

Habits of the Barred Owl.—The first paragraph of the interesting article by Mr. Bolles in the April number of 'The Auk,' would leave the general reader under the impression that the Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*) defends its nest and young by attacking the intruder. My own experience would lead me to conclude that it is a very timid bird. I have collected many sets of their eggs, and have frequently climbed to the nests to examine their young, and in no case have I ever been attacked by the parent birds. They usually fly away at the approach of the collector, and remain away until he leaves the vicinity. If the nest contains young, they make demonstrations of cries and snapping of bills from the safe shelter of a neighboring tree. I have known them to fly toward me snapping their beaks, until within a few yards, but they were careful not to come very near. I have never been attacked or seen other persons attacked by any species of Owl in defense of its nest, except when the Owls were in confinement. I once experienced great difficulty in getting a set of eggs from a cage containing three Great Horned Owls.—D. E. LANTZ, *Manhattan, Kansas.*

Phalænoptilus nuttalli nitidus Breeding in Kansas. Is it a Valid Race or a Color Phase of P. nuttalli?—Since the publication of the A. O. U. Check-List, two varieties of the Poor-will have been added to the the list, the Frosted and Dusky. Of the latter I have no personal knowledge. Its habitat—as given by the describer—is different from that of the Frosted, and if constant in the coloration of its plumage, it is doubtless a valid race. The home of the Frosted Poor-will, however, as far as known, is about the same as that of the Poor-will, and the few specimens of each that I have examined do not differ materially in size, and I am impressed with the thought that it is possible the Frosted may prove to be a dichromatic phase, similar to the case of the Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*), and not a bleached race, as it is now regarded. I therefore call attention to the matter. But, be that as it may, it now stands as a distinct race, and so anything relating to its nesting habits will be of interest. I therefore take please in saying that Mr. Eben M. Blachly, of Leonardville, Riley County, Kansas, kindly loaned me for identification a set of eggs, together with the skin of one of the parent birds (I regret that he did not capture its mate), which proved to be of this variety. The bird and eggs were collected in the vicinity of Leonardville, June 26, 1889. The eggs two in number, were laid upon the bare ground, under a bunch of grass, upon the prairie, near the edge of a cornfield. In color they are white. In form they are oval or rounded elliptical, the small end nearly as obtuse as the larger. They measure 1.05 X .79, and 1.03 X .78. They do not differ from the eggs of the Poor-will; this, however, would be expected, for even if the former is a valid race, the eggs might be expected to be alike.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kansas.*

Food and Habits of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—On June 5, 1888, I secured a nest, containing one young bird and an egg on the point of hatching, of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The nest is a