

upon by a hostile band of Ute Indians. Some of the party escaped, while not a few were forced to suffer death by the hands of their foes. Independence Mt. still stands in bold relief against a cold sky and cattle graze in the valley below.

The Indian has fled before the onward stride of civilization, but the work of that courageous little band of miners still stands to show what once happened. The dark traces of the life blood of some victim still clings to the walls. The sluices have grown wide and deep from the swelling torrents of spring rain. A few old Silver-tipped Range Bears and Mountain Lions make the laws to suit themselves, while the Golden Eagle soars high above the mountain crest, and rests and plumes himself on some points that hold snow and ice ten months in the year and secures his living by capturing rabbits, grouse and prairie dogs.

Seated at my desk, I can look up and see a rock that holds the eyrie of an eagle. A little farther on around the bend is another. Near the old 7L. horse ranch is a nest that has been used for many years, and is seldom seen, except by cowboys in the spring round-up. On Maynard Flats there are nests which have been abandoned years since on account of being nearly on the ground. The sticks of one of these nests would be sufficient to load an ordinary farm wagon, or enough fuel to last some needy family a week.

THE NIDIFICATION OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

BY W. RAINE, TORONTO, CANADA.

There are upwards of fifty species of Eagles at present known; but only two species are residents of North America, the Golden Eagle and the Bald Eagle. The latter only inhabits North America; but the Golden Eagle is cosmopolitan, being found in the mountainous regions of Europe, Africa, Asia and America. In America the Golden Eagle is most numerous among the mountains of California and British Columbia, and is also known to breed in Pennsylvania, New York, New England and Quebec.

Although I was never fortunate enough to take a clutch of the eggs of this noble bird from the nest, still I have a large series of

thirty eggs, collected in California and Asia Minor, and I hope the following extracts taken from letters sent me by my Asia Minor collector will prove interesting to my readers.

The Golden Eagle is abundant amongst the mountainous regions of Asia Minor, and, as they are never disturbed, they do not always make their eyries in the most inaccessible crags, near the mountain top, but sometimes have their nests in comparitably low cliffs, usually selecting a ledge of rock which commands an extensive view over the plains below. Their nests are made of sticks, sods, bones, feathers, etc. ; a massive structure, and as the eagle returns every year to the old nest and repairs and adds to it, it sometimes is so large that it would fill a cart. They often select a ledge of rock near the nest for their larder, and here the parent eagles store up food which they bring from the plains below.

Early in March my collector set out with two Turks, all three mounted on mules, taking along with them ropes, an iron crowbar and provisions for a fortnight sojourn among the mountains, as they intended visiting the haunts of the eagles and vultures. After travelling all day they reached the foot of the precipice and pitched their tent for the night. Early next morning they began to look out for eagles, and seeing a pair soaring over a crag, a mile off, they hastened thither and found the nest in the cliff, half way up. One of the Turks, a young man as nimble as a goat, scaled the cliff from below and reached the nest and two eggs, which he brought to *terra firma* in safety.

These two eggs are now before me ; they are a handsome clutch, ground color greyish-white, finely speckled all over with rusty brown, towards the smaller end are large patches of lilac grey and upon these are blotches of rich sienna and dark blotches of vandyke brown. Size 3.20x2.50 ; 2.95x2.38. The same day my collector and his Turkish friends took two more clutches and several of the Egyptian Vulture.

Next day they ascended to the top of a precipice, a few miles away, and began fixing their ropes to the crowbar, which was stuck in the ground near the top of the cliff. They descended, on several occasions securing several clutches of the Golden Eagle and Vulture, but this process is daring and dangerous, for if the rope breaks or slips the climber runs great risks of being mangled upon the rocks at the base of the cliffs.

The Golden Eagles' nests are never close together, a mile or two of cliff separates one nest from another; but the nests of Egyptian Vultures are found close together, one crag containing as many as nine nests. For several days my collector visited all the cliffs within ten miles of their camp, and then they went further back in the mountains amongst the higher peaks. Here they secured several clutches of Golden Eagle and three of the Lemmergeyer or Bearded Vulture. This bird inhabits the highest and wildest mountain crags. It rivals the Condor of the Andes in size; its expanded wings measure 12 feet. Its nest is like that of the Golden Eagle, and its eggs, two in number, are similar in color to those of the Eagle, whitish in ground color; but heavily splashed and blotched with shades of brown. The eggs are large, averaging 4x3 inches.

