WE were not above making excuses we would say here that two "cuts" for this issue went to a wrong address, hence we are obliged to go on without them.

NOTHING has been heard as yet of the Anthony-McGregor-Kaeding party in Mexican waters. Can it be that they have loaded too heavily with Shag's eggs and swamped?

WE GRATEFULLY acknowledge additional aid in our "subscription cause" from the following: E. A. Savage Elliot, 2; C. F. Stone, 1; Oscar B. Warren, 2; W. H. Naughton, 1; E. E. Brewster, 1.

R. H. BECK broke all recent Golden Eagle records in California this season by taking 7-2 and ⅓. C. Barlow took four sets and H. R. Taylor, two, while Mr. Moran secured 3 sets and 2 sets of Duck Hawk.

IF YOU have not yet secured a copy of "The Story of the Faralliones" you are missing a great treat. Artistically, it is a gem; and as a souvenir, it is really unique. Neither time nor money have been spared in making it a notable publication, and now that it is out it will no doubt have a great run. You will want it if you see it.

THE publisher of THE NIDOLOGIST has realized that nothing is to be gained by an endeavor to cater to the ultra-scientific readers who find *all* they want in "The Auk." Fresh, original notes from the field on the ever interesting life histories of our birds furnish a wide and appropriate field for our monthly. We believe in the Field-Oologist, hav ealways received from them our best support, and aim to promote and protect their interests.

An Albino Western Red-tail

IN THE Fall of 1894 I saw a strange looking Hawk on several occasions flying slowly about the hill back of the house. At first appearance it seemed to have a hole in the tail and wings, but on getting out a pair of field glasses, and watching closely, I could see that three of the tail feathers were white, and several in each wing, besides a number about the back of the head.

This odd looking fellow kept about the hill for a month or more; then was missed. But on driving up to San Jose with Mr. H. R. Taylor, what should we see but Mr. Albino, sailing along the mountain ten miles southeast of Haywards, on the road to San Jose. When I called Mr. Taylor's attention to my Hayward's Hawk with white feathers, he wanted to know why I didn't tag him. "No," I said, "let him grow awhile, and we will see if more white feathers will not be shown in the moult from year to year."

Sure enough, in the Spring and Fall of 1895, he showed a much whiter head and two white feathers in the other wing. This Albino would always have a mate in the Spring, but I could never locate the nesting place. In the Spring of 1896 I had about given him up, but on being called out to see an odd looking Hawk, there was my old fellow showing his "white feather" again—had not changed any since last noted. This time he was about only for a week or so.

I kept a sharp look-out in the early Fall, but up to the time of my going away in October had not seen him. On returning in the latter part of November a small boy met me and said, "I have shot the funniest colored Hawk you ever saw." "Where is it?' I said. Oh, he had not saved it; did not think I wanted it, so had cut off the wings and tail and nailed them upon the side of his home. Such is fate! I have not had a chance to examine the remains of this strange albino.

OTTO EMERSON,

Haywards, Cal.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

TERMS:—ONE CENT PER WORD. No notice for less than 25 cents. Address printed free. Dealers advertisements 15 per line.

WANTED—Eggs in sets or sets for skins or mounted specimens of Eastern birds.
K. REED,
75 Thomas St., Worcester, Mass.

WANTED, for cash—A copy of each, "Birds of the Virginias," by Rives, and NIDOLOGIST, Vol. I, No. 2. JOHN W. DANIEL JR.,
Lynchburg, Va.

HAND Egg Blow-pipes for blowing and rinsing eggs; don't blow your cheeks off, but send for one with directions; 75c. prepaid Patent applied for.
Dr. M. T. CLECKLEY,
457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga.

THE CHEAPEST and best advertising for our readers is furnished in the "NIDI" exchange and sale columns. If you have anything to sell or exchange try it for satisfactory and quick returns.

SOUTHERN EGGS in sets for exchange for desirable sets and singles. Choice sets with data for sale cheap. List of Birds of Georgia for stamp
Dr. M. T. CLECKLEY,
457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga.

WANTED—Works on Anatomy, Physiology, Histology, Obstetrics, Chemistry, and Materia Medica, for which I have to exchange eggs in sets, minerals and fossils. HERBERT STERZING,
94 San Jacinto St., Austin, Texas.

I WANT skins of nearly all of the Warbler family; if you have any first class ones to exchange, please write, stating variety, sex and plumage. Well prepared sets and skins offered in exchange.
L. PERCY WILLIAMS,
Redlands, Cal.

NOTICE—Live Oologists send for cuts and prices of my new Oologist Instrument; does not "blow" your brains out, cleans the egg quickly, saves rare incubated sets and dispenses with blow-pipes, hooks, scissors, pincers &c. RUSSELL KENNEDY,
New Castle, Pa.

A WONDERFUL spot which it would cost you, perhaps, hundreds of dollars to visit, (provided Uncle Sam would let you land) is South Farallone Island. But you can see, its wild, rugged scenery and unnumbered wild fowl by sending 50 cents for "The Story of the Farallones"

TO EXCHANGE—Fine skins of (A. O. U.) 247, 248, 454 457, 458, 461, 431, 433, 434, 542a, 278, 542c, 554b, 567c, 567d, 581c, 581d, 585a, 591b, 595, 593, 508, 510, 656, 646a, 668, 725a, 730, 741a, 758, 759, 763, 767. For copy of Coue's Key or Ridgway's Manual. W. O. EMERSON.
Haywards, Alameda Co., California.

FOR EXCHANGE—A copy, good condition, bound in cloth and morocco, of Studer's "Birds of North America," profusely illustrated with colored plates by Theodore Jasper. Will exchange for $35 00 in complete sets of eggs, with original data, of North American Eagles, Kites or Hawks. JNO W DANIEL JR
Lynchburg, Va.

W. E. CLYDE TODD of the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., has in preparation a work on the birds of the western half of Pennsylvania, and will appreciate any information, however fragmentary, from the Ornithologists and Oologists of that section.

FROM THE PRESS OF PACIFIC TOWN TALK, 20 ELLIS ST., S. F.

California Vulture's Nesting—First Published Photos in Next Number

The Nidologist.

May, 1897

"The Story of the Farallones"—Free to Our Readers

DON'T OVERLOOK THIS!

A Generous Proposition from The Nidologist

YOU HAVE read some of the handsome things said of the beauty and value of "THE STORY OF THE FARALLONES." It is really a most interesting brochure, elegantly gotten up, and has been said, "well worth the price"—50 cents.

We believe every copy which goes out is the best kind of an advertisement to increase the sale. Realizing this we make the following unsuual announcement *to you specially*.

We will send to our subscribers the elegant Farallone Island Souvenir as a *gift*, provided we receive their prompt renewal of subscription. *New subscribers* may also take advantage of this presentation by remitting one dollar for the magazine for a year.

This is a compliment extended by the NIDOLOGIST to its readers. Take advantage of it while the offer is open. The Souvenir is a sheer gift to you—*and we pay the postage!* The mailing envelope of this month's NID will show the time your subscription runs out. Renew it at once and you will get the dainty brochure—a poem of the publisher's art—free. Let us hear from you promptly, if you appreciate liberality and enterprise.

