

FIRST SPECIMEN OF BAIRD'S SANDPIPER COLLECTED IN THE EAST

Meantime my own collection of local birds was growing apace, and it was about this time (August 27, 1870) that I took a specimen of Baird's Sandpiper on Long Island, Boston Harbor, the first ever known to occur east of the Mississippi. This specimen proved something of a puzzle to Brewster and myself, and eventually led us to the Agassiz Museum and to J. A. Allen, then Curator of its bird and mammal collection. He very soon verified our identification, and we speedily came to know him very well. If I mistake not he was then at work on his "Mammals and Birds of East Florida", an epoch-making book, which appeared in the following April. Subsequently, at the request of Dr. Coues, I sent the sandpiper to Washington for examination, and in this way, perhaps, became known, by name at least, to Professor Baird, Dr. Coues, and Mr. Ridgway.

ACQUAINTANCE WITH DOCTOR T. M. BREWER

It must have been about this time, too, that I became acquainted with Doctor Brewer, then well-known in Boston as a publisher and book dealer. Though possessing a somewhat peppery disposition, he was a most kind and courteous gentleman, and was particularly fond of young people, and ever ready to lend a helping hand or speak a word of cheer to the aspiring young ornithologist. He came to my house to see some of my treasures, particularly a set of Sharp-tailed finch's eggs taken in Cambridge on the Charles River marshes, and more than once invited Brewster and myself to his house where we examined with pleasure his large collection of eggs. This he willed to the Agassiz Museum.

It was somewhat later than this—I do not recall the exact year—that through him I was offered the position, then vacant, of Secretary of the Boston Society of Natural History. This I declined, not liking the confinement of an indoor position.

In my mind Dr. Brewer was the living link connecting Audubon with our own times, and he often spoke of the pioneer ornithologist and of his acquaintance with him. Dr. Brewer knew Professor Baird intimately, and it was, perhaps, largely through him that I became known in Washington as a "promising young bird collector". Later, when I became attached to the Wheeler Survey, he always called at my office when visiting Washington and examined with great interest my bird and egg collections from the west. He died in 1880.

(To be continued)

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Correction of Impression.—I have found that at least one person regards the last paragraph of my "Trinomials and Current Practice" Communication in the last CONDOR (xxi, 1919, p. 92), in which I deplore the attitude of certain "quasi-ornithologists", as embodying my personal opinion of Mr. P. A. Taverner. As one has thought this, others undoubtedly will; but such a possibility never entered my head. I have the greatest respect for Mr. Taverner as a man and as an ornithologist, and would not dream of trying to belittle him. I added the last paragraph merely to condense two of my ideas into one communication, and meant exactly what I tried to imply—that I have no patience with those who give all their time and attention to eggs, butterflies or big-game hunting, and yet indulge in a mighty outburst of lamentation whenever a new bird is described.—A. B. HOWELL, *Covina, California, April 21, 1919.*

Notes on Some Catalina Island Birds.—On reviewing Mr. A. B. Howell's paper, "Birds of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California", in connection with observa-