

MEMORANDA OF A COLLECTION OF EGGS FROM GEORGIA.

BY H. B. BAILEY.

It was my fortune this summer to come into possession of a collection of eggs made in Georgia, between the years 1853 and 1865, by the late Dr. S. W. Wilson. The notes accompanying the same furnish the following memoranda which are of value, since few collectors have visited, or at least reported on, this locality. The collection was made chiefly on St. Simon's Island and in Wayne and McIntosh Counties. The eggs are remarkably well preserved, each set being packed carefully in a separate box labeled according to the old Smithsonian Catalogue. They are always accompanied by dates and sometimes by copious notes. The alleged nesting sites of a few of the species represented, are peculiar, and in the case of one or two, seemingly improbable. But the collection, as a whole, seems to have been so carefully identified that I give the notes as I find them leaving it to the reader to accept or reject such as he chooses. The field represented should be a profitable one for some of our present collectors to visit.

1. **Mimus polyglottus.** MOCKINGBIRD.—Nests in low trees and shrubs, near settlements; eggs four or five. A set taken April 1.
2. **Harporynchus rufus.** BROWN THRASHER.—Nests in low bushes or in fence corners; eggs three or four. A set taken May 1.
3. **Sialia sialis.** BLUEBIRD.—Nests in hollow trees and similar places; eggs five. A set taken April 1.
4. **Polioptila cærulea.** BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Nests either saddled on a branch of a tree or in a fork; eggs four or five. A set taken April 30.
5. **Lophophanes bicolor.** TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Nest of the hair of the hog and opossum, and the "epidermis" of pine leaves; in hollow trees. A set of five eggs, taken May 8, was in a small oak five feet from the ground.
6. **Parus carolinensis.** CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—Nest in a hollow stump, fence rail, or similar place near the ground; the bottom lined with cotton and other soft materials. A set of six eggs taken April 10.
7. **Sitta pusilla.** BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.—Eggs four, sometimes five. Nest in the stump of a large pine about two feet from the ground; after penetrating the bark a large cavity is completely filled with

cotton excepting a small place for the eggs. Four eggs of a set taken April 10 measure .60X.47; .54X.44; .57X.45; .55X.46.*

8. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.—Nests in hollow trees, holes in banks, or in outbuildings. A set of five eggs taken April 12.

9. *Telmatodytes palustris*. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN.—Nests in high salt-marsh grass. A set of five eggs taken May 5.

10. *Cistothorus stellaris*. SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—Nests in high grass. A set of these eggs taken May 18.

11. *Protonotaria citrea*. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—A nest, taken May 10, was three feet from the ground in a hollow stump of a sweet gum, in Altamaha swamp; eggs four.

12. *Helminthophila bachmani*. BACHMAN'S WARBLER.—Nests in low trees; eggs four. One of a set of four taken April 30 measures .74X.60. It is unlike any other egg that I am acquainted with. The ground-color is dull white; around the large end is a wreath of dark brown covering nearly one-third of the egg; while a few obscure spots of lilac are scattered over the rest of its surface. It has no resemblance to any Warbler's egg, and especially none to any of this genus.

13. *Helminthophila pinus*. BLUE-WINGED YELLOW WARBLER.—Nests in low bushes in the pine barrens; eggs four. A set taken April 29.

14. *Parula americana*. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—Nests concealed in festoons of moss on trees; eggs four. A set taken April 23.

15. *Dendroeca dominica*. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.—Nests constructed with great care in pensile moss; eggs five. Those of a set taken April 24 measure respectively .75 X .51; .70 X .52; .73 X .53; .76 X .53; .73 X .52. Their ground color is gray, over which are fine dots of light brown, and a few spots and blotches of dark brown and purple near the larger end.

16. *Dendroeca pinus*. PINE-CREEPING WARBLER.—Nests on the horizontal branch of a pine tree, near the top; eggs four. A set taken April 14.

17. *Oporornis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—Nests on ground, in swampy places. A set of five taken May 12.

18. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—Nests in low bushes, in moist places; eggs four. A set taken May 18.

19. *Myiodiotes mitratus*. HOODED WARBLER.—Nests in thick cane brakes, in swamps. A set of three eggs taken May 12.

20. *Vireosylva olivacea*. RED-EYED VIREO.—Nest pensile in a forked branch of a low tree; eggs three, rarely four. A set found May 4.

21. *Lanivireo flavifrons*. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—Nests pensile in trees; eggs three or four. May 14.

22. *Vireo noveboracensis*. WHITE-EYED VIREO.—Nests pensile in low bushes. A set of four eggs found April 21.

23. *Lanius ludovicianus*. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.—Nests in bushes or trees. A set of six eggs taken March 23; they lay even earlier.

* Measurements of eggs are given in hundredths of an inch.

24. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN. — Nests in hollow trees, etc., near houses; eggs five. May 18.
25. *Cotile riparia*. BANK SWALLOW. — Nests excavated in river banks; eggs five. April 20.
26. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. — Nests in banks; eggs four or five. April 18.
27. *Pyranga æstiva*. SUMMER REDBIRD. — Nest loosely constructed of twigs on the horizontal branch of a pine, not very high. A set of four eggs taken May 8.
28. *Ammodromus maritimus*. SEASIDE FINCH. — Nests in low bushes, or in the high marsh-grass near the sea; eggs four. May 3.
29. *Peucea æstivalis*. BACHMAN'S FINCH. — Nests built on the ground, in pine woods, carefully concealed under a tuft of grass, small palmetto, or low bush. The females are very close sitters; they always lay four eggs and raise two broods. An egg taken from a nest June 11 measures .74X.62, and is pure white; there were also three young birds just hatched.
30. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.* TOWHEE. — Nests in low bushes, seldom on the ground; eggs four. May 1.
31. *Cardinalis virginianus*. CARDINAL GROSBEAK. — Nests loosely constructed, in low trees or bushes. If discovered building they always desert the nest; eggs four. May 1.
32. *Passerina ciris*. PAINTED BUNTING. — Nests in trees or low bushes, especially among briars; eggs four. May 15.
33. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD. — Eggs laid in nests of small birds; one with a set of Red-eyed Vireo's eggs.
34. *Agelæus phœniceus*. RED-AND-BUFF-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD. — Nests near fresh-water ponds, in bushes, and among high grass; eggs three or four. May 18.
35. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE. — Nests pensile, in trees; eggs five. May 10.
36. *Quiscalus major*. BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. — Nests in trees or in the tall salt-marsh grass; eggs three, seldom four. They breed during April and May.
37. *Quiscalus purpureus*. PURPLE GRACKLE. — Nests in trees, seldom in the salt marshes; eggs three or four. April 15.
38. *Corvus ossifragus*. FISH CROW. — Nests in trees near the sea; eggs four. April 20.
39. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY. — Nests in trees; eggs four. May 1.
40. *Tyrannus dominicensis*. GRAY KINGBIRD. — Nests on the horizontal branches of oak trees, near the top, and loosely constructed of twigs, "with little or no lining"; eggs always three. Those of a set taken June 8 measure respectively: 1.03X.75; 1.06X.75; 1.08X.75; they are salmon-colored with blotches of reddish-brown on the large end.

* [Probably this was really the white-eyed form *P. erythrophthalmus alleni*.—EDS.]

41. *Tyrannus carolinensis*. KINGBIRD.—Nests in trees; eggs four. May 18.
42. *Myiarchus crinitus*. GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Nests in hollow trees; eggs five. May 13, 1853.
43. *Contopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE.—Nest saddled on the horizontal branch of a pine at a considerable elevation; eggs three or four. May 7.
44. *Empidonax acadicus*. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Nests in Alatomaha River Swamp, in bushes. A set of three eggs taken May 13.
45. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Nests in trees. No dates given.
46. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Nests in chimneys; eggs five. May 18.
47. *Antrostomus carolinensis*. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—Eggs two, deposited on the ground in thick woods, during April and May. A set in collection taken May 5.
48. *Chordeiles popetue*. NIGHTHAWK.—Eggs two, deposited on the ground in fields or open places. April and May. A set in collection taken April 25.
49. *Campephilus principalis*. IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.—Nests in holes excavated, for the most part, in living trees very high from the ground. A set of four eggs were taken April 10, in Alatomaha Swamp. They measure respectively: .36X.95; 1.34X.98; 1.25X.95; 1.29X.98; while the eggs of a set of Pileated Woodpeckers in my collection average 1.42X.90.
50. *Picus villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Eggs five, laid in hollows excavated in trees. April 8.
51. *Picus pubescens*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Breeding habits same as last. A set of five eggs taken April 12.
52. *Picus querulus*. RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER.—Holes excavated in high pine trees, mostly living ones; eggs four. May 18.
53. *Hylotomus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Nests excavated in pine trees; eggs three or four. April 14.
54. *Centurus carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—Eggs laid in holes excavated in trees. A set of eggs taken June 3; eighteen days afterwards the parents had newly hatched young in the same nest. They breed from March until July.
55. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Breeding habits similar to last; eggs five or six. June 4.
56. *Colaptes auratus*. YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER.—Nesting habits same as last. Set of six eggs taken June 1.
57. *Ceryle alcyon*. KINGFISHER.—Nests in holes excavated in steep banks of rivers; eggs six. May 7.
58. *Coccygus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—Nests carelessly constructed on the horizontal branches of trees; eggs four. May 8.
59. *Coccygus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—Breeding habits similar to last. Two eggs taken May 18.
60. *Conurus carolinensis*. CAROLINA PARAKEET.—A set of two eggs in the collection was not fully identified but undoubtedly belongs to this

species. The eggs, which were taken April 26, 1855, were deposited in a hollow tree, on the chips at bottom. One of them was sent to Mr. Ridgway who has kindly compared it with identified eggs, and who confirms the identification. The specimens measure 1.44×1.14 ; and 1.45×1.10 . They are creamy-white, and pointed at one end.

61. *Aluco flammeus americanus*. BARN OWL. — A set of eggs taken from the tower of St. Paul's church, Charleston, S. C., December 18.

