

and the head came to the surface and I soon got another "jab" in the hand. I grabbed the neck again and pushed it under water, and began to investigate the cause of his living under water. I noticed that the broken bone was projecting above the water, and from the sound made by the air passing in and out soon discovered why he did not drown. In fact, the bird was breathing through the broken bone and would not drown in that position. To satisfy myself that it was really air issuing from the broken bone, I held it under water and bubbles of air came from it.

He was finally killed by breaking the bone of the neck, and proved to be a fine, adult male, in full plumage, measuring 5 ft. 6 in. from tip of beak to tip of toes, with an extent about the same.

THE CHEWINK; TOWHEE.

Pipilo Erythrophthalmus.

BY LYNDS JONES, GRINNELL, IOWA.

I cannot recollect when the characteristic note of Chewink did not form a part of our woodland orchestra. Long before any nest had been taken, I had listened to his anxious "chewink" or "towhee" uttered from the underbrush or ground, and his well-known song as he was perched upon the topmost twig of some convenient tree, wishing that he were as lavish of his nest as his song.

I had searched hours for the nest to no purpose, often flushing the mother bird, again and again; but the nest was too closely hidden. At last I stumbled on to one, high up in a bush; this was the first of several taken that season, and all in bushes. I congratulated myself that I had found an exception to the books; but I afterwards found many more on the ground than in bushes. I also learned that the bird is not partial to underbrush; but as often nests in the open woods among the leaves, or in neglected fields, or even in the corn-fields.

One might reasonably expect that such diverse positions must cause corresponding differences in nest structure. The chief difference was that sticks were used in the composition of the nests in bushes, and none in those on the ground. Dry leaves and grass are liberally

used in both positions, and skeleton leaves and the inner bark of the American linden usually make up the lining. Nests placed on the ground are often sunk into it a half or more of their depth. I do not find them "at the roots of trees, in thickets of brush or in bunches of grass:" nor have I ever seen one arched over; but nearly all are in some open spot and no more arched over than is a Robin's nest.

The three to five eggs vary not a little in shape and color. No. 1 of the two sets before me average .95x.70. Three eggs are grayish-white and rather heavily marked with bold blotches of burnt carmine over the entire egg; the blotches larger and more pronounced near the large end, but not on it. Beneath these, and arranged in like manner, are numerous ill defined blotches of lavender, which with the burnt carmine, form a decided ring around the large end. The fourth egg is quite pointed and a little larger, .96x.72, while the three described above are a gentle oval, nearly equal ended; and this one is marked in very fine pattern with a more marked wreath.

Set No. 2 approaches the other extreme. The whole set of four average .92x.72; two eggs .90x.70, two .94x.74. These are grayish-white, with lavender shell markings overlaid with cinnamon-rufous in fine pattern and quite evenly distributed over the entire egg. Ill defined blotches of a neutral shade appear here and there on the surface, and a slightly heavier shade of all markings may be seen near the large end; but everywhere they are so heavy as to almost hide the primary color.

Chewink's nest is often the receptacle of eggs of the Cowbird. It is especially favorable since the eggs of the two species are so similar in markings and so nearly equal in size. I once found a nest of Chewink in which were three eggs of Cowbird and one of Chewink; as the eggs were fresh I destroyed two of the Cowbird's eggs and thus secured a set of three Chewink's with only one Cowbird's, for Chewink then went on laying.

He arrives from the south about the last of March or first of April; the van guard reaches us as early as March 20, followed a week or two later by the bulk. He usually leaves us by October 10. Nests may be found from the first of May to the middle of June.