

attempted by the aid of weeds, a stone, or a large piece of bark. One nest was built on the ground, within a semicircular cavity of a standing tree. The nests were composed mostly of pine needles. One had a lining of soap-root fibre, and another was built of pine needles upon a slight foundation of small sticks. Three nests, taken by Mr. Belding at Big Trees, Cal., June 8 and 9, 1879, and June 10, 1880, contained each four nearly fresh eggs. A set of four, taken at Big Trees, June 15, 1883, from the side of a stump, fifteen inches from the ground, are now before me. They correspond closely to Dr. Coues's description of the eggs of this species given in the last number of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' (VIII, p. 239). The measurements, which I can take from two, are $.89 \times .70$, and $.93 \times .70$.—W. E. BRYANT, *Oakland, Cal.*

Prehensile Feet of the Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*).—Apropos of what has lately been published regarding the power of the Crow to carry objects in its claws I will give my latest note on the subject.

I was attracted to a bunch of trees by a commotion among a troop of Robins, and discovered some six individuals fiercely attacking a Crow, a second black form being detected skulking some little distance away. Presently Crow number one flew off, followed by the entire mob of excited Red-breasts, when Crow number two made a dash into the trees, and emerged with an unfledged Robin grasped in his dexter claws; the youngster kicking and piping lustily. The cries brought back the guardians, who at once gave chase to the captor, and while they were off in one direction, Crow number one charged the nest from an opposite point, and retired with another of the brood firmly held in his claws.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

Do Crows carry objects in their Claws?—There is a habit assigned to Crows in Eastern Maine, which, if well authenticated, has an interest in the discussion of the question whether they can transport objects in their claws.

Near Eastport, Maine, there is known to me a considerable deposit of the broken tests and half-decomposed soft parts of our common New England sea-urchin (*S. drabachiensis*), far removed above the level of high water. This deposit is formed in the main of fragments of the solid tests of these echinoderms, which are said to have been carried there alive by Crows, which frequent the locality in great numbers. At a loss to account for the appearance of these fragments in this unusual locality, I made inquiries of several persons living in the neighborhood, all of whom declared that the sea-urchin remains were brought by the Crows from the shallow water not far off. One intelligent person, not a naturalist, said he had observed the Crows *transporting them in their claws*. Although I can add nothing to this testimony from personal observation, I am familiar with several other accumulations of these marine animals in localities above high tide, from which I have observed Crows to fly up when startled. I cannot tell whether the Crows at such times were feed-

ing upon the sea-urchins or not, although several of the echinoderms still had their soft parts adhering to the "shells." Our sea-urchin is often left by a retreating tide in the pools where it could be easily seen and taken without difficulty by the Crows. In autumnal and winter gales multitudes are washed up on the beaches to the line of the highest reach of the tides.—J. WALTER FEWKES, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Nest and Eggs of Couch's Tyrant Flycatcher (*T. melancholicus couchi*).—A nest and four fresh eggs, together with both parents of this same species, were taken by my collector, Mr. Bourbois, at Lomita Ranch, on the Rio Grande, Texas, in 1881. I believe this set to be unique (at least so far as the United States fauna is concerned), and worthy of a description.

The nest was situated some twenty feet from the ground, on a small lateral branch of a large elm, in a fine grove not far from the houses of the ranch. It is composed of small elm twigs, with a little Spanish moss and a few branchlets and leaves of the growing elm intermixed. The sides of the nest are lined with fine rootlets, the bottom with the black hair-like heart of the Spanish moss. The outside diameter is 6 inches, and the depth 2 inches. The inside diameter is 3 inches, and the depth 1.25 inches.

The eggs, while having a general resemblance to those of all our Tyrant Flycatchers, are quite distinct in form, size, and ground-color from any others I have seen. The blotches, too, are more numerous and smaller. The large end is very round, and the small end quite pointed. The measurements of the four eggs are as follows: 1.00 × .76, .99 × .76, .98 × .76, .97 × .72, averaging .985 of an inch in length and .75 of an inch in breadth. The ground-color is a rich buff. The general color of the blotches is similar to that of the Kingbird's eggs, and their distribution irregular over the entire egg, but massed about the greatest diameter.

If this set proves to be typical I should have no trouble in selecting the eggs of this species from any number of eggs of other species of the genus.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *Meadville, Pa.*

Recent Occurrence of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Massachusetts.—Mr. E. H. Richards of Woburn, Mass., writes me that two specimens of *Picoides arcticus* have been taken in that town the past autumn. The first was shot Oct. 16, the other two days later. Both were adult males. A third example was also seen Oct. 21, in Holbrook, Mass.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

A Woodpecker destroying Cocoons.—This habit of the Woodpecker is something new to me, and may have an interest for others. It was observed by my friend, Mr. Frank W. Ritchie, who, writing from Lennoxville, Quebec, under date of November 21, says: "A few days since I discovered a Downy Woodpecker tearing open a cocoon. I drove the bird away several times, but it persisted until it had gathered the contents. I also noticed near by two other cocoons which had been emptied similarly."—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*