

The eggs were in a somewhat advanced stage of incubation, and some difficulty was experienced in blowing them. They are a trifle smaller than the eggs of *T. alexandri*, and considerably smaller than those of *T. colubris*. Their color strikes me as being not so pure a white as the eggs of the latter. As the male bird was not observed in the vicinity of the nest, I may add that the female was shot and afterwards identified by Mr. Ridgway, which fact should be sufficient guarantee of the correct identification of the specimens.—B. T. GAULT, *Chicago, Ill.*

Curious Food for the Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*).—A few years ago I examined the contents of the stomachs of two young Kingfishers (*Ceryle alcyon*), and found, to my surprise, instead of the usual remains of fish, fragments of various beetles (Coleoptera) belonging to the families Carabidæ, Dytiscidæ, and Scarabæidæ, the Carabidæ and Scarabæidæ being exclusively inhabitants of the land. Among the Scarabæidæ an almost perfect specimen of *Aphodius fumetarius* was recognized.

Mr. A. P. Chadbourne, of Cambridge, Mass., who shot both the birds in question, has furnished me with the following information. He says: "The Kingfishers were shot at Kennebunksport, Me., on July 14, 1881. They were both young birds, and were shot *in* the nest with a collecting pistol. I observed one of the adults on the ground in a ploughed field near the river side, but did not shoot it. The young were fully feathered and able to fly."

I am ignorant as to whether the food of the young of this species has been studied by any one else or not, but is it not possible that they may be fed regularly by their parents upon insects?—R. HAYWARD, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Occurrence of the Sharp-shinned Hawk in New Hampshire in Winter.—Mr. Wm. Little, of Manchester, N. H., writes me that a specimen of *Accipiter fuscus* was killed there Jan. 24, 1885, by Geo. H. Walker, and mounted by Hiram P. Young. This is, I believe, the first recorded instance of its capture so far north in winter.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

[It may be of interest to add that a female Sharp-shinned Hawk was taken in Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 15, 1884, by Mr. Joseph L. Goodale, who has the specimen in his collection.—J. A. ALLEN.]

Early and Accidental Occurrence of *Catharista atrata* and *Tantalus oculator* in Kansas.—Dr. Louis Watson, of Ellis, Kansas, wrote me April 14, 1885, of the capture on the 27th of March, of a Black Vulture, a species not before noticed there. Also that "A Wood Ibis barely escaped capture March 26. It had been about the Creek (Big Creek) on my premises for several days; but after receiving a charge of No. 6 shot at short range rose over the bank with a drooping leg, and has not been seen since. It is almost *incredible* that it should be here, or anywhere else so far north, so early."—N. S. GOSS, *Topeka, Kansas.*

The Glossy Ibis and Avocet at San Diego, Cal.—On January 1, while on my way to the Santa Margarita Valley duck-shooting, I noticed a small

flock of Avocets from the cars. They were amongst other Waders in a slough adjoining the ocean. Again, whilst lying behind cover in the valley awaiting Ducks, I noted a solitary individual, but could not get a shot. The same day a companion with me killed two from a flock of about twenty Ibises. A few days previous a market hunter in the town brought me one, and later two individuals of the same bird. He told me that with the exception of one killed in the same vicinity (Mission Valley) last year, they were the first he had met with or heard of in several years' hunting. The Avocet he had never seen, although I know of an authentic capture of seven on the Bay shores a few years since. Both birds are of sufficient rarity here to warrant notice of their unusual presence this year, and the size of the flock of Ibises seen in the Santa Margarita is especially unusual, as previous records have only been of, at most, six or seven individuals.—GODFREY HOLTERHOFF, JR., *San Diego, Cal.*

The Eggs of the Knot (*Tringa canutus*) found at last!—No fact is more generally recognized among ornithologists than the different degrees of distinction, so to speak, attaching to the discovery of the eggs of different birds. The nests of some species have been found early, or by accident; others before their absence from collections has excited much notice; while others still have long been the object of special and diligent search, and the failure to find them has been commented upon by many distinguished writers. Of this latter category no more marked example can be found than the Knot (*Tringa canutus* L.). Seebohm, in his entertaining 'Siberia in Europe,' tells us that when he and Harvie-Brown started for the Petchora, the birds "to the discovery of whose eggs special interest seemed to attach, were the Grey Plover, the Little Stint, the Sanderling, the Curlew Sandpiper, the Knot, and Bewick's Swan."* And in a foot note he adds: "The Knot (*Tringa canutus*, Linn.) was the only one of these six species of birds which we did not meet with in the valley of the Petchora. It probably breeds on the shores of the Polar basin in both hemispheres, but its eggs are absolutely unknown."

Major Henry W. Feilden, naturalist to the Nares Arctic Expedition of 1875-76, says: "I was not so fortunate as to obtain the eggs of the Knot during our stay in the Polar regions, though it breeds in some numbers along the shores of Smith Sound and the north coast of Grinnell Land. . . . During the month of July my companions and I often endeavored to discover the nest of this bird; but none of us were successful. However, on July 30, 1876, the day before we broke out of our winter-quarters, where we had been frozen in eleven months, three of our seamen, walking by the border of a small lake, not far from the ship, came upon an old bird accompanied by three nestlings, which they brought to me."† These young I have seen in the British Museum at South Kensington,

* Siberia in Europe. By Henry Seebohm, London, 1880, p. 2.

† Narrative of a voyage to the Polar Sea. By Capt. Sir G. S. Nares, London, Vol. II, 1878, pp. 211-212.