

is each year becoming higher, showing how great is the demand and how profitable the traffic is to these men-milliners.

[ERRATA.—The first two papers of this series were published without the author being able to revise the proofs. He now sends the following list of errata :

Page 138,	line 24	for Boya Sieya	read Boga Siega.
" 138,	" 28	" Lechvallier	" Lechevallier.
" 213,	"	" Nyakka	" Myiakka.
" 215,	" 6	" Rossa	" Rassa.
" 216,	lines 7, 24, 40	for Rossa	" "
" 221,	" 17, 20, 23, 25, 29, 35	for Rossa	" "
" 221,	" 29	for we	" he.
" 221,	" 27	" Myakka	" Myiakka.
" 222,	" 6	" "	" "

Also in the Paper entitled 'Some Rare Florida Birds,' Punta *Rossa* on pages 133 and 134 should read Punta *Rassa*.—EDD.]

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## THE PINE FINCH (*SPINUS PINUS*) BREEDING AT CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

ON April 20, 1887, I went to Cornwall-on-Hudson, Orange Co., N. Y., where I remained till May 12, making my home at the residence of Mr. Daniel Taft. The house is in the midst of a lawn of several acres in extent, well set with fruit and shade trees, overlooking the Hudson.

On the day of my arrival a small flock of Pine Finches, busily hunting food in the pines and spruces, attracted my attention, but as the season was late and the weather still cold it was not, of course, a noteworthy occurrence. They continued to haunt the vicinity for several days, when all disappeared except a single pair. On the morning of May 3, I was surprised to see one of the birds gathering material for a nest. She was easily traced to the lower branch of a Norway pine, scarcely thirty feet from the piazza, and almost within reach of a little summer house overrun with a wisteria vine. The site chosen for the nest was the extremity of the branch, about eight or ten feet from the ground, and well concealed. Several times the little builder carried material to the nest while I was sitting in the arbor, almost within reach of it. Although I afterward carefully kept away, the birds seemed not fully satisfied with the exposed situ-

ation, and after the second day I noticed that nothing seemed to be added to the structure, and my fears that they had abandoned it proved true. Still the birds were about, and the female was often observed with bits of nest-material in her bill. A little patient watching disclosed the fact that a new nesting-site had been chosen,—this time the extremity of an upper branch of a neighboring Norway pine, about thirty-five feet from the ground, and about the same distance from the much frequented piazza of the house. As it was on the side of the tree toward the house, and nearly on a level with the windows of my room, I had a fine opportunity of watching the industrious little architects, although the nest itself was completely hidden from view by the dense pine needles in which it was placed.

One of the birds, presumably the female, did all the work, but was escorted to and from the nest by the male, who further manifested his interest and joy by a profusion of Canary-like *twee-e-ts* and other peculiarly sweet and pleasing notes. Later the birds were more silent and much less frequently seen;—it was evident that incubation had begun. Here was certainly a prize, which, in view of all the circumstances, it seemed hardly right to ignore; for the nests and eggs of the Pine Finch are by no means easy to discover, are still rare in collections, and the breeding of the species so far south of its usual summer home a noteworthy event; yet it required no slight struggle with tender feelings to decide to break up the happy home, even in behalf of science, and of the museum whose ornithological interests I may be supposed to have deeply at heart.

On May 12 I enlisted the services of my young nephew, R. T. Swezey, who kindly ascended to the nest on a tour of observation, finding, as was anticipated, a full clutch and the female sitting. She remained on the nest till his hand touched the branch on which the nest rested, when she flew off with a great outcry and dashed frantically about for some seconds, passing and repassing within a few yards of the nest, uttering such plaintive notes of distress as to make the task of securing the prize indeed a sad one. The nest was placed at the base of a bunch of cones within a few inches of the extremity of the branch, and being thoroughly shielded on all sides by the strongly resisting, long, sharp needles, it was no easy matter to reach out to the nest and, inserting the hand, safely remove the coveted treasures. The four

eggs were, however, secured without accident, the nest was removed *in situ* by taking with it the supporting branch; the male joined his mate in her distress and both were shot and, with the nest and eggs, added to the oölogical rarities of the American Museum of Natural History, where, in due time, they will form one of the attractive 'Bird Groups' of the exhibition collection.

The four eggs measure (in millimetres) as follows:  $18 \times 12.5$ ,  $18 \times 12$ ,  $18 \times 12$ ,  $17 \times 11$ . The ground color is pale bluish white in all, but the markings vary greatly. In one the greater part of the surface is marked with sharply-defined dots and specks of dark reddish brown, but more thickly aggregated about the larger end. In another the spots are larger, fewer and paler, and more vinaceous in tint, and are mostly on one side of the egg near the larger end. In a third the markings, which nearly cover and are mostly confined to the larger end, are pale, not well defined, and vinaceous brown; beside these are several conspicuous blotches of blackish brown, the largest of which is near the larger end of the egg. In the remaining egg the markings form a single narrow streak of sienna brown nearly encircling the egg at its thickest point; it begins in a coarse blotch of blackish brown, from which proceeds a narrow line encircling the egg, becoming narrower and paler as it advances, and finally quite indistinct, it much resembling the narrow pencillings seen in the eggs of many Orioles. This egg in respect to markings is as different from the egg first described as are the eggs of the Field Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow.

The nest is well-built, neat, and compact, and quite large for the size of the bird. It measures 57 mm. ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches) in inside diameter, 90 mm. ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches) in outside diameter, and 37 mm. ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches) in depth (inside measurement). The base of the nest is formed of string, thread, a long piece of tape, and rootlets woven into the pine needles on which it rests, some of the strings and the tape being looped about and bound to the clusters of needles. On this rests a cup-shaped structure of coarse and fine rootlets and soft vegetable fibre, lined with black horse-hair.

The nest found by Dr. A. K. Fisher at Sing Sing, N. Y. (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VIII, 1883, p. 180), and the one found at Cambridge, Mass., in May, 1859, are, so far as I am aware, the only recorded instances of the breeding of this species south of the Canadian Fauna.