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## Notes on the Arrival and Meeting of Birds in the Vicinity of Minneapolis for the Spring of 1887

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On Monday, December 16th, 1889, from four until ten o'clock, the Library Board of the city of Minneapolis received the people of Minneapolis and many of the leading citizens of Minnesota in the new Public Library Building.

In this fire-proof building erected at a cost, including the ground, of \$334,150.65, and on this occasion formally opened for the use of the citizens of the city, THE MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES has been assigned rooms. On the third floor the Academy has an elegant room for its meetings and spacious and equally elegant rooms for the display of its collections which will be daily open to the public.

The Library Board had generously furnished sufficient cases for the display of the collections of the Academy and the secretary and several members had devoted their time for many evenings to cataloguing and arranging the material so that on the occasion of the opening the extent and condition of the museum were very fairly presented to the public.

The rooms thus placed at the disposal of the Academy of Sciences answer present needs and are a realization of the desires of its members expressed in 1880, repeated in 1884, and felt in every subsequent year; they enable the organization to devote its energies more directly to the publication of its Bulletins and to the creation of a museum of natural history and material resources for the great Northwest.

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[*Paper X.*]

NOTES ON THE ARRIVAL AND NESTING OF BIRDS IN THE VICINITY OF MINNEAPOLIS FOR THE SPRING OF 1887. *Franklin Benner.*

My notes for the past year were limited by the short time I was able to devote to looking up the birds. I was only able to make weekly trips, and, living in town, the arrival and departure of the birds was not noted as quickly as they otherwise would have been. My notes begin April third when I saw the first robin.

On the 8th they were followed by our social friends, the blue birds. April 10th, while driving out Third avenue south towards Richfield, I found a nest and three young of the shore lark. They appeared to be about a week old. This, I think was very early, although on March 24, '81, I found a nest just begun on Lowry's hill and within fifteen feet of a bank of snow two feet deep. The eggs were laid by April 2nd, and although I left them until the 5th, two more were deposited. I think rarely more than three are laid in the first brood.

April 18th, I noted the chipping sparrow; April 25th, the golden crowned wren.

May 2nd, I found in the lake Harriet woods, a nest of three eggs of the Cooper's hawk. The birds were evidently young as they exhibited no fear of me and perched in the neighboring tree. I have visited the same nest this season (1888) and found only one of the birds, but climbing the tree found I was too early for the eggs. Vegetation was much further advanced than it is this year. That same day I found five pewee's nests in course of construction. They seemed to like the porches of the deserted houses around lake Harriet where they can raise their little families before campers make it too uncomfortable for them. One had even gone through a broken window and built its nest on the top of a window casing in a second story room.

May 5th, I made my way to lake Johanna, to a tamarack swamp there, which is very fruitful for the ornithologist. First, I found a crow's nest, but did not disturb it, then a Cooper's hawk's with four comparatively fresh eggs, and not far from that, in an old hawk's nest, five eggs of long eared owl, partially incubated. The bird flew off as I climbed the tree and kept hovering around and flying from tree to tree, snapping her bill while the eggs were being taken. Both birds, in fact, were there, but I only secured the female.

This same day I found robins breeding, four eggs in nest. Quite a number of wild flowers were in blossom, among those most common, was the yellow cowslip.

May 15th, I went out again and got a full set of five eggs of the pewee perfectly fresh. A prairie chicken's nest was observed at Hardley's farm with six eggs, the nest deserted.

May 25th, I went to Grassy lake, beyond Richfield. Here the black tern, gallinules, yellow-headed blackbird and grebes were

breeding in very limited numbers. Nest of brown thrush with half-fledged young. Found nest of young musk rats, nine in all, their eyes were closed, yet they could swim.

June 2nd, I found two fresh eggs of the night hawk at Kenwood.

June 5th. My excursion to-day led me out on the Minnetonka road. I found first of all the nest of cree bird with two eggs, red-eyed vired building. One of the most interesting discoveries to me was the finding on this day of six nests of the clay colored sparrow (*Spizella palida*). I have been looking for this nest ever since I have been in Minnesota but never found it until this year. On May 29th, I found by the road side a nest of this species in a small bush two feet from the ground and containing two fresh eggs. On this date two more had been added and incubation begun. Three hundred rods further on I saw a patch of hazel bush about a hundred feet square and one of these birds flying near, so I went in to see what was to be found. There were two nests with fresh eggs. Three nests just finished and one nest with five young, just hatched.

