

GENERAL NOTES.

Large Number of Cowbird's Eggs in an
Oven Bird's Nest.

Some years ago I found an Oven Bird's nest containing eight Cowbird's eggs and only one of the owner.

THOS. MIKESELL.

Wauseon, Ohio.

American Goshawk in Kent County.

About December 1st, 1897, an American Goshawk was taken in this vicinity by Mr. Al. Holcomb. Its stomach contained portions of a Ruffed Grouse.

W. EARLE MULLIKEN.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Additions to the Avifauna of Kalamazoo
County, Michigan.

Those collectors and observers of our birds who were readers of the columns of that worthy sheet, the *Ornithologist and Oologist* of 1885, will remember a list of birds of Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The list filled the year in its completion and occupied forty columns. It was a very fair list of the birds of our county and the result of the combined efforts of a number of enthusiastic observers. There were embraced in the list of 1885, two hundred and thirty species of birds. Of these, sixteen species have been proven to be permanent residents, thirty-two species half hardy, or those which sometimes remain during the winter, and twenty species which may be termed winter residents, embracing both occasional and quite regular species. The remaining species of the list come and go in spring and autumn.

Since the compilation of the list of 1885, we have, by our combined efforts, added nine species (all migrants) to the records as follows: Double crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax dilophus* (Swain.), three specimens taken in fall, others seen. Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura* (Linn.), not known here till 1887, now abundant. We have seen flocks of eighteen and twenty seven. Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos* (Linn.). A fine specimen shot by Benj. F. Syke of Kalamazoo. Yellow Rail, *Porzana noveboracensis* (Gmel.). One specimen secured in the autumn by Wm. O'Byrne of Kalamazoo. Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax mexicus* (Bodd.). One shot. Said to be common in next county south of us. Barn Owl, *Strix pratensis Bonap.* One shot by Benj. F. Syke. Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus* (Linn.). One of these wanderers secured by Edward Arnold, of Battle Creek, in the southern part of our county. Kirtland's Warbler, *Dendroica kirtlandi Baird.* One secured by Mr. F. H. Chapin, which makes the fourth for this State. Orange-crowned Warbler, *Helminthophila celata* (Say). Mr. Chapin secured one specimen.

These birds are nearly all of the rarer species of the State list, and there are many which are abundant in other sections which will be found here if search is carefully followed, for it is reasonable to suppose that several species from the prairies of the Southwest have entered this section. In all probability the complete list of the birds of this county will be found to embrace two hundred and eighty species or more, while there is no positive proof that any species is now extinct within our boundaries, although the Passenger Pigeon, Raven and Wild Turkey are now but rarely seen.

MORRIS GIBBS.

Kalamazoo.

Bachmann's Sparrow in Southern
Ohio.

On April 23rd, 1897, while yet residing at South Webster, Ohio, I went out with a young friend to shoot a few squirrels, which had been seriously robbing the fields in the neighborhood and had become a nuisance. While traveling over the rough hills, deserted ore banks and upland pastures, I was as usual on the look-out for birds. The day was a delightful one, and rather warm for an April day. Plenty of our winter visitors—above all, White throated Sparrows—were still loitering in the rough Southern Ohio hills, while the many spring migrants were on their journey northward. It was especially a "warbler day." Palm, Sycamore, Black and White, Black throated Green, and Cerulean Warblers were all present, some represented only by one or two individuals, others by a dozen or more. Among the most numerous and conspicuous were the Myrtle Warblers with their charming chant, which no words could express better than the word "warble." Soon all intentions of hunting squirrels were forgotten in the observation of bird life. Proceeding on our march we passed, on a hillside, an old deserted field covered with weeds. Through the midst of it ran a little brook bordered by brush, weeds and a few solitary trees. The field itself was bordered on one side by a small patch of timber, consisting of elm, hickory and black and white oaks, with rank undergrowth—the winter abode of Cardinals and Fox, Tree and White throated Sparrows. From out of this undergrowth we heard a peculiar song amidst the gay spring concert, but in spite of faithful watching we did not succeed in catching a glimpse of the bird. We went on for a lengthy stroll, and when returning after a few hours, during which time we had the pleasure of greeting a Lark Sparrow quite rare in these Southern Ohio hills, though on the increase in 1897; pouring forth its sweet song from the top of a young persimmon, we, upon again nearing this place, heard the same tones once more. We were yet a considerable distance from the ticket, when suddenly a little bird flew out of it into the utmost top of a small tree near the little brook and delivered a rich, thrilling song, which abruptly ended with a few lower tones. The song was exceedingly loud for the size of the bird, and as I had never heard it before, I listened eagerly for a while, finally though, when the bird attempted to fly, I raised the gun and fired. I succeeded in getting the bird, but the rough shot tore it to such an extent, that it was impossible to prepare it for a specimen. The yellow edge of the wing and the peculiar appearance of the bird in general, immediately attracted my attention. At home I identified it as a Bachmann's Sparrow. To make sure this identification I kept the body and secured a fine skin of this species from Mr. Chas. K. Worthen, (June 5, 1896, Charleston, S. C.) Laying skin and body side by side they proved to be exactly alike. On May 6th, 1897, I was at the same locality again. I heard the song frequently, but the birds would not leave the brush. With the aid of a good field glass I was able to watch one pair for only a short time (45 minutes) during a wait of two hours, as they were exceedingly shy and approach almost impossible. These were the last I have seen. Never before nor after this did I see or hear them. Whether they migrated or what became of them I know not! Recently I have secured a copy of Dr. Wheaton's "Birds of Ohio," and found that Bachmann's Sparrow had never been seen nor recorded in Ohio before this. The remnants of the one I had shot, I had thrown away, not knowing then the full importance of my discovery. Next spring I shall make an extra trip to Sciota County (South