

geon (*Mareca penelope*) was shot by C. H. Mears, February 16, 1904, on the Pasadena Duck Club preserves at Bixby, Los Angeles County, California. The specimen is now owned by Joseph Welsh of Pasadena, who kindly turned it over to me for examination and permitted the present record. The bird is in full plumage, and closely resembles the usual male Baldpate in all respects except the head and neck, which are almost uniform chestnut in color. The top of the head, from base of upper mandible to occiput, is plain white, slightly rusty anteriorly. The throat is largely blackish, while minute arrowheads of black dot the cheeks and loreal regions. Back of the eye the chestnut ground color is overlaid by numerous flecks of metallic green. This bird was a novelty to local sportsmen, who at first took it for a hybrid of some sort. "Redhead \times Baldpate" was suggested. — JOSEPH GRINNELL, *Pasadena, Cal.*

On the Evanescent Ground-tint of Woodcock's Eggs. — My dog stood a Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) on its nest, containing four perfectly fresh eggs, April 10th of this year. The peculiarity of these eggs was their very dark coloration, the ground tint being slightly darker even than the dead oak leaves that surrounded and composed the nest. On comparing the eggs the next day with the series in the U. S. National Museum, in conjunction with Dr. Ralph, we could find no eggs that were anywhere near as dark; in fact, they were darker even than the darkest eggs of *Gallinago delicata*, and we were congratulating ourselves on adding an unique set to the collection, when after a week's duration, in moth-proof museum cases, one egg faded out to the usual Woodcock ground tint, followed in a day or so by the other eggs. Now I would like to ask the readers of 'The Auk' if freshly laid eggs of the Woodcock are always so dark, fading out during incubation or without it? — J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

How an Abnormal Growth of Bill was Caused. — The articles by Mr. B. S. Bowdish and Mr. P. A. Taverner in the last two numbers of 'The Auk' on abnormal bills call to mind an incident that happened several years ago and resulted in a somewhat similar growth.

A young friend of mine took an acquaintance to visit a Flicker's (*Colaptes auratus*) nest which he had discovered. The nestlings were then only two or three days old. The boy put his hand into the nesting cavity and lifted out one of the young birds by the bill. In so doing he somehow twisted the mandibles. On another visit to the nest the young birds were found to be well feathered and almost ready to shift for themselves. The injured bill had grown in the twisted shape and the mandibles were now crossed very similar to those of the Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). The bird was otherwise in as good condition as the others, but of course the parents were still feeding them, and the specimen was not seen after leaving the nest. — CHRISWELL J. HUNT, *Philadelphia, Pa.*