H. R. Taylor,

Editor NIDOLOGIST

Alameda, California.

THOUSANDS OF OLD BOOKS

HAVE accumulated in the libraries of our public institutions, and those of prominent public men, both in duplicate and otherwise They cost them nothing and oft times are valued accordingly. They are, however, both valued and desired by specialists and parties interested Perhaps you or your friends may have some of the identical volumes which I desire, crowding library shelves or stored away in garrets, doing nobody any good; but had I them I would not only appreciate them but might know of a dozen others who would do likewise. Look over my list of wants and if you have anything I desire or others, write me, stating what you wish in exchange, and perhaps we can arrange an exchange which will be advantageous to each. I will exchange for single volumes—but the larger the exchange the better.

I WANT

Government and State Reports:—Annual Reports and Bulletins of U.S. Geological Survey, with F. V. Haydn in charge. Reports of Wheeler's U. S. Geological Surveys W. of the 100th Meridian. Reports of King's U. S. Geological exploration of the 40th Parallel. Annual Reports of Bureau of Ethnology. Annual Reports of U. S. Geological Survey. Natural History of New York. Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge. U. S. Reports on Etomology.

Botany:—Any of Gray's or Wood's Text-Books and Publications. Lesquereaux & James, "Mosses." Tuckerman's "Lichens." Goodale's "Wild Flowers." Hervey's "Sea Mosses." Sargent's "Silva of N. A." Hough's "Am. Woods."

Geology, Mineralogy and Palæontology:—Any of Dana's, Winchell's, Miller's or Geikie's Works.

Conchology:—Any of Tryon's. Sowerby's Gill's or Woodward's Works.

Entomology:—Any of Packard's, Westwood's or Comstock's Books. Any of Maynard's, Edward's or Scudder's Works on "Butterflies"

Ornithology, Oology, and Taxidermy:—Works by any of the following: Baird. Bendire, Brewer, Brewster, Cassin, Chapman, Cory, Coues. Davie, DeKay, Fisher, Gentry Goss. Hornaday, McIlwraith, Maynard. Minot. Nuttall, Nehrling, Raine, Ridgeway, Shufeldt, Studer, Warren. Wilson. Also back numbers or volumes of any of the following publications: "Auk," "Ibis," "Ornithologist and Oologist," "Nidologist," "Bird Books," Pamphlets and Publications are my speciality and I can use almost anything in that line advantageously either in large or small lots, old or new.

Medical:—Quain's Anatomy, 10th ed.: Rohe's Hygiene; Ziegler's Pathology; Campbell's Language of Medicine; Gould's Medical Dictionary; The National Dispensatory; Gray's Anatomy; Holden's Dissector; Kirke's or Yeo's Physiology; Whitte & Wilcox or Hare's Materia Medica; Reese's Toxicology; Osler's Medicine; Park's or American Text Brok of Surgery; Parvin's or Lusk's Obstetrics; Garrigue's or Keating & Coe's Gynæcology; Ingal's Laryngology; Duhring's Dermatology; Dana's Nervous Diseases; Kirchoff's or Blandford's Insanity; Reese's Medical Jurisprudence; Klein's or Pierson's Histology. I also desire second hand copies of any standard book, report or publication devoted to Ornithology, Oology, Geology, Mineralogy, Palæontology, Zoology, Conchology, Botany, Microscopy; etc., etc.

I also want choice Birds' Eggs in sets, with data; A No. 1 Mounted Birds and Reptiles; A Good Microscope; A Good Typewriter; Indian Relics, and choice collections of U. S. or Foreign Stamps or Coins or offers.

I CAN OFFER IN EXCHANGE

Cyclostyle; Corner Lot in Kearny, Neb.; 160 acres in Western Neb.; No. 2 ($32.50) Kodak, new; 23 vols. Harpers in patent binders; New set of Encyclopaedia Brittanica; Set Johnson's Encyclopaedia, Morocco bound; Rand and McNally's $25 Business Atlas; New Vale Surgical Chair; New Gould Dental Chair; $25 Relief Map of U. S.; New $500 Upright Piano; $50 Mineral Collection; $1000 worth of "Surplus" Stock as offered in "NATURAL SCIENCE NEWS" (copy for stamp) of April '96 consisting of Minerals, Fossils, Shells, Land and Marine Curios, Mexican Goods, Novelties, etc., etc.; 7 Foot Shark from the Plant R. R. System's Exhibit at the Atlanta Exposition. Select Disarticulate Human one-half skeleton; Skeleton of Monkey; "Fauna of British India, Ceylon and Burmah." 7 vol., 4000 pp., 1300 illus.; Jeancon's "Atlas of Pathological Anatomy" cost $36.75; a $45 Roll top Black Walnut Desk, good as new, 150 acres of land near Vineland, N. J. I will sell anything I offer CHEAP for CASH.

Exchanges under $5 not solicited except for choice material or desirable books.

Address **FRANK H. LATTIN**, Publisher for the OOLOGIST, **ALBION, N. Y**

THE NIDOLOGIST

Exponent of American Ornithology and Oölogy

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

Vol. IV. No. 9 ALAMEDA, CAL., MAY, 1897 $1.00 Per Year

A Rugged Coast, Showing Pigeon Guillemots in Foreground

(From "The Story of The Farallones.)

Ardea herodias Nests on the Ground

TO THE Editor of THE NIDOLOGIST; Sir: In response to your request, and as the night crying bells sounded at sunset on April 29, 1897, the 22 ton yacht Emerald slipped moorings and sped away in the gathering darkness on a twenty-mile run toward the southern marshes of San Francisco bay. The course was directed to the mouth of a creek in the salt marsh near which a colony of Great Blue Herons had been previously located, and here we found anchorage.

In the morning the launch was dispatched in search of oysters, and two of the men, provided with camera and egg basket, rowed a light skiff up a narrow "cork-screw" creek toward the heronry.

As we drew near the spot a great flock of Herons arose from the marsh, and after circling for a few moments flew off about a quarter of a mile and alighted to watch our approach. Occasionally small flocks returned to take note of our proceedings.

When the creek had narrowed to about 15 feet—and its thread became as tangled as thread usually does in a bachelor's hands—we reached the colony, and from the white nests, standing out in bold relief against the dark green and brown marsh grass on the banks of the creek, scores of long feathered necks arose, cavernous mouths opened and hundreds of raucous squawks greeted our arrival. There were little downy, pin-feathed "Cranes" resembling large squabs, half-grown ones with wide-open, hissing throats, and others who were beginning to realize the possibilities of flight.

From the course of the creek it was evident that the Herons had selected the highest spot on the salt marsh for a nesting place. The rookery is about two miles from the mainland and three-quarters of a mile from the bay shore, and here, within an area less than an acre in extent, are located more than fifty nests. I counted thirty-six from one point.

