

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

and the head came to the surface and I soon got another "jab" in the hand. I grabbed the neck again and pushed it under water, and began to investigate the cause of his living under water. I noticed that the broken bone was projecting above the water, and from the sound made by the air passing in and out soon discovered why he did not drown. In fact, the bird was breathing through the broken bone and would not drown in that position. To satisfy myself that it was really air issuing from the broken bone, I held it under water and bubbles of air came from it.

He was finally killed by breaking the bone of the neck, and proved to be a fine, adult male, in full plumage, measuring 5 ft. 6 in. from tip of beak to tip of toes, with an extent about the same.

THE CHEWINK; TOWHEE.

Pipilo Erythrophthalmus.

BY LYNDS JONES, GRINNELL, IOWA.

I cannot recollect when the characteristic note of Chewink did not form a part of our woodland orchestra. Long before any nest had been taken, I had listened to his anxious "chewink" or "towhee" uttered from the underbrush or ground, and his well-known song as he was perched upon the topmost twig of some convenient tree, wishing that he were as lavish of his nest as his song.

I had searched hours for the nest to no purpose, often flushing the mother bird, again and again; but the nest was too closely hidden. At last I stumbled on to one, high up in a bush; this was the first of several taken that season, and all in bushes. I congratulated myself that I had found an exception to the books; but I afterwards found many more on the ground than in bushes. I also learned that the bird is not partial to underbrush; but as often nests in the open woods among the leaves, or in neglected fields, or even in the corn-fields.

One might reasonably expect that such diverse positions must cause corresponding differences in nest structure. The chief difference was that sticks were used in the composition of the nests in bushes, and none in those on the ground. Dry leaves and grass are liberally