

thrown up on to the ground-glass of my camera at *g*, as big as two small crabs! They could be focussed *sharp*, and studied with the greatest ease, — and of course there would be no difficulty in obtaining a first-rate photograph of them. It was most remarkable to see them get round through the barbules of the feathers, or at times suck the blood from an unopened 'pin-feather.' Some of their antics were very curious. This species has a large triangular head; six legs, terminating in hooked claws for climbing among the feathers of the bird's plumage. They also hold on with their mandibles, which are situated near the centre of the ventral aspect of the head. Antennæ are lateral, and the whole insect is sparsely, very sparsely, covered with little spine-like hairs. I studied them for two hours with great interest and profit, and towards the last quite forgot the fact that the *real insect* was so small! as to be scarcely observable by the naked eye. On the ground-glass of the camera they were between three and four inches long.

I believe this to have been the only pair of the kind on the bird, but in a few hours another species appeared on the feathers of the throat of my Junco, — about a dozen or more of them. These were *white*, barely discernible to the naked eye, and very active. They were entirely different in form from the first pair secured, and at the present writing I have not studied them very closely.

This is all I have to say about this subject just at present, but in conclusion let me add that I would be glad to have the titles of any works devoted especially to these forms of parasites as they have been described for birds in general, and for United States birds in particular. It would seem that a special memoir devoted to full descriptions of this class of insects, and illustrated by micro-photographs of the various species, would, apart from its value to the entomologist, prove of interest to the avian taxonomer.

Very respectfully,

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Takoma, D. C., Feb. 27, 1894.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE REV. SAMUEL LOCKWOOD, Ph.D., an Associate Member of the A. O. U., died at Frehold, N. J., Jan. 9, 1894, at the age of 75 years. Dr. Lockwood was born in Nottinghamshire, England, and came to America in childhood. He was graduated from the University of the City of New York in 1847, and from the New Brunswick (N. J.) Theological Seminary in 1850. He was for many years a clergyman at Keyport, N. J., and later became superintendent of the public schools of Monmouth County, New Jersey. He took an earnest interest in all matters relating to education,

and was an enthusiastic observer of nature, and a frequent contributor to natural history journals, his contributions relating to a wide range of subjects. His articles are mostly of a popular character, but include many original observations, which give them a permanent value. His ornithological writings were not extensive. At the Ninth Congress of the A. O. U. he read a paper entitled 'Why the Mockingbirds left New Jersey—a Geological Reason,' which was published in the 'American Naturalist' for August, 1892. For many years he was President of the New Jersey Microscopical Society.

NEWS has just reached us of the death of Dr. William Cushman Avery, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., at his home in Greensboro', Alabama, on March 11, 1894. Further notice of Dr. Avery is necessarily deferred to a later number of 'The Auk.'

A NEW edition of Mr. Thomas McIlwraith's 'Birds of Ontario' is announced as in press by the Methodist Book and Publishing House of Toronto. This new edition, the publishers state, "has been carefully revised and enlarged, and will present a concise account of every species of bird known to have been found in Ontario (316 in all), with a description of their nests and eggs. Mr. McIlwraith has added to the new book instructions for collecting birds and preparing and preserving skins, also directions how to form a collection of eggs." The volume will comprise some 420 pages of letter-press, with numerous illustrations.

A NEW edition of the late Henry D. Minot's 'The Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England, with Descriptions of the Birds, their Nests and Eggs, their Habits and Notes,' is also about to appear, under the editorship of Mr. William Brewster. Mr. Minot's book was not only a highly original work, but one of much merit and permanent value, and hence well worthy of a new lease of life.

MR. SAMUEL N. RHOADS, of Haddonfield, N. J., announces that he has discovered a perfect copy of the long lost 'Second American Edition' of 'Guthrie's Geography,' published in 1815, and containing zoölogical matter prepared by George Ord. This embraces pp. 290-361 of Vol. II, and includes "nominal lists of vertebrates, in which scientific names are originally imposed upon nearly all of the species described by Lewis and Clarke, followed by descriptions of many of them." It is thus an important work of reference, access to which has of late been impossible. Mr. Rhoads states that this was "Mr. Ord's private annotated copy," presented at his death to the Philadelphia College of Physicians. A reprint of the part on zoölogy is being prepared for publication. "As nearly as possible the reprint will be an exact reproduction of the size, paging, paragraphing, typography and mistakes of the original." Orders for the work may be addressed to Mr. Rhoads, as above.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN COMMISSION, having in charge the compilation of historical and educational articles, which when published are to form the history of the Exposition, has invited Dr. R. W. Shufeldt to contribute the article on 'Birds.' He will treat the subject from a historical, as well as from an educational, point of view.

