

## FIELD NOTES

### PHOTOGRAPHING A KILDEER

The extreme wariness of the Kildeer about its eggs is well known and many an account has been written of the tricks employed by the would-be nest finder to remain in the premises in



order to watch the owner settle upon her real nest and eggs. Before the April snows had entirely left the ground, Mr. Howard T. Middleton happened upon the nest shown in the above picture and laid plans to secure a series of pictures of the bird at her nest. The field was being ploughed at the time and a spadeful of turf, containing the nest, was shifted a few feet to freshly ploughed soil. By means of light cord and small pulleys a contrivance was rigged up by which the parent would snap the shutter when she settled upon her eggs. The feature of this mechanism was a small "snap" mouse trap which the bird could spring with a light pressure on the cord and which in turn exerted a strong pull on the shutter. Through the courtesy of Kodakery we are enabled to reproduce one of the series of five pictures printed in its August number.

A. F. G.

### A WHITE COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater ater*)

On April 15, 1921, Mrs. A. J. Williams of Norman, Oklahoma, called me up, saying there was a "white Cow-blackbird" near her house. On going over there I saw it among a large flock of ordinary Cowbirds and watched it for twenty minutes through field glasses, seeing it in various positions and being able to approach it closely. One foot seemed to be crippled so that it did not walk, but had to hop on the other foot. Its feathers looked somewhat ruffled. Above it appeared to be pure white; but underneath, its

tail was slightly pinkish and there were faint dark stripes on its breast. It was strikingly conspicuous in contrast with the other birds both in flight and on the ground.

MARGARET M. NICE.

Norman, Okla.

#### COWBIRD LAYS IN PROTHONOTARY'S NEST

The writer does not remember having read of the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) as being among the list of birds imposed upon by the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). While collecting on May 22 of this year at Horn Lake, in the southwest corner of Tennessee, the writer found several incomplete nests of this warbler as well as one containing three fresh eggs. On the following day the set was collected, and in the meantime another egg of the Prothonotary and one of the Cowbird had been deposited. The nest was built in a willow stub in a submerged willow woods and was several hundred feet from the shore. An old woodpecker's hole had been used, the eggs being about six inches below the hole. The Cowbird is not a common breeding bird in the lower Mississippi valley. Further south, at Vicksburg, Miss., years ago, of hundreds of nests examined only in one instance was a Cowbird egg found. At Nashville, Tenn., less than one per cent of small nests found hold the eggs of the species.

ALBERT F. GANIER.

Nashville, Tenn.

#### NOTES FROM ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO

White-winged Crossbill. During the winter of 1919-20 I added this species to my list of the birds of this county. Late in November a large flock began to arrive, and remained until the first of March.

Bohemian Waxwing: On December 22 a flock of 32 settled in an apple tree in front of the house. Small flocks were seen until February 18, 1920.

Red Crossbill: On January 20, 1920, a flock of 20 settled in an open field near where I was at work and remained in the neighborhood until the 30th.

Evening Grosbeak: On January 17, 1920, I found one in a small willow tree on the border of a creek, and on the 19th there were two in a thorn bush near the same place. Others were seen at different times until February 15.

Orange-crowned Warbler: On April 29 I found three in a small thicket of swamp white oaks. They remained in the neighborhood until May 9.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: On May 15 I found this species, the first time for the county.

Blue Grosbeak: While looking for birds, on May 21, attention