

them, consisting of a small amount of dried grass, on which the egg is laid.

When I took the boat and went aboard I was well satisfied for the time I had spent.

I found on blowing my specimens that they were all the way from fresh eggs to those that were badly incubated, but by careful blowing, and with the help of the embryo hook, I was able to save most of them.

I hope later to give some experiences I had, on the same trip, further down the coast, among the Gulls.

NESTING OF THE WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER.

Sphyrapicus Thyroideus.

BY WM. G. SMITH, LOVELAND, COLORADO.

As but little is generally known of the nesting of this species, I thought a few lines on the subject would be interesting and acceptable to the numerous readers of the O. & O. SEMI-ANNUAL.

Although among the rarest of the Rocky Mountain *Picadaes*, owing to its aspirations for high altitudes, it is not so common as it appears to be, and moreover it is a very shy and quiet bird. I have never heard it make but a faint chirp and only then when in flying from tree to tree; but his unmistakable noise when at work divulges its presence to the initiated. He does but very little tapping but makes a succession of burr—ing sounds, and generally in an old dead tree, which may be heard at a long distance, but the direction is not so easily ascertained, as the vibrations from hill to hill are very deceiving, and I am not the only one that has been led in an exactly opposite direction, to find out your error after a half-mile climb, that the bird is on the hill you have just left.

They arrive from the south early in May, and by the 4th of June (last year) I found a set of five eggs, which appears to be about the full complement, as they were slightly incubated. I took two sets of four the day previous; all placed in hollow pine trees and deposited on a few chips. The entrance hole was very small and eggs placed about a foot from aperture, and in one instance at the extreme top of a tree, fully 70 feet high. All these sets I took at about 800 ft. elevation. On the two following days I took three more unfinished sets at a higher elevation, 1-3 and 2-2, proving that the higher altitude and consequently colder atmosphere checks them somewhat. The eggs are pure white, of uniform shape and average 15-16x11-16.

Being badly in need of skins of that species, I collected most of the old birds; among them was one female that the red throat-mark very plainly (I never observed any trace of it before.) Her mate was the most beautiful specimen I ever saw, and that same pair occupied the high tree. Perhaps vanity led them to select such an exalted position.

None of those I took were less than 15 feet high, but I once found a nest of young only a few feet from the ground, so that high nesting is not entirely a rule with them.