The nests were constructed of smaller sticks than is usual in those found in trees, the birds securing twigs, none more than ¾ of an inch in diameter, from bushes which grow to a height of about three feet on the marshes. They were from 6 to 18 inches in height. Some lined with dry grass. Depression was from three inches in the older nests to 9 inches in the more modern ones, the average being 4 inches. Most of the nests were bleached offal white and had apparently been in use for many years. All were remarkably neat and clean. They were ranged along the edge of the winding creek, about 8 feet apart, and another row of nests would be found on the opposite side. Three or four eggs or the same number of young Herons were found in most of the

nests, but the older families were composed of but two or three young. Several sets were secured, and fresh eggs were taken from a few nests. When one of the more advanced juveniles, in seeking to avoid the intruder strayed into a strange nest he was immediately attacked by the occupants, and a fierce conflict was waged, during which we stood, entirely disregarded, within six feet of the combatants. Several dead birds observed were probably victims of similar brawls in Crane Town.

The young Herons seemed very weak on their legs even when well grown, and when one venturing too near the edge, would tumble into the creek it was impossible for him to climb up again. We assisted with an oar some of these fledglings in distress. The only kind of food observed in the colony was in one nest where we found a section of a large fish, probably a sturgeon. It was a full foot in length, and about four inches wide, being that part extending from the heel of the tail fin to the dorsal fin. Imagine the hungry occupants of this strange colony, standing upright with outstretched wings and open, clamorous throats, all facing and striking their long bills toward the intruder, and you have an animated picture which once seen is not to be forgotten.

EDWARD K. TAYLOR.

Alameda, Cal.

Where the Heronv Was Found

An Interview with Dr. Sharpe.

"BLACK AND WHITE" publishes an interesting interview with Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, in the course of which he said:

"What I am most proud of, absolutely, is what I consider my most important work, my share in "The Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum," which I started, of which I have written thirteen out of the twenty-seven volumes. It is no mere catalogue, but really a description of every bird in the world, with the whole of the literature on the subject, and a list of the specimens in the National Collection. You will get some idea of the vastness of the work when I tell you that the specimens of bird-skins alone number three hundred thousand. If you allow Leyden of Paris to have eighty thousand specimens, then you may say the British Museum has two hundred and twenty thousand more than any other. The mere work of arranging and cataloguing over a quarter of a million of birds is enormous."

An Anti-Camera Demonstration—Young Great Blue Heron

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Southern Division

THE Southern Division met April 26, at the home of W. B. Judson, Highland Park, Cal. R. B. Blackman of Los Angeles and Walter L. Richardson and H. A. Young of Pasadena were elected to active membership. The Life History Committee, F. B. Jewett Chairman, requests that anyone having notes on the early life histories of Southern California birds hand the same in before May 29, in order that they may be embodied in the report then to be made.

Notes on Cormorants

Horace A. Gaylord presented the following notes: "On Geronimo Island, Lower California, both Brandt's and Farallone Cormorants are very abundant; yet it is a remarkable fact that the two species do not associate with each other to any great extent. Late in the afternoon long lines of Cormorants begin to come in from their day's work among the fish to their roosting places on the island. The Farallone, flying to a beach or to low rocks near the water's edge, roost in loose, irregular companies, while the Brandt's, choosing a flat portion of the island farther away from the water, stack themselves closely together in large armies. This individuality seems to hold good in the nesting habits of these two species, for wherever I have found both these birds nesting on the same island, I have noticed that the nests of the Farallone were comparatively scattered while those of the Brandt's were packed thickly together."

Black-throated Sparrow

A. I. McCormick read a paper on "The Black-throated Sparrow," based on observations taken at Randsburg on the Mojave Desert. Five sets of eggs were taken between May 21, and June 6, 1896. On May 21, a nest was found in a mesquite 10 feet up, containing three eggs advanced in incubation. On the same day a second nest was met with containing two fresh eggs, built in a small thick bush 2 feet from the ground in a canyon, and but two feet from a wagon road. May 31, a set of two slightly incubated eggs were taken from a nest in a small mesquite one foot from the ground. June 2, a nest was found in a thorny white sage 2½ feet from the ground, containing two eggs; the nest could be seen from a path about 10 feet distant. June 4, a set of two was taken from a nest in a low thick evergreen bush one foot up, in the bottom of a small canyon. June 6, an advanced set of two was taken from a nest in a low mesquite. Two other nests were found each containing two young and one with one young bird and two addled eggs. It would seem that in this locality two eggs are the usual complement. "This bird was the most interesting one met with on my trip. The song is the sweetest of any desert bird. It is composed of notes of little-varying pitch, though very

pleasant to the ear. The bird is of a friendly nature, always preferring to remain near the haunts of man. All the nests I found were near some abode or wagon road. They were to be found only in the small area enclosed in the mountains; not being seen at all on the desert plains which surround the hills. The nest is of a very fragile nature, depending for its support upon the branches against which it rests. The general composition is weed stems and dry grasses, lined with down of a certain sage growing in that locality. Under date of June 16, I find, 'The few Black-throated Sparrows remaining haunt the shady spots and are very tame, coming into our tent every day. The mandibles are always open and they always enjoy a drink from the cup.' " The Division was entertained by a talk by Mr. Grinnell on his recent visit to San Clemente Island, illustrated by specimens and photographs. The Southern Division meets May 29, at the residence of F. S. Daggett in Pasadena.

Northern Division

The Northern Division met at the home of Otto Emerson at Haywards, Cal., May 1, with a good attendance. The following were elected to membership: A. P. Redington, San Francisco; George H. Ward of Napa; A G. Maddren, Stanford University: A. J. Zschokke, Palo Alto and W. H. Armitage, Alameda. The report of the Committee appointed at the last meeting to draft resolutions recommending the completion of Major Bendire's uncompleted work on "Life Histories," with a view to starting a movement of this nature throughout the United States, was read by the Chairman, R. B. McLain, as follows:

"WHEREAS the death of Major Charles E. Bendire on Feb. 4, 1897, leaves his most magnificent work, the "Life Histories of North American Birds" but half completed, and

Whereas the Ornithologists of the United States anticipate the probability that this work will never be completed unless concerted interest be shown, be it

"*Resolved*, that the Cooper Ornithological Club of California does hereby express its great interest in the completion of the work, and earnestly requests that the officers and scientists of the Smithsonian Institution, and men of influence at Washington D. C. and in other parts of America, do all in their power to further the completion of this work by some competent man who is willing to undertake the responsibility, and be it further

"*Resolved* that copies of these resolutions be sent to the officers and scientists of the U. S. National Museum and to prominent investigators throughout America, who will be asked to use their influence to further the aims of these resolutions, and be it

"*Resolved* that these resolutions be printed in the organ of the Club, the NIDOLOGIST, and that other Ornithological clubs of this country be asked to adopt similar resolutions to show that there is enough interest manifested in this movement to warrant the completion of this most valuable work of life histories."

A Club sketch, entitled "Looking Forward," by C. Barlow, was read. Dr J. G. Cooper, was present and gave an entertaining talk on "Birds of the Garden."

The Hooded Merganser.

This species appears irregularly on the small artificial ponds of this vicinity, arriving during the night and feeding in the early morning. The drawing was made from the mounted bird, so I cannot guaran-

The Hooded Merganser

tee the form or attitude to be life-like. Besides the narrow and toothed bill which nature has given the Mergansers, one notes with interest the looseness of the neck-skin.

Montgomery, O. J. C. GALLOWAY.

A CURIOUS BIRD NOTE.

