

OOLOGY.

NOTE ON THE NESTING OF THE NORTHERN RAVEN (*Corvus corax principalis*) IN CANADA.

By J. F. WHITEAVES.

The Museum of the Geological Survey has recently acquired a full and perfect clutch, of five eggs, of the Northern Raven, from Mr. R. W. Tufts, of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, who took them, on the 22nd of March last, from a nest in the Gaspereau Valley. The label accompanying these eggs states that the nest from which they were taken and which was not disturbed, is placed in a "large hemlock about fifty feet from the ground," that it is "composed of sticks and lined with wool and coarse grass stems," that it had been "repaired year after year," and that the five eggs were "one-third incubated" when taken. These eggs are unusually small for the species, an average one measuring 48.5 x 32.5 mm. Evidently, Mr. Tufts writes, they were laid by old birds, which may account for the small size of the eggs. The nesting place, he adds, has been occupied for a number of years, and there is a large accumulation of material there. Prior to the receipt of this clutch, there were, in the same Museum, seven eggs of the Northern Raven, two from Nova Scotia and five from the Mackenzie River District, but no complete and perfect set. The two from Nova Scotia are two-fifths of a clutch of five eggs taken at Truro, in 1897, by or for Colonel T. J. Egan, of Halifax, three of which were broken. The two remaining are unusually large, one of them measuring 54 x 34.5 mm. The other five were brought to the Museum by Mr. J. W. Tyrrell, and are labelled "Raven's eggs, found on Artillery Lake, May 24th, 1900, by C. Fairchild." Artillery Lake, it may be mentioned, is north-east of Great Slave Lake, and Mr. Fairchild was Mr. Tyrrell's assistant in his explorations of the Barren Grounds between Great Slave Lake and Hudson Bay. Three of these eggs were, unfortunately, slightly damaged in transit. All of them are end-blown, and it is not stated whether they are from the same nest or not. By their coloration they could quite easily be separated into two sets, one of two eggs and the other of three. An average one measures 51 x 35 mm.

Ottawa, May 19, 1902.



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