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY held its Third Meeting at the Academy of Science and Art, Pittsburgh, Pa., December 27, 1893. After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, several amendments to the constitution were made, and the following new members elected, viz.: Corresponding Member, Edward A. Preble, Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Active Members, Hon. John M. Kennedy, Rev. Charles E. St. John, Dr. W. J. Holland, and Dr. A. Petitt, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dr. W. J. Riggs, Alleghany, Pa. The election of officers for the year 1894 resulted as follows: President, Dr. T. L. Hazzard; Vice-President, W. E. Clyde Todd; Secretary-Treasurer, H. H. Wickham. After listening to the reading of seven scientific papers, the Society adjourned to meet at the call of the Executive Committee.

THE DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB held its annual meeting at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, on January 4, 1894, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, George Spencer Morris; Secretary, Charles J. Rhoads; Treasurer, William L. Baily. The Club is now entering upon its fifth year and is in a flourishing condition. The membership has increased to thirty-eight, and the meetings, which are held twice a month, are largely attended. Among the more interesting communications during the past year may be mentioned 'Breeding Habits of the Night Heron,' Dr. W. E. Hughes; 'Summer Birds of the Beaverkill,' Dr. Spencer Trotter; 'A Day on the Atlantic City Marshes,' G. S. Morris; 'Study of Moulting in Birds,' Witmer Stone; 'A Collecting Trip to Southern New Jersey,' J. H. Reed; 'Extracts from Letters of Edw. Harris,' G. S. Morris; 'Ducking Trips on the Atlantic Coast,' I. N. DeHaven; and 'The Ornithology of Ord's Zoölogy,' S. N. Rhoads.

The Club has in preparation a list of the birds of southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, which is intended to present a summary of our present knowledge of the abundance, distribution, etc., of the birds of those parts of the States mentioned which lie south of the mountains. There will be in addition a complete bibliography, a faunal map, and preliminary chapters on the physical features of the country, and on the subjects of Geographical Distribution and Migration.

WE TAKE the following respecting the eggs of the Great Auk or Gare-fowl from a recent issue of the 'London Times,' apropos of the recent sale in London of a noted egg of this celebrated bird.

"The sale yesterday afternoon [Feb. 22, 1894] of an egg of the Great Auk at Mr. Steven's auction-rooms in Covent Garden is an event of

interest to many people besides ornithologists. After a keen competition it was purchased by Sir Vauncey Crewe, of Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, for 300 guineas.

"The collecting of birds' eggs is a pastime which has obtained for some centuries. John Evelyn mentions in his diary for 1681 that when at Norwich he saw the collection of eggs formed by Sir Thomas Browne, but we must come to the end of the eighteenth century before we can trace any collector in possession of an egg of the Great Auk. Early in the present century references to collections containing specimens of this egg become more frequent. There are 68 recorded eggs of the Great Auk, but this number includes several fragmentary remains that can only by courtesy be called eggs. They may fairly be divided into four groups. Ten specimens, from their perfect condition, color, and style of marking, may be put into a class by themselves. Then we have 34 good specimens; 12 are slightly cracked, badly blown, or varnished eggs, while the remaining 14 are imperfect, varying from the eggs that had one end knocked off (probably for the purpose of sucking), like that in the Angers Museum, to the two fragments of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. Great Britain possesses the larger number of the specimens, for, of the 68, England has 45 and Scotland 3. France comes next with 10 eggs, followed by Germany with 3. Two are in Holland, while Denmark, Portugal, and Switzerland each possess one; there are two in the United States. Again, of the 68 eggs, 29 are in 19 museums, while 21 private owners possess 39 eggs among them.

"The fact of the Great Auk having formerly inhabited the British Isles has been one great cause for the steady advance in value of its eggs. The earliest record we have of a sale by auction is in 1853, when two fetched respectively £29 and £30, which remained about their value until 1860, when one sold for £60. In 1880 the price had risen to £100, followed in 1887 by £168 and in 1888 by £225.

"The egg which was sold yesterday, though not nearly such a good specimen as that sold in 1888, has an interest to all British ornithologists from having belonged to Yarrell, who purchased it in Boulogne of a fisherman who had been in a whaling ship. He had two or three swan's eggs and this egg on a string. Yarrell asked if they were for sale, and was told that the white eggs were one franc each and the spotted one two francs. Unfortunately we do not know the date of this transaction, but it was anterior to 1838, for in that year the egg was figured in Hewitson's 'British Oology.' After Yarrell's death it was sold at Stevens's auction-rooms for £21 (December, 1856), and purchased for the late Mr. Frederick Bond, an old friend of Yarrell's. It remained in this gentleman's possession until 1875, when it was sold with his unrivalled collection of British eggs to Baron Louis d'Hamonville of Château de Mononville, who sent it to Mr. Stevens."

ERRATUM.—At bottom of Plate IV, second line, for "preessing" read "preening."