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Department of Birds - Eggs: Annual Report 1890 - 1891

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UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

Curator's reports

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

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July 10th. 1891.

Prof. S. P. Langley,

Secretary, Smithsonian Institution,

Sir:

Department

I have the honor to submit herewith an
Report on the ~~Section~~ of Birds Eggs in the U.S. National
annual report for the fiscal year ending June
Museum, 1891.
30th. 1891. By Charles E. Bunker USA, Honorary Curator.

The character of routine work has been
as follows: Taking the measurements, number-
ing and arranging 842 specimens; the revision
and arrangement, in numerical order, of 259
Register Sheets, and determining the average
measurements of each genus thereon recorded.

In addition to the above work I have been
engaged in preparing the manuscript to the com-
pletion of Vol. 1. "Life histories of North Amer-

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ican Birds, etc.; and also, in reading proofs thereof, which have up to this time, covered 220 quarto pages of composition; considerable progress has also been made in gathering and classifying ^{erial} material for the second volume

The following important accessions were received during the year.

From Mr. Frank B. Armstrong, Brownsville, Texas.

Purchased. ^{one} Nest and 2 eggs, *Amazilia cinniventris*.
^{two} 2 nests and eggs, *Sporophila maculata*.
 3 eggs. *Glaucidium phalaenoides*.
 4 eggs. *Ergaticus albifrons*.
 7 eggs. *Megascops asio macalli*.

The first three species are new to the collection.

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⁴From Mr. R. Mac Farlane, Chief Factor of the
Hudson Bay Company. (Gift.) An inter-
esting collection of 100 eggs and 9 nests,
embracing 21 species, all from the Cumber-
land District, Saskatchewan, Canada.

From Mr. Denis Gale, Gold Hill, Boulder Co., Colorado.
(Gift.) A finely prepared collection of 45 eggs
embracing 11 species.

⁴From Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Washington, D. C. (Gift.)
1 Nest and 3 eggs. *Dendroica caerulescens*. Rare.

⁴From Dr. W^m L. Ralph, Utica, N. Y. (Gift.) 70 eggs em-
bracing 13 species, from Florida. All are rare
and many new to the collection.

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From Mr. Walter F. Webb, Geneva, N. Y. (Gift) 3 eggs
Suteo borealis, and 15 eggs. *Suteo lineatus*.

From Mr. Thomas A. Jackson, Rio Grande City, Texas.

(Purchased) 44 eggs *Callipepla squamata castanogaster*.

From Mr. Wm. L. Bishop, Kentville, Nova Scotia. (Purchased)
 13 eggs *Dendragapus canadensis*.

From Mr. Wm. G. Smith, Estes Park, Colo. (Purchased)
 4 eggs *Megascops flammeolus*; 4 eggs *Phalaropus*
tricolor; 8 eggs *Vireo solitarius plumbeus*. The fifth
 and last two are new to the collection.

From Mr. J. K. Cherric, San José, Costa Rica. (Gift) 1 egg of
Vireo flavoviridis. New to the collection.

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From Mr. Wm. Palmer, St. Paul and Walrus Islands,
Alaska. Gift. An interesting collection. 10 nests
and 112 eggs, embracing 11 species.

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From Mr. W. E. Traill, of the Hudson Bay Company. Purchased.  
15 eggs. *Hendragapus franklini*, rare; 4 eggs *Totanus*  
*melanoleucus*, rare; 9 eggs *Bonasa umbellus togata*.

A

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During the year ^{Condition of the Collection} 83 nests have been received, of
(83) which some of the rarer species have been mentioned.

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Number of Specimens in the North American Series.

31,992.

do. do. do. duplicate Series. 11,548.

do. do. do. on exhibition. 1,491.

Total. 45,031



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Number of Species in North American Series. 760.

~~W~~  
Number of Specimens in foreign reserve series 4,330.

do do duplicate " 231

Total. 4,561.

Number of Species in foreign series. 611

Number of nests in 'Reserve' series. 2,339.

do do on exhibition. 235

Total. 2,574

Last Catalogue entry in  
Present number last entry, June 1890. 24,004

do do do June 1891. 24,336.

Total number of entries during the year 332.

~~MB~~ The consignments from the <sup>b. H. P.</sup> biological <sup>expedition</sup> survey,  
Dept. of Agriculture, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, in charge,



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Covering 88 entries, are included in the above total number of entries; and if all, or part thereof, should prove to be accessions, they will be duly acknowledged.

~~Yours very respectfully,~~

~~Temporary Secretary~~

~~Department of Birds Eggs.~~