

350

27(4) 1910 51

→ News Notes.

An adult male Baird's Sandpiper (Actodromas bairdii) was taken September 27, 1909 by E. W. Campbell at Pittston, Pennsylvania.

The well known scientist, Professor W. Otto Emerson is now engaged in setting up the bird collection in the new Oakland Public Museum.

A Brunnich's Murre (Uria lomvia arra) was shot December 4th by Mr. Art Davis Parsonage at Pittston, Pennsylvania. It is now in the collection of Mr. Fred Humphreys, and is a fine adult male bird.

We have a number of splendid articles for future issues of THE OOLOGIST, among others an illustrated one on Europe birds from our friend, P. G. Howes, who is now traveling in Europe.

C. B. Vandercook of Odin, Illinois, certainly has the record for an early nest of the Mourning Dove, March 27, 1910, two eggs, about one week advanced in incubation. This is by considerable the earliest record we know of for so far North.

The Editor enjoyed an over-night visit of the well-known Oologist G. A. Abbott of Chicago, a few days since. It is unnecessary to say that the "wee small hours" had arrived before we retired, spending most of the time investigating our accumulation of plunder.

Editor Oologist:—On June 22, 1909, while driving along a telephone line near Rathdrum, Id., my father noticed a Jack Snipe lying just beneath the wires and on picking it up, I noticed a deep cut across the breast which probably was caused by flying against the wires. I skinned it and it is now in my collection.—Percy L. Judd.

Our old friend, Ray Dinsmore formerly a well-known Oologist but who has done little in that line for a number of years, has recently disposed of his business and now purposes taking a

asmuch as the eggs greatly exceed the average length, while the width falls far below it. Their shape is much like Cormorants' eggs. They were collected by the writer on March 27, 1898 and are well marked specimens. Size, 2.47 x 1.74 and 2.74 x 1.75 inches; the last being clearly an abnormal specimen.

One can barely appreciate the great departure from normal characteristics by merely seeing the size of these eggs in writing. They must be viewed among the normal sets to appreciate the difference.

In my series are five specimens measuring over two inches in short axis,—one reaching 2.05 inches, which is nearly as broad as the length of the small eggs.

During the past twenty-five years I have measured and kept careful record of 223 normal eggs (97 sets) of this Buteo. This ought to be a good criterion for average measurement, which is 2.34 x 1.86 inches. Allowing a range of .40 inch for the length of normal specimens would make the minimum exhibit 2.14 and the maximum 2.54 inches; and a range of .30 inch for the width, would give a normal average measurement of from 1.71 to 2.01 inches. Beyond these maximum and minimum figures should be considered abnormally large or small as the case may be.

Of the 223 eggs measured, only thirteen were less than 2.18 inches and eleven over 2.50 inches in length. Eleven were less than 1.75 and eight over 1.95 inches in short diameter.

Two of the 97 sets contained four eggs each, and thirty-two sets contained three eggs each. All others, with two or three exceptions, contained two eggs each, or at the ratio of about two sets of two eggs to one of three or four eggs, the latter number rarely deposited.

J. WARREN JACOBS.

her. I looked in and pulled it out, which contained four eggs; the nest the same kind as the nest I described.

As far as I am aware there have not been a few sets of these Swifts that have come their way into smaller colonies.

The next place I examined for Swifts was a large cliff in June, at which I had seen fourteen Swifts. I found two nests and could hear the young ones call out, so I gave up the search for the season 1909.

FRED TRUESDALE.

Unusual Red-Tailed Hawk Eggs.

The head of "Unusual Eggs" in the January OOLOGIST contains a set of Red-tailed Hawk eggs. The writer was interested to find out how they were really going over my records of measurements.

Two sets of eggs in my collection are given special notice because they are untypical specimens representing in size in one direction.

The first set is a set of two faintly marked eggs, one of which is a decided egg measuring 2.12 x 1.59 inches and its companion, measuring 2.28 x 1.59 inches is unusually small, but within the limits of normal specimens.

The second set was taken by E. B. Clifton Springs, New York, May 1909. Size 2.12 x 1.62 and 2.38 x 1.62 inches.

The third was taken by the writer on March 30, 1898. They were globular in shape, the short diameter of the eggs being near the average, but the length of one reaches the normal minimum of 2.07 inches. The other measures 2.13 and 2.22 inches.

