

and we were compelled to run on the lee side of Moose Island, and wait for the wind to subside. Moose Island is a high, rocky, stony island, about one and one-half miles long and three-fourths of a mile wide, a few miles from Fort Resolution, at the south-west corner of Great Slave Lake. The island is fringed with white spruce of good size; but the interior is high and rocky, covered with a tangle of burned and fallen spruce timber and sprinkled over with a sparse growth of young poplars.

A few Pine Siskins were seen in the spruce trees as we landed, and a few Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) along the shores. The interior of the island revealed many Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and Intermediate Sparrows (*Zonotrichia l. gambeli*), one Black-poll Warbler's (*Dendroica striata*) nest with four eggs, one Sparrow Hawk, one Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), and a small Flycatcher (*Empidonax*). White-throated Sparrows were fairly common, and a Spotted Sandpiper's (*Actitis macularia*) nest with four eggs was observed on the north shore of the island. Half a dozen Pine Siskins were observed at one time in the tops of spruce along the south shore.

After lunch I was resting under a white spruce, about one foot in diameter, near our campfire on the lake shore, when I saw a Pine Siskin fly into the tree directly above my head. Examining the tree carefully I soon saw the nest among the lower limbs of the tree, about fifteen feet from the ground, near the end of a small horizontal branch about two feet from the trunk of the tree. Both parent birds were about, and I shot the nearest, which proved to be the male. The other bird was unfortunately lost in the brush.

The nest contained three eggs, advanced in incubation; very pale blue in color, sparsely spotted at the larger end with light reddish brown. One of the eggs had on one side, near the smaller end a heavy comma-shaped streak about one-fourth of an inch long, and one other egg had a heavy, irregular line about the same size in a similar position; these streaks were deep umber-colored. The other egg had no large marks. The eggs also showed a very few minute black pin-point marks at their larger ends.

The nest was very neatly built, well-cupped and well-concealed by the very thick terminal twigs of the white spruce branch. Depth (outside), two and one-half inches; (inside) one and one-half inches. Diameter (external) two and one-half inches; (internal) one and one-half inches; composed of small dead spruce twigs, a few grasses, fibrous bark shreds, and a few shreds of cottony substance; lined with fine grass fibers and hair, mixed with a few bunches of moss fibers.

Herschel Island, N. W. T.

MR. ROCKWELL'S SUGGESTION OF COOPERATION IN ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDIES

By WILLIAM E. RITTER

I WAS interested in Mr. Rockwell's "Plan for Cooperative Ornithology" printed in the September CONDOR. A word should be spoken on this subject from the standpoint of general biology as well as from that of ornithology.

That there are more observers of the natural habits of birds than of any other group of animals is, I suppose, beyond question. As a result there is more accur-

ate knowledge pertaining to this aspect of these than of any other animals. A large portion of that knowledge is unpublished and hence available only for the observers themselves and their few personal acquaintances.

I wish to point out that this kind of knowledge is the very essence of analytical biology. True analysis in science begins with what is "given"—with the original data. Now the data of biology are the organisms, *the plants and the animals as they occur in nature*. We can learn much, very much, about animals by killing them and taking them to pieces to study their bodily parts; but nature does not give us dead animals to start with. They have to be living before they can be dead.

So, too, we can learn much about the ways of animals by studying confined—"tamed"—ones; but these again are not what nature furnishes in the first instance. The study of zoology must per force *begin* with the animals of the forests, the mountains, the plains, and the waters.

To leave generalities and come to practical matters, my main points are: (1) that steps ought to be taken to correlate the efforts of ornithologists and to put their results into more permanent and available form; and (2) that these steps should be taken from the standpoint and needs of general biology as well as of ornithology.

The carrying out of such a project would require much time, thought, labor and money; but the general lines on which it ought to run would seem tolerably obvious. A central board or bureau, not too large, but still thoroly representative, would be needed as the medium for general direction and final finishing-off of the real work, viz, that done in the field by the numerous individual observers.

This "thoroly representative" board would need to be made up somewhat as follows: Of one or more persons whose interests are birds first and foremost; of someone who has made animal psychology and behaviour generally, his main object of study; and of some one of the broadest possible biological horizon.

Besides these elements in the make-up of the board (which might be designated as professional), managerial, editorial and financiering skill would have to be secured in some way; that is, either as combined with the professional elements, or as independent elements.

I believe there are great possibilities in some such scheme, vague and cumbersome as it may look at first sight.

It is, however, not worth while to enter upon detailed discussions until there is evidence that it would appeal widely and easily to students of animate nature. It is too protean an idea to be realized thru the enthusiasm and push of one or a few persons, unless indeed unlimited time and perseverance were among the endowments of such persons.

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Louisiana Water-Thrush in California.—On August 17, 1908, while passing the time between trains at the station of Mecca, Riverside County, in search of the English Sparrow to determine its western progress along the Southern Pacific Route, I took an adult male of the Louisiana Water-Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) on the station ground among the water tank cars. Am I right in considering this a record case for the locality if not for the State?

Mecca is situated in the Salton sink at an elevation (?) of two hundred feet below the sea and within one and one-half miles of the present Salton Sea. The shores of Salton Sea are very bar-