

The Nighthawk is by no means a nocturnal bird, being often seen hours before twilight and sometimes even in the glare of noontide.

It is much persecuted at times by sportsmen, its winding, twisting and rapid flight affording excellent practice in wing-shooting.

Altogether, the Nighthawk is one of the most interesting and remarkable birds we have, and a careful investigation of its habits will amply repay any observer, besides affording him the chance of being able to solve the mystery of the curious notes above mentioned.

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## THE NASHVILLE WARBLER.

*Helminthophila ruficapilla.*

BY WM. L. KELLS, LISTOWEL, ONT., CANADA.

The life-history of this bird is yet, to a great extent, wrapped in obscurity. Sometimes it is numerous in the spring migration; again it is comparatively rare. It can only yet be regarded as a migrant in the south and central parts of Ontario, as no certain record has yet been made of its nesting, or making its summer home in this locality; though it is very probable that more of this genus of birds may remain during the summer, and nest in the deep, swampy woods of this Province, than is now generally known.

In my early days, while rambling in the forest, or at work in the woods in the summer time, I have seen nests of little birds, never since discovered by me, and almost every year since I began to form my Oological collection, I have taken one or more nests of Warblers previously unknown to me, and as I occasionally catch glimpses of others in my hunting excursions in the summer season, I am led to believe, that as time progresses and more attention is given to the subject, more nests of these birds will be discovered and described by our rising Ornithologists, and among others that of the Nashville Warbler. This is the more probable in the case of this species, from the fact that its general habitat is in deep, swampy places, where few persons interested in Ornithology care to penetrate, and also from the fact that specimens of this species are occasionally observed on the margins of swampy woods, in the summer season.

It is said that this species nests upon the ground in the moss that grows in damp places, and to form the same with dry leaves, fibres of bark, pine needles, fine, dry grass and hay. The eggs, four or five, are white, speckled with lilac or reddish-brown.

This is one of those wanderers of the Mississippi Valley which appear to enter Ontario from the south-west. It is between four and five inches in length, and on the upper parts the plumage is of an olive-green, brighter on the rump; but ashy on the head. Below it is bright yellow, paler towards the lower parts, with olive shading on the sides. Crown with a chestnut patch, and pale ring round the eyes.

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## SEA BIRDS AND THEIR EGGS.

BY WALTER RAINE, TORONTO, CANADA.

One of the famous breeding places for Sea Birds in the British Isles is Flamborough Head in Yorkshire; and as many species found there also inhabit the Eastern Coast of North America, perhaps the following notes will be of interest to Ornithologists:

From Flamborough Head to Speeton, a distance of five miles, extend the famous chalk cliffs of Bempton, ranging from three hundred to over five hundred feet in height. It is on these cliffs that thousands of Sea Birds resort annually to lay their eggs and hatch their young.

Presuming that it is about the middle of June, we will take train from the fashionable seaport town of Bridlington, and after a ten mile ride we reach Bempton, that we may see the climbers at work. They are the farmers of the district who go about in gangs of three and four, one to do the climbing and the others to haul him up again. Each gang has its certain range of cliffs to climb, and the owners of the fields that border the cliffs receive a quantity of eggs as payment.

As we approach, we see a group of four men near the cliff top preparing their ropes. First they drive an iron bar into the ground a few feet from the edge of the cliff; to this they fasten the hand rope. With this rope the climber steers himself, signals and holds on to with his hands. He takes hold of this rope and walks to the edge of the cliff, where he drives another iron bar into the ground. This bar has