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Department of Birds - Eggs: Annual Report 1893 - 1894

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Original
returned to
Maj. Bendire
Jan. 28. 95.

Report for 1894

1.

How has the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894 compared with the previous year, as far as (1) the number of accessions and (2) their scientific value are concerned.

The fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, compared more than favorably with the previous year, as there were 1214 more specimens received in this year than in the last: or a total of 4133: there were many more new species and sub-species added to the collection than usual, making the scientific value of the accessions greater.

2. Name, in the order of their importance, the accessions of the year which deserve special notice, ~~and state in each case whether given, lent, received in exchange or purchased.~~, and state in each case whether given, lent, received in exchange or purchased.
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Dr. William L. Ralph, Utica, N.Y., Accession 28101, containing 614 sets of eggs, 2222 specimens, representing 212 species, and 61 nests. This Accession contains many rare and valuable eggs, and eleven species new to the collection. Donation.

Dr. W. L. Abbott, Philadelphia, Penn., Accession 27.085, an interesting collection of eggs, from Aldabra and adjacent islands, in the Indian Ocean, consisting of 118 specimens of eggs, representing 18 species, and 20 nests. Also another Accession No. 27.489, from the Vale of Kashmir, Asia, consisting of 57 specimens, representing 11 species and 7 nests. Several of these are new to science and nearly all new to the collection. Donation.

1st. Lieut. Wirt Robinson, 4th. Artillery, U. S. Army, Accession Nos. 27.334 and 28.213, an interesting collection of eggs, mostly from Virginia and Florida, consisting of 237 specimens, and representing 47 species and sub-species, several new to the collection as well as to science. Donation.

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, through Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Accession No. 28. 317, a collection of 92 specimens, representing 27 species and 14 nests from Mexico and western North America, containing several species new to the collection. Donation.

Mr. H. W. Henshaw, Accession No. 27.291, a collection of eggs consisting of 257 specimens, representing 26 species and 64 nests from southern California.

International Boundary Survey, through Dr. Egbert A. Mearns, U.S.A., Accessions No. 27.251; 27.612; 27.625 a collection of 114 eggs, representing 30 species and 10 nests from southern New Mexico, and Arizona. Donation.

U.S. Fish Commission, Steamer Albatross, Accession No. 27.770 a collection consisting of 87 specimens representing 10 species and 9 nests from Alaska. Donation.

3. What progress has been made in caring for the collections under your custody, i.e., in their preservation and installation.
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All the specimens received during the fiscal year have been properly catalogued, measured, labeled and put away in their respective places.

4.

Indicate briefly the present condition of the exhibition series and the study series, in your department.

The condition of the exhibition series and the study series is good, but that of the former might be improved by increasing it, if there was room,

5. What special investigations have you commenced, continued, or completed upon the material under your care, during the year.
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No special investigations have been made during the year; I have devoted all my time getting ready manuscript for Vol. 11. Life Histories of North American Birds, which is now more than half completed.

6. What explorations (1) by the Museum and (2) under other auspices, have resulted in enriching the collections under your care.
-

No material has been received from explorations made under the direction of the U. S. National Museum, but a number of interesting specimens have been contributed from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture; the U. S. Fish Commission; and the International Boundary Survey, between the United States, and Mexico.

*Students and
outside of the Museum*

7. What material from your department has been lent to investigators during the year, and in connection with what special investigations was the material needed.

~~Please arrange answer, alphabetically, under name of person to whom such material was lent.~~

No material has been lent from this department for special investigations, and no request has been made for such.

8. Give the names of any students who have had access to the material in your care during the year, ~~either~~ (in Washington or elsewhere), and state the special aim of their studies.
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No students have applied for access to the Oölogical collection.

Turner, L. M.	Seattle, Wash.
Van Denburg, J.	Las Gatos, Cal.
Widman, Otto	Old Orchard, Mo.
Williams, R. S.	Columbia Falls, Montana.

Both.
hyemalis
specimens

/	/	/
/	/	/
/	/	/
/	/	/

10. Give a list of papers published during the year by yourself, your official associates and collaborators, so far as the same are based upon Museum material. Each notice for the bibliography should be accompanied with a brief abstract of the paper.
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The following papers have been published by me during the year.

- I. A description of a ^{new} subspecies of Prairie Hen, Tympanuchus americanus attwateri, Attwater's, or Southern Prairie Hen, in Auk. Vol. 9 No. 2. ,April, 1894, pp 130-132.

- II. Description of nests and eggs of some new birds collected on the Island of Aldabra, northwest of Madagascar, by Dr. W. L. Abbott, Proceedings U. S. National Museum, Vol. XVII. No. 983, pp 39-41.

Pub. July 19-94.
next Rep.

11. Please present any plans which you may have in view for the development of your department.
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I have no plans to suggest for the development of the department, excepting that at the present rate of growth of the collection, four more one-quarter unit cases, with drawers, will be required in the near future.

12. Indicate the present state of the collection under your care, including a table showing the number of specimens in the exhibition, reserve and duplicate series on June 30, 1894.
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Number of specimens in North American

Series	41.244
Duplicates	8.350
On exhibition	<u>1.491</u>
	51.085

Number of species and subspecies in

the North American series	841
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Number of specimens in the Foreign

series	4.646
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Duplicates	<u>50</u>	4.696
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Number of species in Foreign series	<u>652</u>
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Number of nests in North American

series	2.025
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On exhibition	<u>235</u>
	2.260

51,085-

13. Give the numbers of the last entries in your catalogue on June 30, 1893 and June 30, 1894.
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Last catalogue entry, June 30, 1893 25.935

Last catalogue entry, June 30, 1894. 27.088