

From the above you may see that four sets—in all eleven eggs—were taken from nest A in seventy-seven days, and three sets—in all six eggs—were taken from nest B in forty-four days. The intervals between sets were very regular, being twenty-three, twenty-three, and thirty-one days for the one, and twenty-three and twenty-one days for the other.

I have taken incubated eggs as late as June 10, and have seen birds still in the nest in September; but these are extreme instances. The best time for collecting their eggs is during March and early April.

I find two eggs to a set more often than three, and have not yet taken a set of four.

The ground color is some shade of red or brown, sometimes pure white, but so obscured by markings as to be very indefinite. The eggs present every possible shade of red, brown, and black. Usually, the black is in the shape of small round dots, and sometimes in streaks. The pigment may be washed away from freshly laid eggs.

The average size of all the eggs of this species in my collection is 2.29 x 1.79 inches; the smallest, 2.09 x 1.79, 2.19 x 1.67; and the largest, 2.45 x 1.76, 2.25 x 1.87.

Beside the name of Mexican Eagle, I have heard the Caracara called Black-Capped Eagle. I must say that the latter name is quite appropriate.

GENERAL NOTES.

CANADA GOOSE IN CHESTER CO., PA.—Throughout the foggy day of November 25, 1895, an unusual number of migrating Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) passed over this section of the country. One large flock numbering one hundred or more individuals became confused and bewildered in the fog, and alighting in the midst of a corn-field on an eminence in the Chester Valley, proceeded with much clamor to feed upon the scattered piles of husked grain. In a few minutes the field appeared as if a drove of hogs had run riot through it for hours. A shriek of the whistle of a passing locomotive startled the feasting birds, and a double discharge of a gun, in the hands of a farmer's boy, had no other appreciable effect than to send them over the North Valley Hills in much disorder, where they again essayed to alight in a field near Berwyn, but were frightened before all had settled. For some minutes they flew around in utter confusion, dividing into three irregular flocks, the largest of which contained sixty birds. Later in the day, presumably

the same flock came down to the West branch of the Brandywine, where several were shot and found to be in very poor flesh.

The older residents say that many years ago a flock of forty individuals settled in the valley, and having lost their leader, wandered about until all were shot, the last pair existing many months before finally falling victims to the gun.—F. L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penn.*

RARE WINTER BIRDS AT MERIDIAN, WIS.—December 13, 1893, I shot a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). There is another individual at the present time which makes its home in an old oak tree near a farm dwelling. It does not appear to move around much, securing its living from a crib of corn a few yards distant.

On January 20, 1894, a fine specimen of American Robin was brought me which was caught by a trapper in a steel trap set for mink. The bait of fresh beef probably lured the bird to the spot. This is the first instance of either of these birds being seen in this part of Wisconsin during mid-winter.—J. N. CLARK, *Meridian, Wis.*

QUEER ACTIONS OF GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKERS.—Mr. O. A. Pfeifer, of this city [San Antonio, Texas], tells me that a pair of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers wanted to make a nest in one of the gallery posts of his house. The birds worked through the pine board and were surprised, doubtless, at finding a ready-made cavity five feet deep. These birds do a house no good, so Mr. P. determined to stop them. He first stuffed some rags in the hole made by the birds, but they pulled them out as fast as he could put them in. Now comes the queer part of it. After pulling out the rags, the birds brought some week-old Mockingbirds from a nest near by, and dropped them into the cavity. Mr. P. heard the young birds crying in the cavity, and saw the Woodpeckers drop one young bird in. The young birds soon died, when the Woodpeckers drew them out and laid them on the gallery. Did the Woodpeckers put the young birds in the hole so that Mr. P. would not close up the entrance and so smother them?—A. H. W. NORTON, *San Antonio, Texas.*

NOTES FROM MICHIGAN.—THE WOODPECKER AS A FLYCATCHER.—I would like to know if catching insects on the wing is a common habit of Woodpeckers. On the evening of July 2, 1894, I was closing a day's observations at the summit of one of the sand dunes by Lake Michigan, when a Woodpecker of the species *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* darted