

NESTING OF THE AM. LONG-EARED OWL IN
MILWAUKEE CO., WIS.

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This Owl is a quite common resident of southern Wisconsin, but, like the rest of its family, is rarely observed. on account of its retiring habits.

On April 15, 1890, while on a collecting trip near Milwaukee, Wis., I made my first acquaintance with the nesting of this bird. The nest was situated in a small tamarack tree in a dense tamarack swamp, and was undoubtedly the former property of crows, several pairs of which were nesting within a few yards of the place.

When the nest was discovered the owl was sitting upon it in plain sight, and had it not been for this fact, the nest would probably have been passed by for a crow's. The owl did not leave the nest until I was half way up the tree (the nest was about 35 feet from the ground), then she flew off and glided away with noiseless flight.

The nest contained five dirty-white eggs, deposited upon a scanty lining of feathers from the owl's breast. The eggs were so badly soiled and discolored that the original color, a pure white, was hardly discoverable.

The owl (only one of the pair was noticed) stayed near during the robbing of her home, now and then flitting from tree to tree and uttering a chicking sound.

On blowing, the eggs were found to be badly incubated, but the contents were successfully removed. The dimensions of the set, which is still in my possession, are as follows: 1.62 x 1.28, 1.67 x 1.24, 1.61 x 1.30, 1.58 x 1.31, 1.63 x 1.31.

From the statement that the owl and crows breed in such close proximity it might be inferred that the two species were on friendly terms. Such, however, does not seem to be the case. Before leaving the swamp I observed a number of crows attacking and driving before them an owl of this species.

In this same swamp and on this same day, I took a set of three eggs of Red-tailed Hawk.