

occasional specimens being spotted lightly. I must also mention that the Mountain Chickadee is possessed of a soft and very musical song, although it does not seem to be uttered nearly so frequently as the common-place *chick-a-dee-dee*. This song consists of four notes, two being given in the same high key while the last two drop perhaps half way down the scale. To my notion it is very similar to the song of the Golden-crowned Sparrow, but judging from the recent discussion of the latter's song in this journal, I fear that many Californians will have to observe *Zonotrichia coronata* closely before they can appreciate my comparison of songs.



Alma's Thrush in Colorado.

MR. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER in the *Auk* Oct. 1898 describes this new thrush and says: Montana, Colorado and Texas have both *swainsoni* and *alma* during migration. He gives lists of specimens from Colorado as follows; Clear Creek, Twin Lakes, Denver and Colorado Springs. I collected a male May 20th, 1900. It was in company with several others in a clump of cottonwoods along a small branch of the Poudre River inside the city limits of Fort Collins. The day was cloudy with a fine drizzling rain that had set in the night before making everything dripping wet but that did not dampen their spirits as they were singing as only a thrush can sing. They were very shy keeping among the leaves in the topmost branches, and it was with difficulty I secured one. Dr. A. K. Fisher kindly identified it for me.

Prof. Cooke's list and first appendix to same were published before Mr. Oberholser described it, but in his second appendix published May 1900, by some oversight he omitted it.

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Eggs From American Barn Owls in Captivity.

AT THE Northern Division meeting in Alameda May 7, 1898 a paper entitled "The American Barn Owl in Captivity" by myself was read, describing a brood of downy owlets recently taken, and their habits in confinement. As a sequel I will furnish a few other notes concerning the later life of the three survivors. After their plumage was well formed I decided that the box in which they were raised was too small for them, so fenced off a space under a pigeon house, whose floor was six feet from the ground. A shed and fence on two sides of the cage, which was about ten feet square, shut out considerable light. The floor was dry and sandy and two nail kegs were nailed up close to the roof and slanted downward toward the bottom.

Then I had considerable difficulty in transferring the owlets into a sack. They fought viciously at my gloved hand with beaks and talons. If they had been handled daily from infancy I doubt if their wildness or ferocity could have been overcome, except to that certain degree which is influenced by hunger and habit of forced observation on the attendant's movements. When first liberated in this enclosure they flopped about wildly, hissing in evident terror, and finally flopped into one of the nail kegs. After this they were not intruded upon for some days but always made a physical commotion, beating about the cage, at my entrance.

During the day they remained quiet but at dusk began their hisses. This hiss of voluntary origin was unlike the hiss caused by their defensive attitude, both in sound and intervals of frequency. A pail of water was set into the enclosure but I could not determine that they had much use for it either as a beverage or an ablutation.

No live rodents were ever served with their menu, because there were very few about the yard at this time,