

I returned to the ground June 10, and put in the day examining the nests, etc., collecting two more sets of two eggs each. One of the sets was nearly ready to hatch, but with care I was able to save it. The eggs are all white, or rather bluish white, without markings or shell stains. It having rained nearly every day since the commencement of the month, the two last sets collected are somewhat soiled and stained by the wet leaves in the nests. The eggs measured by sets as follows, viz.: 1st,  $1.55 \times 1.33$ ,  $1.52 \times 1.36$ ; 2nd,  $1.76 \times 1.48$ ,  $1.65 \times 1.35$ ; 3d,  $1.70 \times 1.39$ ,  $1.56 \times 1.35$ ; 4th,  $1.70 \times 1.37$ ,  $1.68 \times 1.30$ ; 5th,  $1.75 \times 1.30$ ; 6th,  $1.54 \times 1.31$ ,  $1.45 \times 1.24$ ; 7th,  $1.70 \times 1.38$ ,  $1.68 \times 1.43$ . The old nests had a few leaves for lining in addition to the leaves attached to the twigs used in repairing the same, but the new ones appeared to be without additional leaves. They were all built either in the forks from the main body, or in the forks of the larger limbs of the cottonwood and elm trees, and were at least from ten to a hundred rods apart, were not bulky, and when old would be taken for the nests of the common Crow. They ranged in height from twenty-five to fifty feet from the ground.—N. S. Goss, *Topeka, Kan.*

**The Merlin (*Falco aesalon*) in Greenland.**—We have recently received from Dr. C. F. Wiekpen, of the Museum of Oldenburg, Germany, a fine specimen of *Falco aesalon* Lath., from Greenland. This makes an additional species for the fauna of North America, I believe.

The record is as follows: "*Falco aesalon* Lath. ♂ juv. Shot at Cape Farewell, Greenland, May 3, 1875." It is *aesalon* without any question—a young of the preceding year. We got it with other specimens from the same locality through Dr. W., and I have no reason whatever to doubt the correctness of the label, as of the hundreds we have received from him I have not as yet detected any discrepancies, and the labels are usually much more minute than the above. Gov. Fencker, who was stationed at Godhavn, Greenland, as Governor when I was there, told me he had occasionally seen a small Hawk between Julianshaab and Gothaab, but had failed to secure a specimen. These were probably *F. aesalon*.—LUDVIG KUMLIEN, *Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

**Notes on *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi* in New Mexico.**—To-day is the 6th of August (1887), and while out collecting at a point some two miles from Fort Wingate, New Mexico, I shot and secured a fine adult male specimen of this Woodpecker, and in unusually good plumage for this time of the year, with few or no pin-feathers present to speak of; a feature wherein it differed from a number of other *Picidæ* taken on the same occasion. Having collected birds in this locality for the past two and a half years without ever having seen a specimen of this Woodpecker here before; and in view of the fact that our 'Check List' gives its habitat and range as "Pacific Coast Region of the United States, east into Arizona, south into Mexico," I desire to make this record here of its capture in the Territory of New Mexico, and at a point further east than, so far as the writer is aware, it has ever been noted before. At the present writing

I have no means of ascertaining how far north true *M. formicivorus* ranges, but take the bird now in my possession to be our *M. f. bairdi*. This evening I made a skin of this specimen, and in preparing it found no difficulty in passing the skin of the neck over the skull. I also noted that the epibranchials of the hyoid arches reached a point on the top of the cranium at an imaginary line joining the posterior peripheries of the outer borders of the orbits, in other words, no further forwards than the parietal region at the vault of the skull. When I do make skins of birds now-a-days, I have a habit of running a thread through a label giving full data in regard to the specimen, then pass the needle through the body, the eyes, and the back of the skull, all of which we have removed in making the skin, tie the whole in a bunch, and throw with others into a jar of fresh alcohol. It is a capital practice, saves excellent material, and was resorted to in the present instance.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, N. Mexico.*

**Egg-laying extraordinary in *Colaptes auratus*.**—On May 6th, 1883, I found in a large willow tree, a hole containing two eggs of this bird; I took one, leaving the other as a nest-egg, and continued to do this day after day until she had laid *seventy-one eggs*.

The bird rested two days, taking *seventy-three days to lay seventy-one eggs*. I think this is something very unusual; I have quite frequently heard of from fifteen to twenty-eight being taken from one bird, but this is a large number comparatively. I have the set complete, in my cabinet, and prize it very highly.

This was published in a small journal called the 'Young Oölogist', Vol. I, No. 2, 1884; but it being a rather obscure paper, and not reaching the general public, I concluded to send it to 'The Auk' for publication.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

**The Range of *Quiscalus major*.**—In the A. O. U. 'Check List' the habitat of the Boat-tailed Grackle is given as the "coast region of the South Atlantic and Gulf States, from North Carolina to Texas." The failure to assign a more northern limit of range is evidently an oversight, for the bird occurs as a regular inhabitant as far north at least as Cobb's Island, Virginia, about twenty-five miles above Cape Charles, and breeds in considerable numbers on certain of the marshy islands off the coast above the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Robert Ridgway kindly informs me that during his visit to this region in July, 1881, he saw straggling flocks of this species almost daily, and killed several birds. They were moulting and in very poor plumage, and none were preserved. Mr. Ridgway further states that although he found no nests he has "no doubt these birds were, or had been, breeding either in the marshes on Cobb's Island or else on one of the neighboring islands." In July, 1884, I noticed the birds occasionally on Cobb's Island and on several of the islands adjacent thereto, and saw numbers of eggs that had been taken earlier in the season, chiefly on a small sparsely-wooded island, by the keeper of the U. S. Life Saving Station on Cobb's Island.—HUGH M. SMITH, *Washington, D. C.*