

ter one bath and preening the feathers sometime, back they go for another plunge and such spattering and shaking of wings! They bathe just as a canary does in its bath tub.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

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*Somateria dresseri* Sharpe, BREEDING ALONG THE MAINE COAST.—The American Eider formerly nested in considerable numbers along the Maine coast, but of late years they have been sadly reduced in numbers during the breeding season, although they still continue to be common winter residents. In 1895, at least ten pairs of these birds were nesting on various small islands near Isle au Haut. In June, 1896, I again visited the haunts of the Eiders and found evidence of only seven pairs having nested. On a small rocky ledge, covered with a scanty growth of Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum* Michx). I found evidences of there having been three nests, but some fisherman had robbed them of their eggs long before my visit. On another island, visited the same day, I found two nests seemingly ready for eggs, but saw no evidences of the birds in the vicinity. The nests of these birds are, however, readily distinguishable by the down in them, and by being situated on islands not frequented by other ducks, except the Red-breasted Merganser, the nest of which is easily distinguishable.

A few days previous, on June 20th, well over toward Little Duck Island, I had found a nest with a partially incubated set of five eggs of the Eider, and this was the only nest found of this species containing eggs. It was found by flushing the female and was in plain view, being placed on the bare rock, near the point of the island. This was an unusual situation, as the nests of this species found elsewhere were fairly well concealed in the shelter of the various plants growing on the islands. An empty nest found this same day was also well hidden in the midst of a clump of Cow Parsnips. This plant seems to be a favorite hiding place for the nests of Eiders and Red-breasted Mergansers, but the fishermen are keen egg hunters so that the nests of both species are often robbed to form a welcome accession to the larder. It is only a question of a few years when these birds will cease to nest along our coast. Formerly they nested as far west as Muscongus Bay, while now Isle au Haut is their western limit. To the eastward of this they still appear in decimated numbers.

The nests are composed almost entirely of the dark-colored down from the breast of the female bird, and in her absence the eggs are usually covered with this down, which is done by the birds pulling the sides of the nest together over them. The eggs, which I mention finding on June 20, are of a greenish drab color, and measure 2.99 x 2.07, 3.04 x 2.06, 3.05 x 2.01, 3.11 x 2.04, and 3.09 x 2.08.

O. W. KNIGHT, *Bangor, Maine.*

BRUNNICH'S MURRE, *Uria lomvia*, ON LAKE ERIE.—Writing under date of February 5th and March 1st, Prof. E. L. Moseley, of Sandusky, Ohio, announces the capture of three specimens of this species on Sandusky Bay, December 19, 1896. The specimens have been carefully examined by him, and prove to be in immature plumage.

The entry of two specimens of *Uria troile* under date of December 18, 1896, on a migration schedule forwarded by Rev. J. M. Keck, of Mentor, Ohio, led to an inquiry which happily resulted in the purchase of the one specimen taken. Through the courtesy of Mr. H. F. Lapham, of Painesville, Ohio, who prepared the skin, it is now the property of the Oberlin College Museum. Careful examination of the specimen proves it to be an immature Brunnich's Murre, *Uria lomvia*. It was captured on Lake Erie near Painesville, Ohio. These two records, and the capture of *Uria troile* at Gibraltar, Mich., as recorded in the Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club, Vol. I., No. 1, page 10, indicate a decided inland movement of these closely related species.

LYKDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

THE LARK SPARROW'S SONG. A few Lark Sparrows are seen here every year during the spring migrations, and they seem to be getting more common yearly. I have seen none during the breeding season, but cannot say positively that they do not breed here. In 1895 I took some notes on the songs of a single individual. A noticeable feature was the frequency of harsh notes resembling "kah." Some of the songs resemble much the songs of the domestic canary, another is somewhat like the song of the Orchard Oriole. One song may be characterized by: "*Che che che wee weewee chee kah*;" the *wee* with a rising inflection. Another is: "*Cher whee, cher yer yer whee cher yer yer*." Another, very similar: "*Cher cher whee, cher yer yer chee whe whe whe*." All songs are uttered rapidly and easily, and these given are among the most simple; the others were many of them too complex to be recorded with accuracy.

J. C. GALLOWAY, *Montgomery, Ohio.*