

GENERAL NOTES.

The Nostrils in Young Cormorants.—Through the kindness of Mr. R. C. McGregor and Mr. Curtis Clay Young I have come into the possession of a considerable series of crania of Cormorants, from a very early stage of incubation up to the twenty-eighth day after hatching. In the oldest of these skulls the external nostrils are still open, and the bones of the palate have not coalesced, and the probabilities are, as already stated, that the external nostrils close about the time the young Cormorants take to the water and begin to feed themselves.—F. A. LUCAS, *Washington, D. C.*

Labrador Duck.—In the Museum at Amiens in France, which is located in a temporary and very unworthy building by the river, I was surprised to come across a fine adult male Labrador Duck, *Camptolaimus labradorius*, in good preservation. It was unknown to Mr. William Dutcher when revising the list of extant specimens (*Auk*, 1891, p. 201), but I conclude that it is probably one of the specimens which he mentions to have been sent to Europe by Mr. John Akhurst prior to 1850 (*op. cit.*, 1893, p. 270).—J. H. GURNEY, *Keswick Hall, Norwich, England.*

Nesting of the Larger White-cheeked Goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*) in Okanogan Co., Wash.—In May, 1896, a nest of this species was located in the gorge of the Columbia River due east of Chelan. A visit paid to it on May 13 led me through a wild stretch where the cliffs press in upon the swirling river. I began to walk softly over a rocky point which projected over the stream at about fifty feet above high-water mark. I had seen a Goose push out from the shore below and hoped his mate might be on the nest. I was not to be disappointed, for as I rose over the crest of the rocky point the mother Goose flew off with a loud squawk, and I had in addition a vision of something green flying through the air. In a shelf of rock commanding the river below three green goslings, newly hatched, were resting on a bed of down. Pale green egg shells were lying about the nest as a reminder of what might have been. The green thing "flying through the air" proved to be a fourth gosling which Mother Goose had knocked off the nest in her haste, but I rescued him from a cleft in the rock twenty feet below, where he had been fortunately caught before striking the fierce current of the river, and returned him apparently none the worse for his tumble. The nestlings were in general of a bright grass-green color mottled with a shade of olive. The nest was entirely composed of soft down from the Goose's breast.

The Larger White-cheeked Geese are the first birds to arrive in the Chelan valley in February, and they leave the wheat fields, reluctantly enough, in December. Their breeding in the county seems to be alto-