

find that mice had destroyed the nest, which I had left at the upper ranch.

The eggs were of a whitish ground color, very minutely spotted with pink or pale red chiefly at the larger end where they formed an indistinct band round the greatest width of the egg.

The locality where I found this nest is about twenty-two miles west of the town of Springerville, and at an altitude of about 8500 to 9000 feet above sea-level, just about where the pines (*Pinus ponderosa*) end and the spruces begin. This species is always to be found among the spruces high up in the White Mountains in summer, but I have never been able to find another nest although I have searched long and diligently several seasons.—JOHN SWINBURNE, *St. Johns, Apache Co., Arizona.*

**Myadestes townsendii Wintering in Montana.**—Not having seen a copy of 'The Auk' for April, 1889, till several months after publication, the following note on *Myadestes* in answer to a query by Mr. Frank Bond is somewhat delayed. The birds are found in Montana north at least to latitude 47°, during our coldest winters. They are not at all common, however, and are decidedly sluggish during cold spells. I have seen a bird sit motionless for hours near the extremity of a dead pine limb, with body and tail almost horizontal, the thermometer at the time scarcely marking above zero Fahr. in the middle of the day. They are very silent in winter, not even uttering their call notes, that I have observed, but these permanent residents begin their song early in spring, long before the snows have melted from the mountains, or any of their companions from the south have arrived. The song is loud, varied, and Thrush-like, and is uttered as they mount rapidly upward in short zigzag flights to a height far above the pines. I have never observed the birds to remain long at any one elevation while singing, nor have I ever heard anything but their call notes when perched.—R. S. WILLIAMS, *Great Falls, Montana.*

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

JOHN G. BELL, the venerable naturalist-taxidermist, died at his home at Sparkhill, Rockland County, New York, in October, 1889, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. A pioneer in the art of taxidermy, he was for many years a leader in this auxiliary branch of zoölogy, and his laboratory in New-York City was well known to almost every zoölogist of his day. The friend and associate of Audubon, Baird, Cassin, Giraud, LeConte, he rendered to them all valuable assistance in procuring and preparing natural



history specimens. The names given in his honor to Bell's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, and Bell's Warbler, mark the esteem in which he was held by these eminent naturalists. As an aid and collector he accompanied Audubon on the famous journey to the Upper Missouri, securing with his own hands a large proportion of the new species described by Audubon as the result of this expedition.

Mr. Bell's tastes led him into the field and work-room rather than the study, but he freely gave to others the results of his experience, and the pages of our earlier works attest the keenness of his observation. Five years before his death he retired from active business in New York, and the remaining years of his life were passed at his home at Sparkhill. Here he erected a small building, placing in it the material then on his hands, amounting to several thousand specimens of birds and mammals. He was never again actively engaged in taxidermal work, though frequently sought for by his older patrons to preserve some pet or trophy of the chase. Being thus isolated from persons of kindred tastes he gave a warm welcome to visiting naturalists, and his eager enthusiasm on these occasions, when recounting early adventures in the field, testified alike to the charm of his presence and the undying character of an inborn love of nature.—F. M. C.

THE EXHIBITION OF SPECIMENS of Horned Larks, and of Thrushes of the *Turdus aliciae-bicknelli* group, proved an interesting feature of the late Congress of the A. O. U. Of the latter the number of specimens was small, but afforded fair material for the illustration of the relationship of these closely allied and not generally well understood forms. The Horned Larks thus brought together numbered over 1200 specimens. It was of course impracticable to attempt any elaboration of this material under the circumstances attending its display to the Union. The various forms as now recognized were pointed out and their affinities explained by Mr. Ridgway. In order to utilize this important material to the fullest extent practicable, the Committee of Arrangements, under whose auspices it was brought together, turned it over to Mr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., for study, and to report upon in a special paper to be printed in 'The Auk.' Mr. Dwight, having entered at once upon the work, finds that the material adds much to our knowledge of the forms of this perplexing group, and throws much new light upon their character and geographical distribution. He finds the material from the region west of the Rocky Mountains, however, too scanty to enable him to reach wholly satisfactory conclusions respecting some of the Pacific Coast and Southwest forms, and solicits the loan of additional specimens from any part of this area for use in completing his monograph. Packages may be addressed to him, care American Museum Natural History, 77th St. and 8th Ave., New York City. A prompt response is desired. The specimens will be returned as soon as practicable, labelled with his identifications.

THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS for the Eighth Congress of the A. O. U., to be held next year in Washington, has been requested by a



vote of the Union to provide facilities for the exhibition of stereopticon views of birds and bird life from such slides as may be furnished by members; also to solicit, by a circular letter, from ornithologists and photographers, the loan of photographs of living birds and other animals for exhibition at the next meeting, and also the submission of communications detailing their personal experience in making photographs of living animals, and in their reproduction for purposes of illustration. Much interest was manifested by several members who spoke to the resolution, in the subject of the photography of birds from life, and its utility as an aid to the correct representation of birds when in action or at rest in a state of nature.

DR. EDGAR A. MEARNs, Capt. Med. Dept. U. S. A., now stationed at Fort Snelling, Minn., is spending several months at the American Museum of Natural History, working up his large natural history collections made during several years of field work in Arizona, principally in the vicinity of Fort Verde. These collections include, besides birds and mammals, a large collection of plants, ethnological material, and many reptiles. The birds alone number about 3500 skins and 1000 eggs, and the mammals about 600 specimens. Nearly all of this material he has very generously presented to the American Museum, besides many birds and eggs from other parts of North America and elsewhere, including about 1000 bird skins and about 1800 eggs from Arctic Europe. A list of his Arizona plants, including many new species, has already been published by Dr. N. C. Britton of Columbia College. Dr. Mearns hopes to have his preliminary report on the birds and mammals soon ready for publication.

Besides Dr. Mearns, and in addition to the Curator of Ornithology and his Assistant, there are now engaged in bird work at the Museum Mr. D. G. Elliot, Mr. George B. Sennett, Mr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., and Mr. E. E. Thompson.

AMONG the recent important accessions received at the American Museum of Natural History is the valuable oölogical collection made by the late Mr. Snowdon Howland, of Newport, R. I. This is one of the richest and most carefully selected collections of North American birds' eggs ever brought together by a private collector, numbering nearly 1000 clutches. The Museum is indebted for this valuable gift to Mr. Howland's brother and executor, Clarence King, Esq., of New York, to whom Mr. Howland entrusted the final disposition of his collection.

WE ARE informed that the third edition of three thousand copies of Davie's 'Nests and Eggs of North American Birds' which was published in June, 1889, and reviewed in the last number of this journal, is entirely exhausted. In order to meet the constant demand for the work a fourth edition of one thousand copies has been issued from the same plates as the third, and when this is disposed of it will be followed by a fifth edition completely revised and augmented.



1890. "Notes and News." *The Auk* 7, 98–100. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067102>.

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