The fourth set is very interesting in

NOTICE: This material is copyrighted by the Oologist.

1910 Judd



350

depos

er. I looked in and pulled out, which contained four eggs; the nest the same kind as the nest I described.

As I am aware there have been a few sets of these Swifts that find their way into smaller col-

lect places. The next place I examined for eggs was a large cliff in June, at which I had seen fourteen Swifts. I found two nests and could hear the birds call out, so I gave up the search for the season 1909.

FRED TRUESDALE.

Red-Tailed Hawk Eggs.

Head of "Unusual Eggs" in January OOLOGIST. The eggs of Red-tailed Hawk were of unusual size. I was interested in them especially in going over my records of measurements.

Two sets of eggs in my collection are of special notice because of their unusual size in one specimen.

The first set of two faintly marked eggs, one of which is a decided egg measuring 2.12 x 1.59 inches and its companion, measuring 2.28 inches is unusually small, but within the limits of normal spe-

The second set was taken by E. B. Mifflin Springs, New York, May 1909. Size 2.12 x 1.62 and 2.38 x 1.62 inches.

The third was taken by the writer on March 30, 1898. They were globular in shape, the short diameter of the eggs being near the average, the length of one reaches the minimum of 2.07 inches. The other measures 2.13 and 2.22 inches.

The fourth set is very interesting in-

asmuch as the eggs greatly exceed the average length, while the width falls far below it. Their shape is much like Cormorants' eggs. They were collected by the writer on March 27, 1898 and are well marked specimens. Size, 2.47 x 1.74 and 2.74 x 1.75 inches; the last being clearly an abnormal specimen.

One can barely appreciate the great departure from normal characteristics by merely seeing the size of these eggs in writing. They must be viewed among the normal sets to appreciate the difference.

In my series are five specimens measuring over two inches in short axis,—one reaching 2.05 inches, which is nearly as broad as the length of the small eggs.

During the past twenty-five years I have measured and kept careful record of 223 normal eggs (97 sets) of this *Buteo*. This ought to be a good criterion for average measurement, which is 2.34 x 1.86 inches. Allowing a range of .40 inch for the length of normal specimens would make the minimum exhibit 2.14 and the maximum 2.54 inches; and a range of .30 inch for the width, would give a normal average measurement of from 1.71 to 2.01 inches. Beyond these maximum and minimum figures should be considered abnormally large or small as the case may be.

Of the 223 eggs measured, only thirteen were less than 2.18 inches and eleven over 2.50 inches in length. Eleven were less than 1.75 and eight over 1.95 inches in short diameter.

Two of the 97 sets contained four eggs each, and thirty-two sets contained three eggs each. All others, with two or three exceptions, contained two eggs each, or at the ratio of about two sets of two eggs to one of three or four eggs, the latter number rarely deposited.

J. WARREN JACOBS.

News Notes.

An adult male Baird's Sandpiper (*Actodromas bairdii*) was taken September 27, 1909 by E. W. Campbell at Pittston, Pennsylvania.

The well known scientist, Professor W. Otto Emerson is now engaged in setting up the bird collection in the new Oakland Public Museum.

A Brunnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia arra*) was shot December 4th by Mr. Art Davis Parsonage at Pittston, Pennsylvania. It is now in the collection of Mr. Fred Humphreys, and is a fine adult male bird.

We have a number of splendid articles for future issues of THE OOLOGIST, among others an illustrated one on Europe birds from our friend, P. G. Howes, who is now traveling in Europe.

C. B. Vandercook of Odin, Illinois, certainly has the record for an early nest of the Mourning Dove, March 27, 1910, two eggs, about one week advanced in incubation. This is by considerable the earliest record we know of for so far North.

The Editor enjoyed an over-night visit of the well-known Oologist G. A. Abbott of Chicago, a few days since. It is unnecessary to say that the "wee small hours" had arrived before we retired, spending most of the time investigating our accumulation of plunder.

Editor Oologist:—On June 22, 1909, while driving along a telephone line near Rathdrum, Id., my father noticed a Jack Snipe lying just beneath the wires and on picking it up, I noticed a deep cut across the breast which probably was caused by flying against the wires. I skinned it and it is now in my collection.—Percy L. Judd.

Our old friend, Ray Dinsmore formerly a well-known Oologist but who has done little in that line for a number of years, has recently disposed of his business and now purposes taking a

NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL IS PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT

Judd

