

birch, with a sparse lining of straw and feathers. In it were two eggs, which proved far advanced toward incubation; they measure 1.94×1.50 and 1.95×1.51 , 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*).