62. *Scops asio*. LITTLE SCREECH OWL. — Eggs four, deposited in hollow trees or a deserted Woodpecker's hole. April 1.

63. *Bubo virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL. — Eggs laid in deserted nests of the Bald Eagle, Osprey, or Red-tailed Hawk, or sometimes in a hollow tree; they are never more than two in number. May 20 (evidently a second laying).

64. *Tinnunculus sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK. — Nests in deserted Woodpecker's holes. A set of four taken April 10, was in a dead pine tree; the pair afterwards reared a brood in the same nest.

65. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. FISH HAWK. — Nests in high trees, in most instances either dead or decaying ones; eggs three or four. Breeds through April and May.

66. *Ictinia subcærulea*. MISSISSIPPI KITE. — Nest in a lofty cypress tree, at the top on a horizontal branch, in Alatamaha River Swamp. June 8 the tree was felled, and the nest found to contain two eggs which were badly broken.

67. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK. — Nests in high trees; — similar to that of a Crow. May 6, set of three eggs.

68. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK. — Nests in high pine trees; eggs always two. March 14.

69. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. — Nests in high trees; eggs two or three. April 26.

70. *Buteo pennsylvanicus*. BROAD-WINGED HAWK. — Nests in high trees; eggs three. April 28.

71. *Haliaëtus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE. — Nests on very high trees; breeds from November to April; eggs always two. A set in collection taken January 10.

72. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY BUZZARD. — Eggs two, deposited on the ground under an inclining log, in thick places. Set taken April 7.

73. *Catharista atrata*. BLACK VULTURE. — Eggs two, deposited on the ground, or in a hollow log near the ground. A set taken March 26.

74. *Ectopistes migratoria*. WILD PIGEON. — Nests on trees. No dates given.

75. *Zenaidura carolinensis*. MOURNING DOVE. — Nests in trees, rarely on the ground; eggs two. April and May.

76. *Chamæpelis passerina*. GROUND DOVE. — Nests on the ground, very seldom on trees; eggs two. They breed from April until October.

77. *Meleagris gallopavo americana*. WILD TURKEY. — Nest in thick places in the woods, carefully concealed; eggs twelve to fifteen. April 18.

78. *Ortyx virginiana*. BOB WHITE. — Nests in the grass in woods, or old fields; eggs ten to fifteen. May 8.

79. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—Nests near the top of very tall trees, sometimes several in the same tree; eggs three or four. March 4.
80. *Herodias alba egretta*. AMERICAN EGRET.—Nests on trees in fresh-water ponds; eggs three. April 18.
81. *Garzetta candidissima*. SNOWY HERON.—Nests in trees near water; eggs three. April 14.
82. *Hydranassa tricolor ludoviciana*. LOUISIANA HERON.—Nests in trees near water; eggs three. April 18.
83. *Florida cærulea*. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—Nests in trees; eggs three. April 15.
84. *Butorides virescens*. GREEN HERON.—Nests in trees near water; eggs 4. April 18.
85. *Nyctiardea grisea nævia*. NIGHT HERON.—Nests in trees; eggs four, sometimes five. April 14.
86. *Nyctherodius violaceus*. WHITE-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Nests in trees near streams of water; eggs five. May 8.
87. *Ardetta exilis*. LEAST BITTERN.—Nests in the tall grass of fresh-water ponds; eggs five. May 18.
88. *Eudocimus albus*. WHITE IBIS.—Nests in trees in Alatamaha River Swamp; eggs three. April 20.
89. *Hæmatopus palliatus*. OYSTER CATCHER.—Nests on the sand near the sea; eggs four. May 18.
90. *Oxyechus vociferus*. KILLDEER.—Eggs four, deposited in a slight depression in the ground, on elevated places. April 1.
91. *Ochthodromus wilsonius*. WILSON'S PLOVER.—Eggs three or four, deposited on the high sandy beach. April 29.
92. *Symphemia semipalmata*. WILLET.—Nests in grass near the sea; eggs four. May 1.
93. *Himantopus mexicanus*. BLACK-NECKED STILT.—Nests on the sand, near the sea or salt ponds; eggs four. May 15.
94. *Rallus elegans*. RED-BREASTED RAIL.—Nests in fresh-water marshes, near ponds; eggs eight to ten. A set taken July 18 on Butler's Island, Georgia.
95. *Rallus longirostris crepitans*. CLAPPER RAIL.—Nests in salt marshes; eggs ten to twelve. April 18.
96. *Ionornis martinica*. PURPLE GALLINULE.—Nests in rice fields and high grass, near ponds of fresh water; eggs five to eight. A set in collection taken on Butler's Island, Georgia, July 18.
97. *Gallinula galeata*. FLORIDA GALLINULE.—Nests in fresh water ponds and near the margins of rivers; eggs six to eight. May 18.
98. *Aramus pictus*. LIMPKIN.—Nests in brackish or salt ponds near the sea; eggs six or seven. June 17.
99. *Plotus anHINGA*. SNAKE BIRD.—Nests on trees and bushes near fresh-water streams or ponds; eggs four. June 19.
100. *Rhynchops nigra*. BLACK SKIMMER.—Eggs three; laid on high sand near the sea. June 18.