While at the ranch in the country on October 25, 1896, I heard a peculiar call from the oaks, reminding me somewhat of the *quank* of the Slender-billed Nuthatch, and given with unusual energy. Not recognizing the note I investigated and found the musician a modest Hermit Thrush (probably *Turdus aonalaschkae*) hopping along on the ground.

There was a flock of about 15 Thrushes in the several oaks, all calling loudly and with great earnestness. Some were on the ground, some perched in the oaks and occasionally one would fly over into the garden, but all kept up their call, which was sharp and vivacious, and which could scarcely help but attract one's attention. The day was clear and bright.

I have never seen this Thrush in flocks before, and would be interested to know if they often congregate in this manner, and if the note described is the usual one.

C. BARLOW.

Santa Clara, Cal.

***

THE MEXICAN HORNED LARK.

The heavy markings of black and yellow on the head and throat make this bird a conspicuous object to most observers. These birds are very numerous about Escondido, and breed rather commonly. They seem to do very little harm, except what is recorded in the account of the Death Valley Expedition where is described the habit the birds have of following the farmer and eating the newly sown wheat at seed time. This was true of a large flock which ranged over a five acre piece of land near my home during the winter of 1894–5. They did not seem to be content with the grain not covered by the harrow, but would scratch up that which had been covered. I have seen them several times eating ants, but the contents of a stomach examined contained grain, sand and small black seeds.

The Mexican Horned Lark mates in February. The breeding season extends here from March until the middle of June. On February 21, I saw one with material in the beak for a nest. The nest is composed of dry grass, rootlets and straws, sometimes lined with feathers. I found it took a pair just twelve days to complete their nest after they had selected and scratched a place for it.

My first take this season was a set of three on March 16; incubation fresh. On the night of May 22 of last year I took ½ of a Mexican Horned Lark by the light of Diana's bow. I found the number of eggs to be usually three, sometimes two and very seldom four. They are greenish-white in ground color and spotted and speckled with brown and drab. Some are more heavily marked at the larger end, also a few have minute lines of black.

J. MAURICE HATCH.

Escondido, Cal.

***

A SCREECH OWL ACCIDENT.

Some time ago a friend of mine, after lighting the fire in the morning, heard a screeching in the chimney. Not knowing what it was he took down the stove-pipe and saw a Screech Owl lodged in it. The feathers were nearly all burnt off of it and it was unconscious and suffocated with smoke. He killed it to get it out of its misery. It had apparently gone into the chimney to spend the day after making its nightly tour.

HARTLEY JACKSON.

Milton, Wis.

***

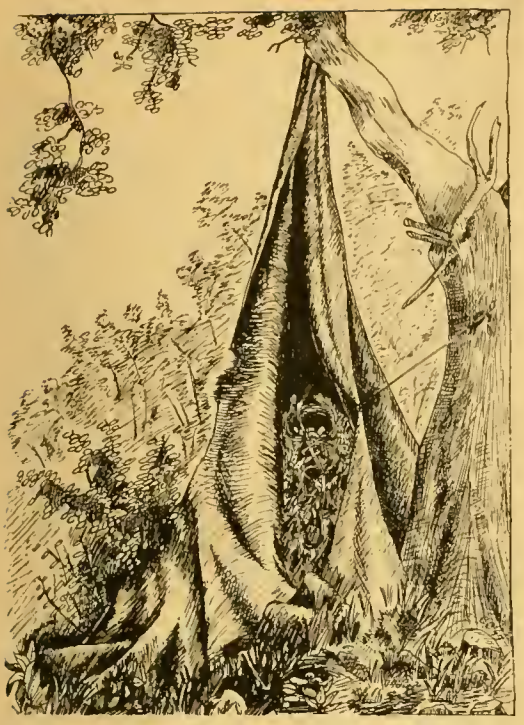
NOTES FROM NEW YORK.

The Bluebirds are with us this spring in their old-time numbers.

The Loggerhead Shrike is a summer resident here, and I have never hitherto noted its arrival from the South until the latter part of April or about May 1. March 22 of the present year I shot a male bird. I saw another one on the following day, and one on April 10.

On the morning of April 9 it snowed quite hard for a couple of hours. A Robin that was building a nest near the house continued to carry straw and other material. This was the first time I ever saw nest-building going on during a snow storm.

Lansing, N. Y. D. D. STONE.



A QUEER NEST SITUATION

Watching a Poor-will.

RETURNING at dusk on my wheel from a short ride up a canyon in the foothills on January 17 I flushed a Dusky Poor-will out of the road. As the moon had just risen I got off my wheel and following in the direction the bird had taken I soon saw it again on the ground. Kneeling down within a few feet I watched it fly up and catch insects and return to the same spot after the manner of some Fly-catchers and Woodpeckers.

It soon flew into the road and here I walked up within twenty feet of it. After flying after insects it would alight a couple of feet nearer to me until it had approached within eight feet. After watching it a while I crawled up within four feet and had a chance to watch it in the bright moonlight. It would fly perhaps twenty or thirty feet into the air after insects and return again within four or five feet of me. One time it flew up and evidently picked an insect off the leaf of a wild cherry tree, fluttering for several seconds in its endeavor to do so. It several times flew by me after food and returning would fly within a foot or so of my head and alight just in front of me. One time it lit in the grass just by the side of the road and looked much like a Hawk when it lights in a slender tree-top with its tail as high as its head. It stayed here but a second or so and then ran or waddled a short distance into the solid road. While sitting in the road it would sometimes raise its head after the manner of a Killdeer.

Three or four times it uttered a low *queet, queet* or *pweek*. After watching it twenty minutes or so I tried to catch it. Crawling up slowly I wriggled the fingers of my left hand in front of it while I moved my hat up behind it, 'till with a sudden movement the hat was over it, bu. unfortunately for me the front end of the hat didn't descend as quickly as the hind end, and the bird fluttered out. This experience did not seem to scare it, for three minutes afterwards I had crawled up within three or four feet and was watching it again. I did not attempt to capture it the second time but watched it 'till it flew away. About the middle of November I saw a Poor-will fly across the road a few hundred yards from this place and would like to know if the bird winters here, or is this an unusually early arrival from the South.

Berryessa, Cal. R. H. BECK.

Curious Nesting of Vigor's Wren.

We are indebted to Corydon Chamberlin for the sketch of an unusual nesting site of Vigor's Wren. The nest was placed inside of a small rag carpet which had been tacked to a manzanita bush on a hillside in Lake county, Cal. Writes Mr. Chamberlin: "The nest was completely obscured by the folds of the carpet. I pinned a piece of twine to one side and tied it back to expose it while I made a hurried pencil sketch. I have not tried to represent the rain that fell while I was thus engaged."

Can't Do Without It.

"The Story of the Farallones," by C. Barlow and H. R. Taylor. This neat little booklet containes twenty-eight photo-engravings of more than usual excellence, illustrating the physical features and bird life of that paradise of the birds, which, with the eleven pages of well written text descriptive of the island life and and features makes one feel well acquainted with the place. The fact that the island has lately been closed to visitors makes it the more necessary to possess one of these booklets, which can be purchased of H. R. Taylor, Alameda, Cal., at the very low price of fifty cents. No one can afford to be without a copy.—"General Notes." (Bul. 14, Wilson Orn. Chapter of the Agassiz Ass'n.)

Correspondence.

