

**Breeding Habits of the Everglade Kite.**—My friend, Mr. E. W. Montreuil, had the good fortune this season, while on a collecting trip to Florida, to take a set of eggs of the Everglade Kite, which are now in my possession. As there are so few descriptions of the eggs of this species on record the following notes may be of interest. The eggs measure as follows:  $1.91 \times 1.50$ ;  $1.80 \times 1.51$ ;  $1.80 \times 1.45$  (measurements in hundredths of an inch). No. 1 has a ground-color of light brown, nearly obscured by large blotches of dark brown, in some places becoming reddish-brown. No. 2 has the ground-color a dirty white, covered on the larger end by spots and blotches of different shades of brown, which become smaller and fewer at the other end. This specimen resembles the common varieties of eggs of the European Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*). Number 3 has a clear ground-color of greenish-white, and on the smaller end are scrawls, lines, and a few spots of light and dark brown. These eggs are larger than those collected by Mr. C. J. Maynard some years since in the Everglades.

I will quote in full from a letter received from Mr. Montreuil about the breeding habits of this Kite. "This bird (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) is found in numbers in the Everglades of Florida, especially on the east side. They lay their eggs early in March, but some pairs later than others, as the set you have were taken March 16 and were fresh, while all the other nests had young in them. When they breed a male and female are by themselves, always near a small island, which they make their rendezvous, and while resting on a branch they can have an eye on their nest for enemies, especially the Crows, who rob their nests whenever they can. Around some of the islands there are several pairs of *Rostrhamus*, and they always place their nests a few acres apart from each other. While going about in an Indian canoe you see the bird flying around, up and down, their wings straight open, fishing for the Everglade shells which are their principal food. When through with their meals they go back to their nests with food for the young, and then they can easily be discovered. They build their nests with dry branches and saw-grasses, attached to saw-grasses, about 12 inches below the tops, just so as to be out of sight. They measure about 12 inches in diameter and 6 inches high, and the cavity is about 3 inches deep. They lay from two to three eggs. The old birds usually bring their throats full of the animals of the Everglade shells, but sometimes they bring the animal in the shell, as many nests contained a lot of these shells. While they have young they are not wild, flying over one's head when near the nest."—H. B. BAILEY, *New York City*.

**Nesting of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo pennsylvanicus*).**—As but very few of the nests of this species have been described, an account of one taken by myself, about two miles north of this city, on June 23, 1883, may not be considered superfluous. It was built in a large yellow birch tree, near the margin of a rather open wood, which was composed of mixed birch, spruce, and hackmatac, and which adjoined a dense cedar swamp. The nest was placed in a fork of the tree, about thirty feet from the ground, and was composed, exteriorly, of dried twigs of hackmatac and

birch, with a sparse lining of straw and feathers. In it were two eggs, which proved far advanced toward incubation; they measure  $1.94 \times 1.50$  and  $1.95 \times 1.51$ , and are very similar in shape and markings to those described by Dr. Brewer; though I have failed to detect any of the yellow and purple tints mentioned by that writer. The ground-color is of a grayish or dirty white tint, heavily and irregularly marked with blotches of reddish-brown. On one of these eggs is a patch of dark chocolate brown, with blotches upon it of a still darker shade—almost black. This patch measures over one inch in length, and, at its broadest point, three-quarters of an inch in width. On the other egg the blotches and splashes are smaller, lighter in color, and chiefly gathered upon one side. Under a glass all these 'markings' appear on the surface of the shell; the deeper tints are formed by accumulated layers of light color; an occasional blotch of dark brown, however, exhibiting none of this accumulating process. Much of the 'dirtiness' noticed on the ground color is the effect of splashes of pigment under the surface.

The male parent was sitting on the nest at the time I approached it, and, when I began to climb the tree, he flew to a bough some seventy yards off, where he was shot. His stomach contained the partially digested remains of three unfledged Thrushes.—JAMES W. BANKS, *St. John, N. B.*

**Note on *Zenaidura yucatanensis* Lawr.**—In the 'Proceedings' of the Zoölogical Society of London, 1883, part iii, p. 458, Mr. Salvin states his inability to distinguish this bird from Cuban and Jamaican specimens of *Zenaida amabilis*. This has led me to reëxamine the type, with special reference to the question of identity with *Z. amabilis*, and as the result I must say that the difference is very great. In fact, as stated in 'History of North American Birds' (vol. iii, p. 382), *Z. yucatanensis* is exactly intermediate, both in form and coloration, between *Zenaidura carolinensis* and *Zenaida amabilis*, but has 14 rectrices, as in the typical species of the former genus. These facts lead me to suspect that Mr. Salvin has examined specimens of true *Z. amabilis* from Yucatan, which supposition if correct, would render my surmise (l. c.) that *Z. yucatanensis* may be a hybrid between *Zenaidura carolinensis* and *Zenaida amabilis* more worthy of consideration.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

***Bernicla brenta nigricans* in Massachusetts.**—In the spring of 1883, a specimen of this variety was sent to Mr. C. J. Goodale, of 93 Sudbury St., Boston, to be mounted. It was claimed that it had been killed at or near Chatham, Mass. The bird was perfectly fresh when received.—C. B. CORY, *Boston, Mass.*

**Night Herons and Rails in Dakota.**—I have just returned (Sept. 15, 1883), from camp, near Wall Lake, Dakota. I found many birds moving towards their southern homes, but none so pleasing to me to see as the Night Herons (*Nyctiardea grisea gnævia*).