

Thinking the birds might have selected the place for their nesting I visited it several times, usually finding at least one of the birds about, and sometimes getting within arm's length of both of them. On June 23, just after a blustering snowstorm, I went to the place and found the upper part of the knot-hole drifted in with snow, and the birds absent. Cutting open the hole, which had evidently been enlarged somewhat by one of the smaller Woodpeckers, and was about ten inches deep, there lay six eggs on a thin matting of rabbit's hair. The eggs are white, all distinctly marked with pale reddish brown spots, quite numerous and more or less confluent about the larger end, and gradually diminishing in numbers toward the smaller. The largest egg measures 17.5×12 mm., the smallest $16. \times 12$ mm. On comparison with four eggs of *P. atricapillus septentrionalis*, obtained on the North Fork of the Mussel-shell River, they prove considerably more elongated, with slightly rounder ends and larger, much paler, spots. The largest egg of the last-mentioned bird is 16.5×12.5 mm., the smallest 15.5×12.5 mm. — R. S. WILLIAMS, *Great Falls, Montana*.

What Birds indicate Proximity to Water, and at what Distance? — Mr. William Lloyd, in his explorations in the arid region of Western Texas, has made some highly important observations, the results of which cannot fail to be of the utmost value to travellers on our southwestern plains, where water is scarce and difficult to find. Mr. Lloyd writes: "During the past summer, I have been investigating an important question which occurred to me about four years ago, namely, What birds indicate the presence of water in their neighborhood? Of course any statement on the subject should be proved by a number of facts, based on experiments in different localities. Three times this summer I have camped from simply seeing certain birds, and on hunting for water have found it in each case. As certainties I can give the following species, with the greatest distance at which each occurs from water.

Cardinal	1 mile.
Warblers (including Chat)	1 mile.
Vireos	2 miles.
Mockingbirds	$2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
Blue Grosbeak	" "
Orchard Oriole	3 miles.
Bullock's Oriole.	3 miles.
Nonpareil	3 miles.
Carolina Dove	3 to 5 miles.
Black-capped Titmouse.	4 miles.
Texas Cardinal.	6 miles.

This only applies to summer, and will not hold in winter or during migrations. I have been constructing this list since the summer of 1883; and also have particularly noted what birds drank, and how often, in Dec.-Jan., 1884-1885; Nov.-Dec., 1885; and Jan., 1886." — C. HART MERRIAM, *Washington, D. C.*



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