After spending nearly two weeks among the mountain crags, my collector and his assistants returned home with their spoils, and the specimens were in due time forwarded to me, and an open drawer now before me contains the following eggs collected during their expedition: 30 eggs of Golden Eagle, 4 Imperial Eagles, 45 Egyptian Vultures, 4 Griffon Vultures, 6 Lemmergeyers, beside several clutches of Falcons, Hawks and Buzzard. The following are the sizes of eggs selected from thirty specimens: Two of the largest specimens measure 3.20x2.50 and 3.20x2.38; two of the roundest eggs measure 2.95x2.37 and 3.00x2.38; two of the smallest measuring 2.80x2.30 and 2.85x2.20.

Out of this series two clutches contain three eggs each; the rest of the nests contained only two eggs, which appears to be the regular number. The ground color of the egg is greyish-white and the markings vary to a great extent. One clutch is richly blotched with lilac at the smaller ends, this color covering the entire ends of the eggs. Another clutch is heavily spotted and blotched with rusty brown and neutral tint at the thick end of the egg. All the eggs are more or less mottled and spotted with lilac-grey under shell markings, on the top of which are spots and blotches of different shades of brown. One of the thirty eggs is white, unspotted like a Bald Eagle's. The eggs of the Golden Eagle average larger than those of the Bald species.

In California the Golden Eagle usually nests in trees. The nests are very bulky, composed of large sticks, the top cushioned

with straw, leaves and grass. The eggs are often difficult to reach as the nest is from four to five feet in diameter and overhangs to such an extent that it is no easy matter for one who is clinging to the tree-top to put his hand over the nest to reach the eggs. The only way left is to break away part of the nest, and this is so strongly built that the collector is nearly exhausted before he feels his hand touching the eggs.

A set of two eggs collected in California March 20, 1888, are white in ground color, spotted and sprinkled all over with rusty brown, and under shell marking of lavender grey. Size 2.88x2.25 and 2.90x2.20.

Eagles are destructive but not cruel birds, for although they deprive many birds and beasts of their lives, they effect this purpose with a single blow, sweeping down upon the doomed creature and striking it so fiercely with the death-dealing talons that the victim is instantaneously killed with the shock. The Eagle never uses its beak for the purpose of killing its prey. Instances have been known when the Eagle has seized and attacked human beings. A few years ago one attacked a traveler on a lonely mountain road in Germany, but he seized the bird by the neck and strangled it, not before it had done considerable damage to his clothes, legs and arms. Prof. Wilson tells a touching story of a Golden Eagle descending and carrying off an infant, whose mother had laid it beside a haycock while she was working in the harvest field close by. The eagle was traced to its eyrie in the precipice, some distance off, and the poor mother, blind to all danger in her efforts to recover her babe, safely scaled the precipice, high up in which the nest was placed; though no man, however skillful a cragsman, had ever dared attempt the ascent. Here the mother found her child alive and unhurt, and clasping it to her arms, she descended again—a more perilous feat still; reached the ground in safety and then swooned away.

The Golden Eagle is fond of fish. One in Scotland was found drowned, attached to a large pike; it had pounced upon the fish and being unable to extricate itself was drawn under and drowned.

The Eagle is long-lived like the Raven; one lived in captivity at Vienna to over one hundred years old. This species is monogamous, keeping themselves to a single mate, living together in perfect harmony through their lives. Should, however, one get

killed, the survivor soon finds a new mate and returns with it to the old haunts. The females are always larger than the males.

The Golden Eagle does not nest in this part of Canada, but breeds in the neighborhood of Quebec. Several have been killed here in this district and one was captured on the river Humber, four miles west of the city of Toronto. It lived in confinement some time. The color of this bird is rich blackish-brown on the greater part of the body, the head and neck being covered with feathers of a rich golden-red, which gives the bird its name. The legs and thighs are greyish-brown, the tail dark grey, with dark bars across it. The cere and feet are yellow; legs feathered down to the toes. In its immature plumage the Golden Eagle has a different aspect and formerly puzzled many naturalists, who took it to be a separate species. Its color is reddish-brown, legs and sides of the thighs nearly white and the tail white for the first three-quarters of its length. The length of an adult female is 3 feet, 6 inches, and expanse of her wings is 9 feet.