I saw part of the eggs from the first two nests were on the ground and broken and the nests out of place. This, with the large number of nests for such a small space, set me to thinking and my conclusions are, that the bushes being in a cow pasture the cows had upset the nests in going through and thus kept these birds busy building new nests or repairing the old ones. A mile further on I found another nest of this same bird on the ground, containing four young almost fully fledged. Here in a short time were found all the extremes of incubation, fresh eggs, young just hatched and young about fully fledged. The first nests, please note, were all raised about two or three feet from the ground, while the last was right on the ground. This habit of nesting seems to be very common with this bird. Other nests and eggs found this day, were, cat bird, nest and four eggs; yellow warbler nest and five eggs, fresh; rose-breasted grosbeak nest and young about half grown, nest and four eggs partially incubated. The female was very fearless and I had my hand within a few inches over her before she would leave the nest. Found also a grebe's nest with six eggs; grebe's nest, eight eggs; rail's nest, one egg; red-winged blackbird, nine nests, seven with young all the way from just hatched to just ready to leave the nest; one nest, four eggs; one

nest, three eggs, fresh. Pond lillies were just in bloom.

On the way home found a small nest by the roadside three feet from the ground, which I found on later investigation to be another clay colored sparrow. The four eggs had been laid, but when found the nest was on its side and the eggs on the ground. I also found the nest of long thrush, one young, a week old.

June 8th, I found nest and five fresh eggs of the black-throated bunting in a small oak tree. The nest was placed four feet, six inches from the ground. The female was shot for identification. June 9, I discovered another nest of this same bird, but on the 13th the four eggs had been laid, three feet ten inches from the ground. This was located the same as the former. Most observers of this bird say that it nests on the ground, and others that the nests are not placed more than eight or ten inches above it in tall grass, but here are two instances of nests forty-six inches from the ground in oak trees which is quite unusual.

This bird is very variable in its coming. Some years they are very common, and again very few are seen. This was so in the years 1879 and 1880. In 1879 there was the greatest abundance of them, but the following year there were hardly any to be seen. Last year they were very common indeed.

June 10th, the two eggs of the cree bird found on the 5th, were just hatched. I visited a marsh out on Portland avenue and found a few fresh eggs of the yellow-headed blackbird. These had evidently been robbed before, for although there were a great many birds, there were very few nests with eggs. There were also some coots' nests but no eggs. I shot a very pretty specimen of the local bittern but could not find the nest.

June 15th, I found a yellow warbler and four eggs; some cow birds. This was evidently the second nest of the birds whose nest I took on the fifth, as it was found only a short distance from where the first one was taken. They built a new nest and layed four eggs in ten days. I found a grass finch, nest building. My record closes for this day by the finding of nest and nine eggs of carolina rail; scarlet tanager nest and two eggs, and about twenty eggs of the cliff swallow, taken from the flour mill at Minnetonka Mills.

Let me mention here the finding of the *Nyctale acadia* in this city on May 9, 1881. With the bird were four young and three eggs; the female was shot. This nest was in an old decayed stub about fifteen inches in diameter and located twelve feet from the

ground in an old woodpecker's hole. On rapping on the stub with my gun the bird pushed out its head. The young were of all sizes, showing that the eggs had been incubated from the first laying. The eggs contained large embryos.

May 8, 1888.

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[*Paper Y.*]

THE FIELD OF GEOLOGY AND ITS PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE.—

*W. J. McGee.*

I.

The legitimate field of Geology is now fairly defined, and so fully occupied that it is possible to scan its expanse and discern the tracts yet untraced by the pioneer. From a survey of the field it appears that many of these lacunae are interesting, and that one is especially noteworthy.

The primitive geologic classification is based immediately upon phenomena—upon those products of the forces operating naturally upon the earth with which it is the province of the science to deal; but in most cases the processes may be readily inferred from the products, and the phenomena may thus be classified as well by the agencies they represent as by their individual characteristics. So the empiric or formal laws expressing the external relations of the phenomena give place to natural or physical laws expressing their essential relations in terms of the operations by which they are produced; and the ultimate geologic classification thus becomes genetic, or a classification by processes rather than products.

Now the various processes with which the geologist has to deal fall naturally into two principal and antagonistic categories, which are supplemented and modified by five subordinate categories; and these categories of processes clearly define the province of geology.

The initial geologic movements (so far as may be inferred from the present condition of the rocks of the earth) were distortion or displacement of the solid or solidifying terrestrial crust in such manner as to produce irregularities in the surface of the globe. These are the movements involved in mountain growth and in the development of continents; they have been in operation from the earliest eons recognized by the geologist to the present time; and their tendency is ever to deform the geoid and produce