

two years ago. The first winter he assumed the usual winter dress, but this year he still has on his yellow dress and black cap. This is the first instance of the kind that ever came to my notice. Have you ever observed it with captive birds?

AN UNUSAL NEST OF THE CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—June 9th, 1895, I took a set of five fresh eggs of this species from a fence post beside a railroad. The nest was discovered when I was climbing the fence, using the post as an aid. Neither parent was observed at all, though the eggs were left until several hours later. They were placed on a soft bed fifteen inches within the post and were reached from the top. The construction of this nest is as peculiar as its location, consisting of a mat of cedar bark, a large tuft of hair from Gray Rabbit, (*L. sylvaticus*); a quantity from Muskrat, (*F. zibethicus*); several large tufts from the Woodchuck, (*A. monax*) and about thirty feathers of the Mourning Dove. The hair is all in tufts as though taken from a dead body. The eggs are in all respects typical.

J. E. DICKINSON, *Rockford, Ill.*

NOTES FROM MISSOURI.—February 19th. For the last night or so some kinds of birds have been going over here in large numbers, as their notes could be heard quite plainly.

February 25th. The birds were going over again tonight in large numbers. As I was returning home about midnight their notes could be heard very plainly. They had chosen cold weather for their migrating as the temperature was down almost to zero and snow was falling. The next morning was rather foggy and they were still passing over but I could not distinguish their species, and I have been unable to go into the country to see what kinds they were.

SIDNEY S. WILSON, *St. Joseph, Mo.*

NOTES FROM OSAWATOMIE, KANSAS.—BIRDS AND NESTS DESTROYED BY A FLOOD.—The nesting season for the small birds in the vicinity of Osawatomie, Kans., was practically ruined last year (1896). Osawatomie lies between two rivers, viz., the Marais des Cygnes and the Pottawatomie. The former forms the northern boundary of the city, while the latter is located one fourth of a mile south of town. The Pottawatomie flows into the Marais des Cygnes river east of town. On the afternoon of May 22, the Pottawatomie commenced to rise about 4 P. M. and by 9 P. M. the whole valley was a sheet of water two and three miles wide in the widest places. Thousands of both eggs and young birds were destroyed by the flood.

AN USUAL NEST OF PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—On June 15, 1896, a farmer's boy reported to me a strange bird that had built a nest in the front gate-post on their farm. A few days later I chanced to visit the nest, which proved to be that of the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) containing five half fledged young. The nest was fifty yards from the river, and the bank of the river at that place is twenty-one feet above the level of the water, there being no water nearer than the river. The post in which the nest was built stood within a few feet of an often travelled public road. The excavation was formerly that of a woodpecker.

AN ALBINO ENGLISH SPARROW.—While passing along the Mo. P. R. R. on Dec. 16, 1895, I was surprised to see an albino English Sparrow light within a few feet of me where I could examine it carefully. It was a female in the adult plumage. The secondaries, primaries and bastard wing were of a dull white color; the rest of the wing was normal. The outer tail feathers were a dirty white, and the two middle tail feathers a dusky brown and ash color tipped one third the way with white. On January 10th, 1897, I noticed the same bird in almost the same spot that I saw it on December 19, 1896.

On Feb. 5th, '97, I noticed two female Bluebirds in town. Since that date they have been increasing in numbers until at the present date they are quite abundant in town and also the country.

W. S. COLVIN, *Oswatimie, Kans.*

NOTES FROM OREGON. DWARF HERMIT THRUSH, *Turdus aonalaschkae*, was first seen April 2, 1896, and not more than five or six were seen during the spring. It does not stop here to breed and seems very shy. On January 8, 1897, I secured a specimen, in a dark fir woods, which was in good plumage. I think that it is not uncommon for them to winter here.

RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH. *Turdus ustulatus*.—In 1896 the Russet-backed Thrush was first seen May 11. This is the most common thrush in western Oregon. From the Cascades to the coast nearly every swamp and thicket is the summer home of a pair. I think the nest and eggs are too well known for me to try to describe them. I do not think Audubon could describe the song. The bird always seems to try to do his best, sometimes getting in a note like the Wood Thrush. But with all its sweetness I am not sure that the song does not give him pain. It only makes one wish that he could hear *T. mustelinus*. I have seen the bird here as late as the first of October.