

NESTING OF THE COOPER'S HAWK.

BY W. L. MARIS.

After a long and tedious search for eggs in one of our largest Chester County woods, and almost despairing of finding anything worth while to carry home, I was suddenly startled by a loud, hoarse cry coming from above the tree-tops. A glance in the direction of the sound at once revealed to me its author, a female Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter Cooperi*) swiftly circling around.

The uneasiness of the bird, and its cries, which soon attracted its mate, of course had some meaning to an Oologist, and a few minutes search in the direction from which came the sudden sounds, soon showed me a nest in a tall, slender tree. Without any parleying with the birds, which continued circling around, as to my right to so intrude upon their home, I immediately began the ascent. Soon, at the height of about thirty-five feet, I stood upon the first branch below the nest and looked down upon my first set of five eggs, of this, our most common "Chicken Hawk." Nothing handsome, to be sure, being simply a pale bluish-white, with one spotted a little at the larger end; but doubly prized, since they added another to the list of species whose eggs I have myself collected.

As I examined the nest and wrapped the eggs in cotton, preparatory to descending, the birds, which had up to that time watched me very closely, were now nowhere to be seen and did not appear again until I had left the immediate vicinity. The nest was somewhat bulky, seemingly a last years Crow's, with a few additions. It was placed in the forks of four branches, and composed of twigs and hay, and lined with several rough pieces of bark.

The statement made by Langille, that this bird builds "always very high," was not sustained in the present case, as the nest was not above thirty-five feet from the ground. The eggs, which lie before me, measure respectively 1.86x1.61; 1.88x1.56; 1.89x1.50; 1.88x1.54; 1.81x1.56 inches.