

July 14th my second nest was found. It was placed on a tussock of grass in the middle of a small brook and the three incubated eggs it contained being submerged, had been deserted. The nest was made principally of grasses and mud. The eggs, of a sort of grayish ground, were so spotted and blotched with reddish-brown as to present a general reddish appearance; but in the two sets there is an infinite variation in markings. This ends my brief notes on the two species; but I hope sometime to be able to describe some other members of these two great families.

THE ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.

Habia Ludoviciana.

BY AUSTIN CASWELL, ANN ARBOR, MICH.

This rose-bud of North American birds, as Davie calls him, arrives in this section about the second week in May, and about the last of that month and the first of June their eggs may be sought for, chiefly along a river or any good sized stream, although I have often found them on the edge of a woods, in a swamp, or sometimes even in a small thicket. The nest is almost invariably placed in a bush between five and fifteen feet from the ground, although I have several times found them from twenty-five to thirty-five high in a maple tree on a public street.

This bird is extremely abundant in this locality. The alder, any thorny bush, and sometimes the sumac bushes are generally their nesting sites, and here a shallow structure composed of fine twigs and lined with grasses is made a receptacle for their four eggs, greatly resembling those of the Mockingbird and Scarlet Tanager.

The eggs differ considerably in size and markings. The average measurement I find to be .97 inches long by .72 inches broad. Often the ground color, which varies from a pale greenish-blue to a greenish-white, is concealed by blotches and streaks of reddish-brown over the larger end of the egg, and sometimes forming a circle around the largest part. The number of eggs is generally four, although three and sometimes five may often be found. I have several times found

Cowbirds eggs in company with those of this species. The nest is sometimes so flimsy that every egg may be seen from below; then again, some of them make very compact homes in which to rear their young.

The Rose-breast feeds on seeds and young buds, and gives a decided preference to buds of the cherry tree. It is about eight inches long; the bill is slightly arched; the general color above is shining black, with the breast and under wing coverts a soft rose color. The lower parts, rump, upper tail coverts and under wing coverts are pure white. There is also a small patch of white on the end of the three outer tail feathers. The female is brownish above, with yellowish marks and tinges.

The males assist in incubation, and when their nest is being pillaged, both continue around the thief, and not until the depredator has left their sight do they discontinue their scolding.

Its song, although rather simple, is soft and very pleasing to the ear.

It breeds from the Middle States northward, and from the New England States to the Missouri.

BREATHING THROUGH BROKEN BONES.

BY C. C. MAXFIELD, WILLARD, N. Y.

A recent article in the *Ornithologist and Oologist* has led me to give an experience of mine in relation to the breathing of birds through broken bones.

In the year 1883, while hunting Snipe on the Onieda River, my brother shot a large Great Blue Heron, breaking the bone of the right wing. The bird fell into the water and we went out for him in a boat. He was partly submerged in the water and I thought a good way to dispatch him would be to hold his head under water and drown him. The boat was pulled up so that by using an oar I managed to grasp his neck in my hand and forced his head under water, in the operation getting an ugly cut from his beak. I grasped the neck near the head and pushed it under water and held it there for some little time. Supposing that he was drowned, I let go the neck