

ON SOME EGGS SUPPOSED TO BE NEW TO
SCIENCE.

BY W. F. HENNINGER.

Lately it has been my good fortune to come into the possession of some eggs, which hitherto have remained undescribed to my knowledge. They have perhaps been taken previously, but nothing seems to have been published concerning them in our leading bird journals or bird books. And if so, it might still be of some use to the readers of the Bulletin to have before them an accurate account of them, easily accessible.

The first species, whose eggs I wish to describe are those of the Slatybacked Gull (*Larus schistisagus*). There are three sets of them, one of 3, one of 2, and one of 1, a very large egg, abnormal in size and coloration. They were all taken on the coast of Siberia, near the Bering Strait, on June 4, 1905. The nest was a mere depression or hollow in some moss. Just as the bird itself is intermediate in size between *Larus marinus* and *Larus cachinnans*, the eggs show the same relation, barring the one of abnormal size, which is equal in size to those of *marinus*, measuring 81 x 52 mm. The other five measure 76 x 52; 71 x 51; 69 x 49.5; 76.25 x 54; 72 x 53. The six eggs average 74.28 x 51.91.

The other species are Allen's Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus alleni*) and Welch's Ptarmigan (*Lagopus welchi*). Major Bendire expressed the opinion that these eggs would prove to be indistinguishable from those of *Lagopus lagopus* proper and *Lagopus rupestris*. And this is exactly the case. I have handled hundreds of Ptarmigan eggs in the past in Europe and find that here are no distinguishing features that prove to be constant. The two sets have eight eggs each, Allen's Ptarmigan's eggs were taken June 6, 1900, Welch's on June 1, 1900, both of course in Newfoundland. Both nests were practically alike in structure, according to the data. The eight Allen's Ptarmigan's eggs measure 41 x 30; 43.5 x 31; 45 x 31; 44 x 32; 40 x 31; 44.5 x 31; 44.5 x 31; 43 x 31, and they have

perhaps a darker, less reddish, shade, than those of the next species. These the eight eggs of Welch's Ptarmigan measure 43 x 31; 44 x 31; 42 x 30; 40 x 31; 42.5 x 31.5; 41.5 x 30.5; 42 x 31; 42 x 31. Average 42.12 x 30.87. Average of Allen's Ptarmigan 43.78 x 31. Bendire gives the measurements of the eggs of *Lagopus lagopus* as 43 x 31 (average) of *rupes- tris* as 42 x 30.