

up of eighty-one pieces. The dry box-elder pedicels measured ten feet and the live ones two feet and contained twenty-two pairs of seeds. So the total number of pieces in the nest was one hundred and twenty, and the total length of these pieces was thirty-eight feet. In addition to these there were eleven crab-apple leaves, ten of choke-cherry and fifty-three of box-elder, making a total of seventy-four and a grand total of one hundred and ninety-four pieces, which the bird had brought together for the nest; and it was not such a remarkable nest either. There was nothing in the construction of this nest that might not have been procured within fifty feet of the tree upon which it was built.

Although it is not always possible to tell just what each piece in a bird's nest is from, it usually is, particularly if one has studied the botany of the locality somewhat.—VIRGINIUS H CHASE, *Wady Petra*, III.

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM MINNESOTA.—EGGS OF LE CONTE'S SPARROW.—On June 18 I took a set of four eggs with nest of Le Conte's Sparrow in Otter Tail County, Minn. The nest was in a meadow near running water, in a clump of weeds, and was composed of weeds, lined with fine, dry, yellow grass. The female was sitting and the eggs were very slightly incubated. They were pinkish-brown, dotted and streaked with dark-brown and black, and measured as follows: .80 x .56, .80 x .54, .78 x .52 and .76 x .50.

AN ALBINO ENGLISH SPARROW.—While driving on a country road near St. Paul, on July 3, I saw an English Sparrow nearly all white, among a flock of twenty or thirty other Sparrows. The bird was white, or more of a cream color, speckled on the wings, breast and tail with brownish-black.

A LARGE SET OF CUCKOO.—Mr. Oliver V. Jones, of Minneapolis, took a set of eight Black-billed Cuckoo last May. The eggs were all of normal size and varied greatly in incubation as usual, and were undoubtedly laid by one bird, as a careful watch was kept to discover more than two birds. The eggs were piled up in the form of a pyramid to keep from rolling off.—WALTON I. MITCHELL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

NESTLING DOWN.—Mr. Howard P. Mitchell, who has in charge investigations relating to "Nestling Down," sends the following for publication:

On the 16th of May, 1894, I observed two young Horned Larks with nest-

ling down attached to the extremities of the feathers instead of to the skin, as I had supposed it to be. Finding nothing concerning this peculiarity in the bird books at my command, I corresponded with a few members of the Chapter, but got no light upon the subject until last March, when Mr. F. L. Burns, of Berwyn, Penn., wrote me the following: "In relation to Nestling Down, I can offer the following, which I quote from Brewster. 'Among the North American *Altrices* the young of most species are born with thin patches of delicate soft down, restricted mainly to the feathered tracts. Beneath this fluffy down the feathers are already forming; these soon appear bearing at their summits the little tufts of down that formed the down patches.' From the above good authority we learn that all young *reared in the nest* (with some exceptions) may be found in the condition you describe. I found it to occur in the following young, just after they had left the nest: Screech Owl, Cedar Waxwing, Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers, Oven bird, Wood Thrush, and probably other species which I do not recall." In addition to the species mentioned by Mr. Burns, I have noticed the following: Horned Lark, Maryland Yellow-throat, Robin, Bluebird, Chipping Sparrow, Great Horned Owl, Mockingbird and Red-eyed Vireo. I have made notes of but one species, the Hairy Woodpecker, that does not have the nestling down.

From the above it appears that, although most altricial birds have this peculiar nestling down, there are some which have not. It is our object to ascertain what species are exceptions. While studying the other branches of our work, let us take note of the dress of the young while yet in the nest. - H. P. MITCHELL, *Bear, Ark.*

THE RECENT OCCURRENCE OF THE TURKEY VULTURE AND BALD EAGLE IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS. - Two rather unexpected records of more than ordinary interest, and of rare occurrence for this section, fell to the lot of the writer the past spring, both being made, rather oddly enough, on board train, or while enroute from Chicago to my home, at Glen Ellyn. At 10:15 A. M. on April 1, while nearing Sacramento Avenue, two and one-half miles from the business center of Chicago, the train came up with three large black birds flying on our right. Their manner of flight, nearly stationary on this occasion, as they headed against a strong southerly wind then blowing, gave me a favorable opportunity of identifying them at once as straggling representatives of *Cathartes aura*, the naked red of their heads being plainly discoverable as the train drew closer. However, the noise and motion of the cars evidently changed their plans