

with ice, these four birds seemed in good condition and they were busily engaged in finding an apparent abundance of food.

The latest record that I can find for this species in Massachusetts, is December 24 (Howe & Allen, *Birds of Mass.*, p. 42).—WINTHROP S. BROOKS, *Milton, Mass.*

An Albino Egg of Wilson's Plover.—On May 20th, I found a nest of Wilson's Plover (*Ochthodromus wilsonius*) containing three eggs, one a perfect albino. As this egg in size, shape, and texture of shell, corresponds with the other two there seems to be no doubt but that the same bird laid them all. The nesting site was on a shell reef seldom visited by anyone.—GILBERT R. ROSSIGNOL, JR., *Savannah, Georgia.*

Pigeons do not Carry their Eggs.—Bendire in his 'Life Histories of North American Birds' quotes a statement from Mr. Otho C. Poling to the effect that the Band-tailed Pigeon may carry an egg "embedded in the feathers of the belly, and further, held by the legs while flying; but in such cases they seem simply to alight on a limb of a spruce and incubate there without any nest." The only tangible evidence Mr. Poling gives for this extraordinary conclusion, is to the effect that he has more than once, on shooting a female, found an egg embedded in the feathers of the belly. Bendire endorses neither the observations nor the conclusion, but says (p. 126):

"I have quoted, without further comment, the remarkable statement of Mr. Poling, in regard to the alleged removal of eggs by this pigeon."

The matter might have been allowed to rest, were it not that Knowlton, in his *Birds of the World* (p. 420) has quoted Mr. Poling's conclusion with approval, thus:

"It seems to be established beyond question that when the sitting bird is driven from the nest the egg is not infrequently carried along, being held close to the abdomen by the feet, and immediately on alighting on a limb incubation is resumed without any nest. On this point Mr. O. C. Poling, writing to Major Bendire, says:" etc.

Let us see whether the alleged habit is "established beyond question." The existence of such a habit is rendered extremely improbable, in the first place, by a consideration of the general behavior of pigeons. Pigeons never carry anything with their feet. I have seen pigeons tear up their nest with their bills and thus roll out two eggs that had failed to hatch; but this is very different from carrying the eggs. Again, a pigeon recognizes her egg only by the fact that it is in her nest. Put a strange egg in her nest and she will accept it as her own. Remove her own egg from the nest and place it "on a limb" and she has no means of knowing that it is her egg. Even in those cases, to be mentioned presently, in which I have seen a female carry an egg from the nest inadvertently, I believe she did not recognize it as an egg; at least, she did not sit on it outside the nest. Even if the female carried an egg from the nest and sat on it herself, it is hard to