

October 8, 1900, Mr. Thomas E. Slevin found in one of the San Francisco markets another immature Emperor Goose, which he obtained for the Academy. This bird probably came also from the San Joaquin-Sacramento Valley—the chief source from which the supply of geese is drawn for the San Francisco markets.

The only other record for California appears to be the one by Mr. Townsend (Auk, Vol. III, p. 491) reporting a specimen taken by Mr. Charles Fiebig at Humboldt Bay.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco*.

**Nesting of Cory's Bittern at Toronto, Ontario.**—Although Cory's Bittern was at first believed to be only a straggler at Toronto, the taking of young birds, together with the continued presence of this bittern, led many to believe that the eggs would eventually be found in Toronto marsh; but it was not till 1898 that a nest was discovered. On June 15 of that year, Mr. George Pierce, while collecting in Ashbridge's marsh, Toronto, took a female of *Ardetta neoxena* from her nest. The nest was described as simply a mass of last year's reeds, and contained one egg. Soon after the bird was taken Mr. J. H. Ames saw it and noticed that the abdomen was much swollen; next day I examined the bird, it having in the meantime been partially skinned, and the body cut open, exposing a fully developed egg, unfortunately broken. I compared the broken egg with the one found in the nest, and they agreed perfectly in color; other eggs in the ovary showed signs of development. The color of the eggs was much darker than the average of Toronto taken sets of *A. exilis*, though I have since seen a set as dark. The body, with the broken egg undisturbed, was preserved in alcohol, and, together with the other egg, is now in the possession of Mr. Ames; the skin is in my collection.

Mr. Ames and myself have thought it better to separately record the facts as we found them; the correct identity of the eggs of Cory's Bittern being of sufficient importance to warrant great care being used.—JAMES H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario*.

**Nesting of Cory's Bittern (*Ardetta neoxena*) and Other Notes.**—On the evening of June 15, 1898, I was in Mr. Geo. Pierce's store when he returned from a collecting trip on Ashbridge's Bay; he brought in with him a female Cory's Bittern and egg. I at once took the opportunity of examining it and found that the abdomen was very much swollen, which suggested that it contained more eggs, and which afterwards proved to be correct. I had no opportunity of comparing the eggs with those of *A. exilis*. The egg measured 1.30 x 1.00.

On December 2, 1898, a female immature Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) was taken in Toronto. It was afterward sent to me by a friend and is now in my collection.

On May 11, 1900, while on a collecting expedition, I took a male Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) in full plumage.

On November 3, 1900, my son took a Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa maritima*) in Ashbridge's Bay. There were three in the flock, and the other two have been since taken.

On September 1, 1900, a Yellow Rail (*Porzana noveboracensis*) was taken at Toronto and brought to me alive. It is thriving, and it is very interesting to hear its different calls.—J. H. AMES, *Toronto, Ontario*.

**Sexual Difference in Size of the Pectoral Sandpiper** (*Tringa maculata*).—In connection with my note in 'The Auk' (Vol. XVI, April, 1899, p. 179), I have lately run across the following reference which seems of interest. From John Murdoch's account of the birds observed at Point Barrow, Alaska (see Lt. P. H. Ray's Report of the Expedition, 1885, p. 111) I quote the following: "There is frequently a great disparity of size between the two sexes. A comparison of the large series we collected shows that the average length of the female is about three quarters of an inch less than that of the male, but that the smallest female was fully an inch and a half shorter than the largest male. The difference in size is so marked that the natives noticed it and insisted that the small females were not Aibwúkia, but Niwiliwílúk (*Ereunetes pusillus*)." Certainly such facts should be in our manuals.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**Great Gray Owl in Wyoming.**—During the latter part of last month, September, 1900, in company with my brother, the State Engineer, I visited the Alpine Lake region of the western slopes of the lofty Wind River Mountains. On the 26th we were at the hunting lodge of Wm. Wells, one hundred and fifty miles north of the Oregon Short Line railroad. This lodge is known to the post office department as Wells post office, and is the end of the mail route which carries the mail by stage from Opal station three times a week. Among the trophies of the hunt, with which the walls of Mr. Wells's lodge are decorated, I noted a Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex cinerea*). The bird was one of the largest of the species, the wing measuring 19½ ins. and the tail 13 ins.

Inquiry developed the fact that Mr. Wells killed the bird with his snowshoe pole in April, 1899. He stated the snow at the time was between three and four feet deep and as he was returning home on his snowshoes he saw the bird sitting in a low spruce tree not far from the lodge. He approached easily, and knocked the bird from its perch with his snowshoe pole, as stated above. Mr. Wells said further that it was the first and only owl of the kind he had seen during a residence of several years at the lodge.

I make this note because this is the first Great Gray Owl I have met with in Wyoming. Two of the hunters' guides employed by Mr. Wells, told me they had seen this owl in the mountains, but as they had never killed the bird I am inclined to question their identification. However, I think it quite probable the Great Gray Owl may be a rare winter resident