EDITOR NIDOLOGIST, DEAR SIR;— In April number of the *Osprey*, Dr. Elliott Coues writes as follows:

Since the deaths of Dr. Brewer, Prof. Baird and Maj. Bendire, I am probably the only person living who knows an episode of Bendire's early career that led to the deposit of his egg collection in the U. S. National Museum. I "discovered" Bendire late in 1871, or early in 1872, when he was stationed in Tucson, Ariz., and I was Post Surgeon at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md. Some of the earliest, if not the very first results, of his field work were published by me in the "American Naturalist" for June, 1872, upon the strength of the correspondence with him upon which I had already entered. Later that year, when I had become Post Surgeon at Fort Randall, S. Dak., he sent me some novelties and rareties in birds and eggs, among the former being those new species which I named *Harporhynchus bendirei* and *Peucœa carpalis*. About that time the bumptious and captious German soldier, who was a man to take strong likes and dislikes on very small provocation, had a falling out with Dr. Brewer and Prof. Baird, whose "History of North American Birds" was then well under way. He fancied himself slighted by them, or misused in some way—I have forgotten exactly how. So he poured out his grievances to me in long letters in which he abused them right heartily, and swore by "donner and hlitzen" that they should never have anything from him. I supposed that Dr. Brewer, who was a narrow-minded, prejudiced, and tactless person, had wounded Bendire's self-esteem in some way, and thought I would do what I could to heal the breach, especially as I did not want his eggs. I had no private collection: the Smithsonian always received whatever I collected in those days, and I thought Bendire's eggs had ought to go there too. So I determined to tell Professor Baird about the doughty captain's state of mind, feeling confident that Bairdian suavity, sagacity and tactfulness would easily set matters aright. I did so; and promptly came from Baird an urgent request to see Bendire's letters to me, that he might learn exactly what the trouble was. Knowing that Baird's astuteness could be trusted and having entire faith in his ability to manipulate men and measures, I send him the whole of the correspondence. It was a case in which somewhat questionable means were justified by the admirable results. I never knew exactly how Baird conducted his diplomacy, but he smooted Bendire's ruffled plumes effectually, soon had him well in hand, and in due course thereafter the Bendire collection was in Baird's hands also, becoming the nucleus of the present unrivaled oological cabinet in the National Museum, of which Bendire was honorary curator until his death. The same result would probably have been effected in the course of time without my friendly intervention, for few persons whom Baird ever got hold of escaped him afterward, chiefly for the reason that few ever desired to get away from what he could and would do for them. But the fact remains that I was the one who turned Bendire over to Baird, shortly after my original discovery of him, and that this intermediation led directly to the consummation with which all are now familiar. Perhaps I will tell The Osprey's readers some day about the writing and printing of Bendire's two volumes, concerning which I also happen to be informed to some extent. But not now.—E. C.

In the above article Dr. Coues makes three distinct claims: — first. that he discovered Major Bendire; second, that he was the means of having a quarrel settled between Major Bendire and Dr. Brewer; last, that owing to him the Bendire collection was secured for the National Museum.

As an old friend of Major Bendire, I wish to show from his own letters the incorrectness of the last two claims.

In a letter dated Fort Klamath, Oregon, February 11, 1883, Major (then Captain) Bendire writes:

"You need not worry about repaying me. I'll give the birds to your daughter, and you can pay the express charges. I used [to have] the same kind of a time with the late Dr. T. M. Brewer of Boston before we got to know each other personally. We had been corresponding for several years before we met, and I was stationed in Arizona at the time where almost every egg I found there then was almost new in eastern collections. As he was the leading oölogist in the United States those days, I always sent him any duplicates I had to spare, never keeping account of value, etc., and it used to trouble him terribly to try to get even with me. Most of his specimens were end-blown and not well prepared, and I have no use for such; but he kept on sending, and those he did send were the best he had. Poor man, he died too soon. I just missed seeing him by a week, and have a letter now, written only a day or two before his death. I had hoped to spend a few weeks with him and go carefully over his entire collection with him; had brought some of my rarest specimens on with me to describe in the last two volumes of "Birds of North America;" but it was too late. Dr. Brewer was one of the best friends I had, and I think we had many mutual likes and dislikes. I like Dr. Coues as well as he did, and the latter has never forgiven me for the strong friendship I always showed for Dr. Brewer. He is not satisfied even now to let him rest in his grave and loses no opportunity to belittle him whenever he can."

From the foregoing it seems that at the very time when Dr. Coues claims to have been acting as a mediator, Dr. Brewer and

Captain Bendire were firm friends and Dr. Coues was *at swords' points with both.*

Besides the written testimony, Major Bendire on several occasions expressed to me his intense dislike of Dr. Coues in as strong language as he was capable of using, and always on account of Dr. Coues' abuse of his friend Dr. Brewer. Dr. Coues' statement, in the article quoted, that Dr. Brewer was "a narrow-minded, prejudiced and tactless person" proves that Major Bendire was correct in saying that Dr. Coues was "not satisfied to let him rest in his grave."

Dr. Coues claims to have secured Major Bendire's collection for the National Museum. In a letter dated Fort Klamath, January 26, 1883, or some *eleven years* after Dr. Coues states that he began to try to secure his collection, the Major writes me regarding this same collection:

"I don't know exactly how many I have got; somewhere between 15,000 and 17,000 specimens. I found a single set was of little or no use, and that series of sets were wanted; and that is what I am now at. The whole collection will eventually be donated by me to the National Museum in Washington or to the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge."

If Dr. Coues was the consulting physician in this case, he must have used a very slow medicine to show no effect in eleven years after he began treating the case. As to his claim of "discovering" Major Bendire, the Major's friends always have supposed that he discovered himself, as other men have done, and by his own ability and force of character. Dr. Coues had about as much to do with discovering Major Bendire as the dog did in discovering the moon—the moon shone too brightly for his peace of mind, and he barked at it.

MANLY HARDY.

Brewer, Maine.

Individuality in Eggs.

IN reading the article in the NIDOLOGIST, regarding individuality in the eggs of particular pairs of birds, I am reminded of an instance in my last season's collecting, an occurence which I *then* regarded as merely a coincidence.

On May 23, '96, while hunting for a nest of *Sylvania mitrata*, I flushed an Indigo Bunting from her nest in a tangle of brambles. The set I secured was one of those *remarkable* ones, with which *Passerina cyanea*, sometimes surprises us.

Three of the four eggs were immaculate; the fourth, delicately dotted with cinnamon-brown.

Twelve days later, I passed the place, and discovered the same* pair, finishing a *second* nest, within twenty feet of the first site. Another visit on June 10 and I secured the *second set of four eggs*; one with the sprinkled brown markings, and three plain ones a perfect reproduction of the first set.

A comparison of the two sets as they lay together, certainly shows a marked individuality.

True, this is not *conclusive evidence*, that these particular pair of birds, will *always* produce sets corresponding with those in my possession. Yet, were I sure I would "stumble onto" a complete set from this same pair of Buntings the coming season, I would expect to find three of the eggs immaculate; and one sprinkled with minute dots of brown.

Opportunity is lacking for a true study of this individuality in the smaller birds, because of the almost impossible chance of recognizing a *particular pair*, after a winter's absence.

