

INTRODUCTION.

During the latter part of January, 1891, President Lynds Jones, of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association, appointed the writer Chairman of the Oological Committee. Mr. Jones, at the same time, offered a few suggestions in relation to the nature of the work to be performed; but left the general outline as well as the special subject to be studied, to my own judgment and discretion. While it was my original design to include notes on the nidification of several species in this report, and some material was received relating to the nests and eggs of *Accipiter cooperi* and *A. velox*, I finally deemed it a wiser plan to confine my efforts to a single species, one whose breeding habitat was the least restricted, and whose abundance is well known throughout the country. To accomplish anything in this line, however imperfectly done, requires much time; and the successors to President Jones, (Messrs. Willard N. Clute and Reuben M. Strong) continued me in office until a final report would be assured. To those gentlemen I owe much for suggestions, encouragement and other assistance from time to time.

The notes received were varied beyond description, and often much correspondence was required to bring out some hidden point, or to decide on the accuracy or reliability of the correspondent; it being my aim to incorporate only original and carefully prepared notes. Whatever interest or value may attach to the succeeding pages is chiefly due to this precaution. Twenty-eight states and two provinces are represented, either directly through the voluntary contributions of observers, or by means of exchange and purchase of specimens. The nature of some reports was such as to have no special value in a work of this kind, and consequently are not apparent in the general report. The amount of material not closely appertaining to oology was so great as to cause the compiler to overstep the boundary and take up the life history of *Corvus americanus*. No special attempt having been made to collect such notes, the history is necessarily fragmentary, without pretensions to completeness. Indeed, many interesting traits and peculiarities have been scarcely touched upon, or have been passed over entirely. If time, data, and interest warrant it, such neglected points may be made the subject of a paper at some future date.

I am greatly indebted to the following persons (not all of whom are members of the W. O. C.) for the assistance rendered me; many furnishing not only all the notes at their command, but securing additional data, through their correspondence and otherwise; at all times manifesting their eagerness to bring the report to a successful issue. To them I ex-

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Also notes were taken from data and specimens collected in the following localities: Reaburn, Manitoba; Stratford, Ontario; Fairfield County, Conn.; Millbury Mass.; Fleming, Cayuga County; Gates, Monroe County; Chili, and Phoenix, all of New York; Delaware and Montgomery Counties, Penn.; Baltimore County, Md.; Weaver-ville, Buncombe County, N. C.; Tarpon Springs, Fla.; Shabbona, DeKalb County, Montgomery County, and Bernadotte, Ill.; Battle Creek, Ransom, and Kalamazoo, Mich.; Horse Shoe Creek, Kan.; Polk and Waukesha Counties, Wis.; Grinnell, Iowa; Steele and Meeker Counties, Minn.; Nelson County, N. Da.; Yakima County, Wash.; Largo, Mendocino County, and Los Angeles County, Cal.; Travis County, Texas.

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