

Unfortunately both of the young were still principally in the olive, downy plumage of nestlings, but enough of the final feathering had appeared on the throat, breast, and upper parts to make it certain that one, and probable that the other, would have become a typical specimen of *H. pinus*. The wing-bars of the young differ, being in the most mature specimen narrow and almost white, and in the other broader and light yellow. The plumage of the young would seem to indicate that the missing parent was an *H. pinus*.

These specimens, I think, tend to confirm the theory of Mr. Ridgway that *H. leucobronchialis* is not a valid species, but merely a leucochroic phase of *H. pinus*. — LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.*

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) on the Coast of South Carolina.—The capture of this far western species was the good fortune of the writer on the morning of November 24, 1893. I had taken advantage of the spring-tide to secure some Scott's Sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus peninsulæ*), and upon going over a cyclone-swept cotton field *en route* to the marshes, I noticed a bird that resembled the Titlark (*Anthus pensilvanicus*), but observed that it did not wag its tail. I knew at once what it was—a western prize, and I at once shot it. The bird is an adult male in very fine unworn plumage, and was very fat. The exact locality was nine miles from Mount Pleasant, and two miles from the ocean. As far as I am aware this is the first eastern record for this species.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

Remarks on the Nest of *Cistothorus palustris*.—The nest of the Long-billed Marsh Wren is too well known to ornithologists generally to need description, but the only explanation of its globular form, which I can find, is that given by Wilson, who states: "A small hole is left two-thirds up, for entrance, the upper edge of which projects like a pent-house over the lower, to prevent the admission of rain." The inference from this and similar statements of later writers would be that the roof is built to protect the eggs from the rain. This may be partially true, but it seems strange that a species nesting at a season when violent rain-storms are least frequent should need a protection, which birds breeding earlier in the spring do not require.

But there is another danger to which the eggs of *C. palustris* are peculiarly liable, both from the character of the country in which they breed and the slenderness of the reeds which support the nest. This is the wind, which, sweeping across the exposed marshes of this Wren's summer home, often levels the rushes with the ground. I have found the reeds growing in the Quinipiack Marshes near New Haven, Conn., where large numbers of this species breed, leveled in this manner, and the attached nests turned almost at right angles to their original position. It is evident that under such conditions the eggs in an uncovered nest would fall out and be destroyed, while in many of these nests, which had the

long axis almost horizontal, I found the eggs reposing in perfect safety. The upward trend of the entrance, forming the "pent-house" of Wilson, naturally decreases the liability of the eggs to fall out, even if the wind should force the side of entrance toward the earth. It therefore appears to me at least probable that the main object of this Wren in constructing its elaborate dwelling is protection from the wind rather than the rain.

It has also been my experience that the top of the nest is generally more firmly fastened to the reeds than the bottom, and in two instances I noticed among the partially leveled reeds nests whose bases swung free of all support, thus retaining their original perpendicular position. However, this may have been the result of accident rather than design.

The taking of three sets of white eggs, presumably of this species, may be of interest. They consist of four, five, and four eggs, and were taken on June 24, July 11, and July 28, 1893, near the edge of a small salt-water ditch in the Quinnipiack Marshes, Hamden, Conn. The nests, which are fairly typical of *C. palustris*, were not more than eight yards apart, and probably belonged to the same bird. The eggs are white, translucent when taken, irregular in shape, and several have small, roughened projections on the shell. One from the set of five has a few dark spots half concealed beneath the surface of the shell and most perceptible in holding the egg to the light.

C. palustris is the only Wren known to inhabit this marsh, and a male, which I believed to be the owner of the first set, together with a Wren which settled for an instant at the entrance of the third nest, were of this species. The character of the locality, and the large numbers of the Long-billed Marsh Wrens everywhere around, made more certain identification impossible.

The white eggs of this species which have been recorded, taken in connection with the normally white eggs of its near ally, *C. stellaris*, and the frequently white eggs of the Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) have to my mind a peculiar importance as an additional argument for the truth of the theory of protective coloration, the covering of the nest rendering the usual dark pigment unnecessary. — LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.*

[Albinistic eggs are well-known to occur more or less frequently in birds that normally lay colored or spotted eggs, and which do not breed in holes or in covered nests; just as albinism may occur in the bird itself in any species. Why, then, should abnormally pale eggs be considered as having any special significance in the two species above cited? — J. A. A.]

Distribution of the Hudsonian Chickadee. — In his paper on 'The Hudsonian Chickadee and its Allies,' published in 'The Auk' of Oct. 1893, Mr. Rhoads makes the statement (p. 322) that "this Chickadee is a rare visitor in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, and for that matter, in any non-mountainous locality south of Hudson's Bay." This is entirely con-