

health he returned to England. He died at Deal, May 12, 1900, of Bright's disease.

It was while living at Loveland that his work among the birds created an epoch in the history of Colorado ornithology. I find he wrote very little about his achievements, seemingly content to leave that to the pens of others. From 1886 to 1891 the following appeared from his pen:

"Winter Birds in Larimer County, Colorado."—Random Notes III, 1886, p. 13.

"Nest of Rock Wren."—Random Notes III, 1886, p. 17.

"Nest and Eggs of *Myadestes townsendii*."—Random Notes III, 1886, p. 25.

"Notes from Colorado."—Random Notes III, 1886, pp. 66 and 67.

"Hybrid Ducks."—O. & O. XII, 1887, p. 169.

"Nesting of Audubon's Warbler."—O. & O. XIII, 1888, p. 114.

"Nesting of Ruddy Duck."—O. & O. XIII, 1888, p. 132.

"Nesting of Water Ousel."—O. & O. XIII, 1888, p. 149.

"Breeding Habits of the Mountain Plover."—O. & O. XIII, 1888, p. 187.

"Nesting of Pied-billed Grebe."—O. & O. XIV, 1889, p. 138.

"Nesting of the Cinnamon Teal."—O. & O. XIV, 1889, p. 77.

"Sabine's Gull."—O. & O. XIV, 1889, p. 176.

"Nesting of Eared Grebe."—O. & O. XV, 1890, p. 140.

"Nesting of the Flammulated Screech Owl."—O. & O. XVI, 1891, p. 27.

Probably the most interesting of the above articles is the record of three sets of the Flammulated Screech Owl, all taken in the year 1890; the first, a set of three, the second, a set of two, and the third, a set of four.

He furnishes the late Major Bendire with a great many notes on the nesting of Colorado birds, which appeared in his "Life History of North American birds," and his estimate of Smith's work is found in Volume I in the following words: "Well known as a good ornithologist and a reliable collector."

He was not only a student of birds, but an all-round naturalist, doing a vast amount of work with the insects and mammals of the locality around his home. Most of the specimens were sent to the National Museum, and in their publications several types of new species are credited to him.

He was also an amateur painter, and some of his back-grounds for his bird groups were really works of art. He had several of these on exhibition at the Larimer County (Colorado) fair in 1887. I remember one as especially good: a landscape scene with a pair of Bob-whites in the foreground. However, the birds were his especial study, and in that line we, who are left to follow after him in our humble way, like best to remember him.

*Loveland, Colorado.*

## THE FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL

By F. C. WILLARD

WITH FIVE PHOTOS

ON May 17, 1909, I left Tombstone for the Huachuca Mountains with a good supply of collecting paraphernalia, a list of species whose nests I had not yet taken, and a determination to shorten this list. With this in mind, May 18 found me climbing every likely-looking tree and stub near the summit of the mountains at the head of Ramsey Canyon.

I was looking for *Otus flammeola*, one of the most desired species on aforesaid list. As I reached my hand into an old Flicker's hole and touched a bunch of feathers a premonitory thrill made me feel sure my quest was successful. Enlarging the opening somewhat I was able to reach under the bird and felt eggs. On bringing the bird to view I was jubilant to find my premonition correct, and slipped her between the buttons of my shirt. Her claws, as she climbed toward my neck, made



NESTING SITE OF FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL; NEST IN  
SECOND HOLE FROM TOP OF STUB

me regret their location; but there was no other available place to put her and I needed both hands, so I made haste to secure the three eggs and descend. With both hands free, I promptly secured her owlship, her needle-like claws making ineffectual attempts to hang onto my shirt and the skin beneath.

My camera next came into use and I secured one of the pictures shown herewith, holding the owl in one hand and operating the instrument with the other. The

most striking feature to me was the mild look of her face, which appeared very different in aspect from that of other owls I had met with. Presently I discovered that this was due to the eyes, which, instead of having a yellow iris as in other owls, were a dark chocolate brown. Dr. Coues makes no mention of this feature, and I



FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL (AT LEFT) AND PIGMY OWL (AT RIGHT),  
SHOWING DARK-COLORED EYES OF FORMER



FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL; NOTE BLUNTNESS  
OF PLUMICORNS

do not know whether it is included in any description as yet. The photograph shows this very plainly, the difference being easily noticed when compared with the Pigmy Owl shown in the picture to the right. The photograph also shows the stubbiness of the plumicorns.

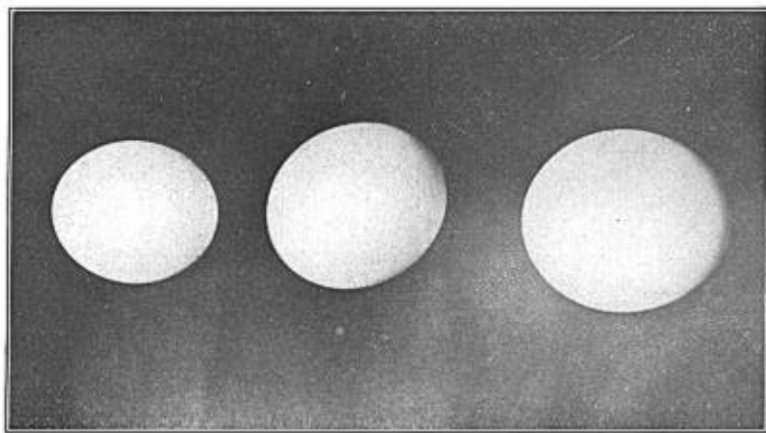
The eggs in the set were fresh and were lying on the chips in the bottom of the cavity, which was twenty-five feet up in a pine stub. The growth at this point consisted of scattering pines and firs. The altitude was 7700 feet.

On May 30 I startled another female *flammeola* from her nest in a Flicker's hole, twelve feet up in an oak tree growing in the bed of a canyon on the west slope of the Huachucas, at an altitude

of 6000 feet. I left the two eggs and returning June 11 secured the full set, incubation well along. The bird left the nest as I climbed up, and alighted on a drooping branch near the entrance. I dropt down and, picking up my camera,

secured a snap shot at a distance of eight feet, immediately after which she flew away. It was a very comical picture she made as she sat there, opening first one eye and then the other, like a sleepy child, in an endeavor to accustom herself to the glare of the bright sun. The snap shot secured shows how excellently the silver gray plumage serves as a protective color.

In size, the eggs are about half-way between those of the Pigmy Owl (*Glauucidium gnoma*) and those of the Mexican Screech Owl (*Otus a. cineraceus*). The photo herewith shows their relative sizes very nicely.



EGGS OF PIGMY OWL (TO LEFT), FLAMMULATED SCREECH OWL (MIDDLE), AND MEXICAN SCREECH OWL (TO RIGHT), SHOWING RELATIVE SIZES

My scanty acquaintance with this owl scarcely justifies any general conclusions. However, it appears more easily aroused and frightened from its nests than the Pigmy Owl, but less easily than the Mexican Screech Owl.

Altho I have camped where these owls were located I have never heard their cry at night, unless it is the counterpart of that of *G. gnoma*, which I have heard and found in the same localities. I hope this year's introduction will make it less difficult for me to secure further notes on this species.

*Tombstone, Arizona.*

## A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM FORTY-MILE, YUKON TERRITORY, CANADA

By JOSEPH GRINNELL.

THE Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California contains a collection of bird-skins which were obtained in Alaska and Yukon Territory by Chas. L. Hall during the period from 1894 to 1901, inclusive. During the last three years of this time Mr. Hall was in charge of the Alaska Commercial Company's store at Forty-mile, Yukon Territory, and occupied his leisure