

## GENERAL NOTES.

**Abnormal Coloration in a Caged Robin.**—Through the kindness of its owner, Mr. A. R. Crittenden, I have recently examined a caged Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) which is now in peculiar plumage, and which has a somewhat unusual history. When taken from the nest, about six years ago, it was perfectly normal in color of plumage, and so remained for two years. It has moulted once a year, in early autumn. After the fourth moult a few white feathers were noticed, and here and there a black one, but it was not until the following year—after the fifth moult—that the change was marked. The bird then appeared with wings and tail almost completely white, while below he was clear *black*, except for a side patch of red under each wing, and the usual white belly. The following winter (last winter), he came out in perfectly normal plumage, though Mr. Crittenden thinks the colors were unusually rich.

This winter, again, the abnormal dress has been assumed, but varying somewhat in detail. He now appears as follows: Above clear black; tail mostly white; interscapulars and most of the wing-feathers white on outer webs; chin, throat, belly, and under-tail coverts normal. The upper breast shows a somewhat crescent-shaped patch of red, and almost as continuations of this on either side are red patches under the wings. A few red feathers down the middle of the breast imperfectly separate the black which would otherwise form a single large pectoral patch. The white about the eyes is normal. The bird is a male, apparently in perfect health, and with a voracious appetite. His food has been principally one part prepared Mocking-bird food to three parts Indian meal, the whole mixed together with a teaspoonful of melted lard. In addition to this he has had only a little fruit and a few insects, mostly house-flies.—W. B. BARROWS, *Middletown, Conn.*

[Two previous instances of melanism in the Robin have been recorded in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' (Vol. I. p. 24; Vol. III, p. 47).—EDD.]

**Nest and Eggs of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*).**—My friend, Mr. Frank W. Ritchie, of Ottawa, who is at present attending Bishop's College, at Lennoxville, Quebec, has kindly furnished me with the following description of these rarities for publication in 'The Auk.'

"A nest of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found by two friends of mine, near Lennoxville, on May 15, 1882. The nest was pensile, and was attached to a branch of a small tree, a few feet from the ground. It was composed of fine moss, evenly and firmly felted, and was lined with bright feathers of the Wild Pigeon. The inside was almost entirely hidden from view by the upper feathers of the lining being caught at the edge of the nest; curving gracefully toward the centre, their points almost meeting, they left but a small opening. The nest measured ten inches in cir-