It *is* possible, however, to procure two, or even *three* sets from the same pair of birds in a single season; and these could be employed with a degree of accuracy toward establishing the fact of individuality, if existing.

Philo, Ills.

ISAAC E. HESS.

Wingless Birds Doomed.

The wingless birds so characteristic of New Zealand are rapidly becoming extinct; the government is doing what it can to preserve them, but they are so easily run down by dogs that they must speedily disappear. I have seen but one Kiwi, and that I am not quite sure of as the light was fading and I had but a passing glimpse of it as the bird crossed the road in front of my horse; but one frequently meets with "Wekas," (as the Maories call them) a rich brown wingless bird that runs with amazing swiftness. —Herbert L. Grieve in "The Wombat."

*) Evidently the same pair, as no others were n sting near.

Notes on the Ardea herodias in Texas

THROUGHOUT the greater portion of North America the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) is an abundant bird, and articles on its habits are quite numerous in Ornithological literature. Yet, withal, I have failed to come across an article describing the nesting habits of the species in this section of the country, and have concluded to give what information is at my command.

In this county (McLennan), although the birds occur in numbers during the migrations, I have never observed more than a few isolated pairs during the breeding season, and these had their nest in tall trees growing along rivers in the more heavily timbered sections.

Here the nests are usually composed of sticks lined with grass, and are very large and flat. The complement of eggs varies from three to five, four being the more common number. The breeding season commences about the last of March. The nests are often built on slanting limbs over-reaching the water.

In some sections of the state, especially in the extreme eastern, the breeding habits of the Great Blue Heron are similar to those of the birds in Florida and Louisiana, nesting in large rookeries in the midst of retired swamps.

On the sand-bar-like islands lying off the coast of Texas, from Corpus Christi southward, the birds breed abundantly. One of these islands near Corpus Christi is known as "Bird Island," and towards its center grow quantities of cacti. During the first week of last June five species of birds were found breeding there—the Brown Pelican, Black Skimmer, Laughing Gull and two Herons (*Ardea herodias* and *A. caerulea*). The eggs of the first three species were laid in the sand. The Pelicans' nests contained young birds and eggs far advanced in incubation, and the number of eggs or young ranged from two to four. The nests were made by the birds scraping up the sand into a heap, with a depression, and filling in with twigs, small sticks and like material.

The nests of the Gulls and Skimmers were merely hollowed in the sand. Those of the Laughing Gull contained from two to five eggs, ranging in incubation from almost fresh to far advanced, and some few contained young. The Skimmers' nests contained from three to five eggs, varying in incubation.

The nests of the two Herons were composed of sticks and were built on the tops of the cacti, and some were rather well made and of fair depth. Some of the nests of the Great Blues' were quite massive in proportions. Their eggs ranged from three to five; those of the Little Blue Heron, from two to four. Incubation in the eggs of both species was far advanced and some nests already contained young.

On the coast, the Great Blue Heron is known as the "Blue Crane;" the Little Blue, the "Little Crane;" the Skimmer, "Scissorsbill" or "Shearwater;" and *Larus articilla* is simply the "Gull."

Nests fairly cover Bird Island during the breeding season and one can hardly walk along without stepping on eggs or young birds.

The following interesting notes I have quoted from a letter from my friend, James J. Carroll (now in Mexico), dated at Refugio, Texas, April 19, 1896:

"The Great Blue Heron is a common bird in Refugio County, though I have never found a large heronry here. The last week of February this year, a Mexican brought me some eggs which on examination proved to be those of the Great Blue Heron. He said that he found three eggs in one nest and one in another, and one other nest was completed but had no eggs in it. He said there were a great many birds in the vicinity of these nests. Exactly two weeks from the day, March 7, I went, by his directions to the place and found six occupied nests containing from 3 to 5 eggs each. Incubation in the sets of four and five had begun. In this remarkably short space of time, they had constructed their nests, deposited a full complement of eggs and begun incubation. The nests were very substantial structures of sticks and weeds, sometimes nicely cupped. They were situated at heights of from 5 to 15 feet in a little 'motte' of chapparel, near a creek. From mere curiosity I revisited the place on March 30, and imagine my surprise to find the birds on the nests and full complements of eggs again.

"March 25, while collecting near a small prairie lake, I saw a great many Herons sitting on a 'motte' at some distance from me. It did not require long for me to distinguish some nests. To my disappointment I heard the croaking of many young.

Nevertheless I obtained about twenty sets. Incubation was fresh to almost complete. These nests, some of them massive structures, were situated at elevations of from ten to twenty feet in hackberry and knock-away trees. Revisited this locality first week in April and found several fresh sets.

"In Aransas County there is the largest heronry that I have ever seen; I am confident that within its boundaries there are several thousand nests. It is situated in live oak brush near the coast. Nests about seven to fifteen feet up. This heronry is deserted this year. The Great Blue Heron breeds in isolated pairs in the bays, making its nest on yucca growing on the islands, also sometimes in prairie 'mottes.'"

J. K. STRECKER, JR.

Waco, Texas.

In Mexican Waters.

SUCCESS OF THE ANTHONY-KAEDING-MCGREGOR EXPEDITION.

Mr. Charles D. Kaeding of San Francisco very kindly relieved the mind of the NID'S editor regarding the safety of the Anthony-Kaeding-McGregor party in Mexican waters, and gives us the following very interesting extracts from letters received from H. B. Kaeding, sent back by schooners passed at sea.

Writing from San Martin's Island on March 13, he says: "Our first stop was at Podos Santos Island, but we didn't get anything very rare. The first take I made was a set of three and both parents of Bald Eagle, and then I laid in a basket full of Heerman's Gulls, Black Turnstones, Black and Frazar's Oyster-catchers. I got fifteen Black Turnstones with one shot.

"Reached San Martin's yesterday morning and found about the same birds, besides Ospreys, etc. Took a few sets, six of them Ospreys. There being no trees they nest on the ground every hundred yards or so, but it is too early. There are two Pelican rookeries here, one of them one and a half miles long by a mile broad, and you can't lay down a six-foot stick *anywhere* without striking a nest or two."

Under date of April 10, writing from Natividad Island, he says: "Today I collected over a hundred sets with parents of Black-vented Shearwater, the eggs heretofore unknown."

Recent Publications.

"BIRDS OF COLORADO," by W. W. Cooke, Bul. No. 37, State Agricultural College; 141 pp.; From the Agricultural Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado. A most useful work, and faultlessly printed, is this list by Professor Cook, with very complete annotations, recording 360 species known to occur in the state. The classification of Colorado birds is summarized elaborately, noting 87 residents, 228 summer residents (separated into five divisions as to breeding ranges), 22 rare or accidental visitants, etc. A complete bibliography is given, as well as a history of Colorado Ornithology. The present author has added 19 species to the state list.

Very interesting to Oologists are the notes given of the breeding time of many species; where are located the centers of abundance, and the number of broods raised. A complete index concludes this excellent work, which will be welcomed by all Ornitologists. It may be obtained free of charge by addressing the Director of the Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado.

"THE OSPREY" looks very neat in a new face of smaller type, Pains are evidently not spared in making the new journal a gem typographically. We trust it may meet with the success which such a display of enterprise deserves.

