

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-

cumference outside, and was three inches in depth inside. It contained nine eggs, one of them a Cow Bunting's. One of the Kinglet's eggs which I examined, and which is still preserved in the Museum of Bishop's College, measures .53 X .40. It is of a dirty creamy-white ground-color, clouded with small, faint spots of a darker tint, which are irregularly distributed over the entire surface, excepting near the larger end, where there is a band of dull yellowish-brown. The centre of this band is darkest, the color gradually lessening in intensity toward the edges.

"The identification of the parents was nearly perfect. My friends were very familiar with the species, and examined these birds several times, as they sat on the nest or perched on the adjoining boughs."

I am informed by Mr. Ritchie that the nest has been destroyed and only the one egg remains of the clutch. Through Mr. Ritchie's kind office the President of the College has courteously permitted this egg to be sent to me for examination so that I am enabled to verify the description given.

Mr. Ritchie states that another of the eggs of this clutch which he had compared with the one described was of exactly the same size, color, and markings.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN. *St. John, N. B.*

Thryothorus ludovicianus in Massachusetts.—An adult specimen of *Thryothorus ludovicianus* was killed on the 4th of November last, by Mr. Arthur Smith, in Brookline, Mass. The specimen is now in my cabinet.—C. B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*

Another Example of *Helminthophaga leucobronchialis* from Connecticut.—Through the kindness of Mr. Harry W. Flint, of Deep River, Conn., I have the pleasure of examining a specimen of this Warbler killed by him, May 18, 1880, at Deep River. It shows a slight suffusion of yellow under each eye and on the sides of chin, and the pectoral region is washed with the same color, which extends over the abdomen nearly to the tail. The wing-bands are very much restricted, and the white is tinged with yellow. This is, I believe, the thirteenth known example and the fifth reported from Connecticut.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

[I am indebted to Mr. Sage for an opportunity of examining the specimen above mentioned. It differs from the type, as well as from all the other examples which I have seen, in having the yellow of the forehead partially obscured by a superficial mark of greenish-olive, in the unusual restriction of the wing-bands, and in the generally immature appearance of the plumage. These characteristics are just what we should expect in the female of *leucobronchialis*, and I doubt not that the collector's mark of ♀ is correct.—WILLIAM BREWSTER.]

Nest and Eggs of *Myiadestes townsendi*.—Through the kindness of Mr. L. Belding, I am able to add the following to what is already known of the nest and eggs of *Myiadestes townsendi*. Of four nests of which I have notes, three were placed either on the ground or in a slight depression, giving the nest a saucer shape. In each case concealment had been