CHARLES S. BUTTERS of Haverhill, Mass., has favored us with a paper on the Red-shouldered Hawk, with a unique photograph of nest and eggs *in situ*.

"THE STORY OF THE FARALLONES" has made a big "hit," replete as it is with matter of live interest to every Ornithologist and Oologist. The collection of unusually good photographs it contains should be alone worth the price.

THE HIGH standard of the NIDOLOGIST was declared by many a sufficient guarantee of the value and attractiveness of "The Story of the Farallones," and now that the pretty brochure is out, no one, we are assured, can feel that his confidence was misplaced. The editor appreciates the many complimentary things said of the "Story" and pictures.

EXCUSE my tardiness in acknowledging the receipt of that dainty booklet, "The Story of the Farallones.", I am sure you must feel much pleasure in getting out so neat a bit of artistic work, and that feeling must be shared by every lover of nature who sees it.

J. C. GALLOWAY.

News from Near and Far.

GEORGE F. BRENINGER left Phœnix, A. T., May 15 for a collecting trip in the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountains.

Our friend, Crandall, of Woodside, N. Y., is fast becoming an egg Baron. He has added 24 eggs of the Golden Eagle this year to his series.

FRANK B. SPAULDING of Lancaster, N. H., took a set of American Goshawk May 1. On the same day he secured a set of Crow containing eight eggs.

A RECENT fire in Worcester destroyed a large quantity of birds and eggs belonging to Charles K. Reed. He has moved into a more commodious store and is as active as ever.

WM. PALMER, Paul Bartsch and John Daniel, Jr., have left on a collecting trip into the Dismal Swamp. "When we return" writes Mr. Daniel, "I hope to have something for the NID."

H. W. NASH of Pueblo, Colorado, writes that he expects to spend some weeks with the birds at a high altitude early in July. He hopes to take some good photographs and promises to remember the NID.

IT WILL BE interesting news to Oologists that Oliver Davie's fifth edition of "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is at last in press. He writes us under date May 8 that the printers have engaged to deliver bound copies by June 20.

WILLOUGHBY P. LOWE writes us from Good Pasture: "I secured a rare specimen the other day in the shape of a Peacock. It was a splendid bird and in fine plumage. I wonder who has been introducing such birds into the wilds of Colorado!"

H. KIRKE SWANN, editor of "The Ornithologist" of England, has been obliged to discontinue the publication of his interesting monthly, and is now editing a department in the "Naturalists' Chronicle," which now devotes considerable space profitably to Ornithology and Oology.

Mr. P. C. CHADWICK of Loring, Kansas, was married on February 17 to Miss Anna R. Lacy at the home of the bride's parents in Edwardsville. Mr. Chadwick is well known as one of the "firm" of Williamson & Chadwick, which can account for as many sets of Great Horned Owl annually as any two collectors in the country.

MAJOR BENDIRE'S "Life Histories" records sets of four of the Red-tailed Hawk and its subspecies as unusual, and makes no mention of sets of five. William Cooper of San Francisco informs us that he took a set of five eggs of Western Red-tail a number of years ago near Salinas. R. H. Beck secured a set of five; and Harold Moses a similar set this year, while sets of four each were taken by C. Barlow and H. R Taylor.

O. W. HOWARD, now of Tucson, A. T., writes us: "I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. R. A. Campbell who has just returned from Lochiel, a small town near the Mexican border, and he informs me that 'Fool Quail' or Massena Partridge are quite plentiful in that vicinity. He says that he had some for dinner the other day. He never imagined what kind of Quail they might be when he sat down at the table, but could have 'kicked himself' when he saw the feathers in the back yard, and thought of what nice skins he might have had."

Californian Notes

D. A. COHEN this year secured four sets of four each of Duck Hawk's eggs.

LEE CHAMBERS of Santa Monica secured a fine set this year of Bald Eagle.

The Golden Gate Park Museum has lately received valuable additions to its various collections.

WE LEARN from "The Wombat" that California Quail introduced into New Zealand have multiplied remarkably.

AS FAR AS known no one has this year gone to seek the eggs of the Harlequin Duck in Tuolumne county. H. B. Kaeding found a nest there last season with young.

CHARLES NICHOLS of Pescadero took a California Pygmy Owl at an old barn which the bird had frequented for some years. He says it would be seen perched on the rafters watching for mice.

H. WARD CARRIGER of Sonoma and C. Barlow of Santa Clara will leave early in June for a week's collecting trip in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They are having almost nightly visions of new found series of Hermit Warbler and Western Evening Grosbeak.

R. S. WHEELER received reliable information while on a recent trip to Isleton, Cal., of the nesting of a pair of Wood Ducks among the hay in a barn by the Sacramento river. The birds entered through a hole in the boards. The farmer who owned the hay guarded the nest, allowing the brood to hatch.

ON A TRIP to Sargents, April 3, Band-tailed Pigeons were found in large flocks in the hills. They were also seen in numbers in the Santa Clara valley while the editor was returning by train; one flock, which spread out into a half circle, must have contained 2000 birds. These "Wild Pigeons" seem to be on the increase in California and afford much sport to gunners.

A LADY on this coast possesses two female Golden Eagles which lay sets regularly each year. Last season, we are informed, she sold their product to an Oologist in Canada for $24. E. B. Towne of Santa Cruz means to try the same plan with two young Duck Hawks he has secured. He writes, "Perhaps you will be interested in this fact: I knew a pair of Duck Hawks to lay *fourteen* (14) eggs last year."

HAROLD C. WARD of Alameda, a member of the Cooper Ornithologicol Club, who has been heard of in this journal, was married in May to Miss Frances Herbert of the same city. They departed on a honeymoon trip to Monterey, where Mr. Ward intended to improve some spare moments visiting a rookery of Brandt's Cormorant. A good one was told on Ward at the last meeting of the Cooper Club. He arranged with Cohen to accompany him to a Great Blue Heron rookery, promising to meet him at the depot in Alameda on a certain morning. Subsequently he unfolded the same proposal to R. S. Wheeler, who promptly accepted, agreeing to tell no one of their plan. Ward failed to show up at train time, and Cohen and Wheeler were each surprised to meet the other, armed with fish baskets and cotton. Mutual explanations followed and the two went down together, but their "take" was but five eggs, as their reliance had been placed in Ward, to whom a lofty sycamore is as a blossoming palm to an orang-outang.

Published and Edited by HENRY R. TAYLOR

THE PIONEER Magazine of Illustrated Bird Life.

Founded at Alameda, California, September, 1893

WE EXPOSE FRAUDS

Official Organ Cooper Ornithological Club of the Pacific Coast

Subscription (in advance), - - - - - $1.00
(Foreign subscribers add 12 cents for postage)
Single Copies, - - - - - - 15 cents
Remittance may be made in any form
The Magazine is not sent after subscriptions have expired

FOREIGN AGENTS

SWANN & Co., 1-2 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London E. C.

Original contributions, with or without illustrations, are desired.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED

IN SENDING in your renewal try to favor us by enclosing a dollar for a friend who will appreciate the monthly visits of the magazine for a year.

YOU MAY postpone your renewal or subscription, but if you wish to be sure of receiving the beautiful Farallone Island souvenir free, you will *send it now*. Members of the Cooper Club who send in their annual dues will be also "in" on the Farallone brochure.

THE NID's editor was unable at the time to get away to pay a visit to "Heron Town," on the ground, so that the interesting observations and pictures were taken by his brother, Edward K. Taylor, Alameda's City Attorney, who sailed to the heronry in his yacht.

THE NIDOLOGIST makes a notable addition to the achievements of its fourth volume in presenting in this number the interesting discovery, well authenticated by accompanying photographs, of the nesting of *Ardea herodias* on the ground. Our next number will contain an article on the taking of a California Vulture's egg this year, with the first published photographs of the nesting home of this rare bird, one picture showing the Condor in flight. The egg is the one which passed through Charles K. Worthen's hands, and we are indebted to its present owne , Mr. R. P. Sharples of Elgin, Illinois, for the article and valuable photographs. The NID has been fortunate in publishing all the new information regarding this rare species secured in late years.

THIS JOURNAL does not pretend to base any special claim to popularity on account of its "pretty pictures," although we have published many very handsome ones. There are illustrations and illustrations, and those that are merely "pretty" are often of least scientific interest or value.

MR. CHARLES NICHOLS has demonstrated his appreciation of the NID recently by presenting us with a handsome set of four eggs of the Duck Hawk. The set was secured by himself this year from a ledge on a perpendicular cliff, 150 feet high and facing the ocean, entailing a dangerous descent by rope which few would care to undertake.

ONE OF THE pleasant incidents of the month of May was a visit to the editorial den, of Charles K. Reed, the well known taxidermist of Worcester, Mass. Mr. Reed came out over the Santa Fe route with his family and is visiting relatives at Wrights and a sister in Oakand. He will return soon by the Canadian Pacific.

DURING four full years (with the close of this volume) we have spared neither money nor pains to please our readers, whose friendship and appreciation is our full recompense. In addition to publishing what we believe to be a valuable periodical for a small price—considering the limited field of a scientific publication—we have given away to our subscribers from time to time works of art, desirable sets of eggs, and other premiums which have been an added pleasure for the small amount invested. On another page we make a very unusual "presentation" offer, which cannot fail to receive, we believe, an early and enthusiastic response.

Side Remarks.

I WON'T attempt to say what I think of the "NID." It is simply beyond what a few years ago would have been the wildest dream of any Ornithologist.

B. S. BOWDISH, Holley, N. Y.

YOUR frontispiece is certainly more characteristic of the state from which the NID emanates than the former one, and the pictures inside of California Condor are capital. What interests me most, perhaps, is the account of the nesting of the White-throated Swift.

EDMUND S. ELLIOT, M. B. O. U., England.

IF YOU happen to come across copies of Nos. 3 and 6, Vol. I, of NID I will willingly give $1 each for them rather than not have my volume complete. You may consider this a compliment to your magazine, and yet it is not undeserved. I subscribed, as you remember, upon receiving No. 1, Vol. I, and since then it has been my most welcome visitor, although I subscribe to a number of other natural science journals, some of which are most technical.

J. K. STRECKER, JR.,
701 South Sixth St., Waco, Texas.

A. M. SHIELDS of San Francisco expects to secure a set or two of White-throated Swift soon, the birds nesting in the tower of an old adobe Mission.

Notes on Western Eggs and Nests.

LOOKING over my '96 note-book I find three or four items that may be of interest to the readers of the NID. The first is dated April 7, a set of five, Western Red-tail, from a nest in a sycamore 35 feet up. My mouth and eyes opened when I first gazed into the nest. Besides being larger than any other set I have taken or heard of, one of the eggs is larger than any other Red-tail's egg I have, and is larger than the largest measured Red-tail's egg in Major Bendire's "Life Histories." It measures 2.78x2.08 inches. The other eggs of the set are a little larger than the average, being 2.50x1.93, 2.36x1.88, 2.47x1.91 and 2:35x1.88. They are all fairly well marked.

On the 8th of June I started out in the morning from camp in the Sierras at about 5000 feet elevation. Had not gone very far when I flushed a Solitaire from a nest on the ground in the cavity of a burnt pine tree. The bird flew a few feet to a low pine limb and I shot it, but unfortunately it was not "killed dead" and managed to get into some brush where I was unable to find it. Returning to the nest I found it to be composed of pine needles and fine grass, loosely made and containing three fresh eggs. The nest was well back from the opening of the tree which was standing, though only supported by a rim of wood, one side and the center being burned up for some distance.

The eggs are marked principally on the larger ends, and measure .89x.68, .87x.67, .87x.66.

On June 15 at Lake Tahoe I found a nest of Williamson's Sapsucker containing four newly hatched young, two incubated and one rotten egg. The ♂ was on the nest at two different times when I visited the tree. The entrance hole was very small, fifteen feet from the ground. The tree was a decayed pine a few feet from the shore of the lake. Four feet above the Sapsucker's nest in another hole was a set of four Mountain Bluebird's eggs in a nest composed largely of fine grass; and four feet above the Bluebird's nest, in another hole, was a set of seven Tree Swallow's eggs, in a nest composed principally of Duck and Pelican feathers. The three holes containing the nests faced west, north and east, respectively. I have now in my collection the sets of Bluebird and Swallow and the single egg of the Sapsucker.

Two or three sets of Black Tern's eggs were taken from nests placed on old boards and planks floating in a swamp near the lake. The majority of nests seen were placed on the water amongst the grass.

R. H. BECK.

Berryessa, Cal.

An Insulted Owl.

On April 15 I visited a Florida Screech Owl's nest, and after removing Mrs. O., found the nest to contain three eggs. Thinking that perhaps it was not a complete set, yet fearing to leave the eggs, I substituted a hen's egg—which was about twice the size of the Owl's egg—and took the set.

Returning to the nest about twenty-five days later I found the egg hatched and the chick running about on the bottom of the hollow, while Mrs. O. was sitting on a limb near by, apparently disgusted with the state of affairs. I took the chick and placed it with a hen, where it lived about a week. The nest was eighteen feet from the ground in a hollow, one and a half feet deep.

GILMAN J. WINTHROP.

Tallahassee, Fla.

Case of Bird Sense—or What?

On June 24, 1894, I took a set of five eggs of Desert Sparrow Hawk, near Sargents, Cal., under peculiar circumstances. About two weeks earlier when I visited the live oak tree I had secured a set of eight of Yellow-billed Magpie, and in an old weather-beated Magpie's nest in same tree, about 18 feet distant, there was one fresh egg of the Sparrow Hawk. On my next visit on the 24th I was surprised on climbing to the nest to find it empty, nor was there a sign of an egg shell. I took a look into the Magpie's nest I had robbed and found the five eggs of the Sparrow Hawk partly incubated.

Query—Did my little *Falco* take advantage of the improved condition of affairs and carry its one egg to the better nest, there to set up housekeeping under more fashionable auspices? H. R. TAYLOR.

JOHN W. DANIEL JR, writes us from Washington, D. C: "Have just received from a collector of mine in Virginia something quite novel in the egg line. It is a set of perfect 'albino' eggs of the Whip-poor-will, normal in size, and with the usual glossy white ground, but without a vestage of a marking."

Naturalist 4(9):112, 1897