

make the oodies of birds objects of sacred regard to most boys so that they shall not wish to deprive them of life.

In every city a considerable number of birds meet accidental death every year, especially during the seasons of migrations. Many of these are picked up by the children while fresh and fit to handle. These unfortunate birds will become the source of most of our material. In any corps of teachers we would expect to find at least one with sufficient knowledge of taxidermy to prepare the skins suitably for preservation and study. Some of the older boys will gladly learn to do this work, and a few will become quite efficient, so that the labor will not only be taken off the hands of the teacher but will become of educational value to the pupils.

The deserted nests should be freely taken for study. After studying, in winter, the nests of last season, most pupils will be early on watch to see the new nests built. This will lead them to observe the more touching actions of the birds. At all times the teacher should be on the watch for opportunities to make direct appeal to the moral nature, but it should be done unobtrusively.

4. *Organize pupils into bird-protecting societies.* By this means unite all pupils, who are sufficiently awakened, in an effort to protect the birds and their nests, to provide nesting places for those species that come near human habitations, and to exert a restraining and educating influence on the thoughtless and vicious. By this means the few children who never enter the public schools could be watched and possibly influenced.

In an attempt to carry out the plan outlined above some difficulties and dangers must be met. Considerable knowledge of birds is necessary to the one who directs the undertaking. Details of method in the school room would occupy pages and would not be in place here. It is sufficient for the present to state that the writer knows where this plan is being tried with encouraging progress.

C. D. McLouth.

Muskegon, Mich., Dec. 16, 1893.

BIRD NOTES.

THE notes published in a recent issue of *Science* on "Birds Which Sing on the Nest" recalls an interesting instance of this kind that came to my notice last summer. It shows that the black-billed cuckoo is not always as quiet and retiring as we generally consider him. A pair of these birds built their nest in my friend's door-yard, so close to the house that it afforded a good opportunity to observe them. This pair were unusually loquacious, and throughout the period of incubation the bird on the nest was often heard holding a conversation with its mate lurking in the trees about the premises. When one bird flew to its perch on a certain tree, preparatory to flying to the nest, there was likely to be considerable chatter before it approached nearer. It is interesting to note that while some birds are quiet when incubating, as if to escape observation, their young often make considerable noise while yet in the nest. The flicker is a case in point. To merely hammer on the tree in which the nest is located is often enough to set the whole family going. I have also heard young bluebirds calling "*we-a-ry*" from their nest in a hollow stub. And, as for the young crow, his "*gobble, gobble, gobble*," when being fed, is a well-known sound in the woods in spring, and often betrays the nest to the young bird's-nester.

WILLARD N. CLUTE.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 13, 1893.

POSTAGE ON NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS.

In your issue of Nov. 17, with reference to a ruling that natural history specimens cannot be transmitted through the mails as "samples" it is suggested that the various scientific bodies of the United States should use their influence to induce the governments of certain enumerated countries to consent to such material passing by sample post. It is sought to throw the blame upon the countries in question, whereas the trouble arises solely from the fact that the United States have not yet advanced far enough to have a *parcel post* as is in operation among these other countries. There is no difficulty in transmitting specimens from Canada to the most remote coun-

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tries, but the United States by their policy make it impossible to receive or to send them. The scientific societies should exert their influence at home, and endeavor to have the United States Congress adopt the more advanced and liberal postal arrangements of the countries which your correspondents blame for their troubles.

W. HAGUE HARRINGTON.

Ottawa, Canada, Dec. 14, 1893.

A DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC TERMS.

IN answer to the query of B. S. Bowdish regarding a pronouncing dictionary of scientific names I would mention "A Manual of Scientific Terms," by Stormouth. Edinburgh, James Thin; London, Simpkin Marshall & Co. 1892. This is a small handy book of xi+488 pp., giving the pronunciation, derivation and definition of the terms used in botany, natural history, anatomy, medicine, etc., and contains an excellent appendix giving alphabetical lists of specific names, prefixes and postfixes with their definitions. I would consider it just the book for the purpose mentioned in the query.

WALTER C. KERR.

New Brighton, Staten Island, Dec. 12, 1893.

NOTES AND NEWS.

FIRE destroyed the contents of the stock room of the Salisbury Laboratory, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass., on the morning of Dec. 2. The new stock for the work of the current year had just been received, and much of it had been imported from Germany with no little pains by Dr. L. P. Kinnicutt and his assistants. The loss on the stock and apparatus amounts to \$3,000, and the building was damaged to the extent of \$1,500. There was ample insurance. Had it not been for the substantial character of the building, which is of brick, with brick partitions and wire-lath ceilings, the firemen would have been unable

to save the structure. The stock room was in the fourth story. The Freshman laboratory adjoining was injured by smoke, and the chemical library below the stock room was damaged somewhat by water. It is believed that the fire was caused by an overheated chimney.

—The Board of Education of the city of Saginaw, Mich., has provided for a museum in connection with its East Side High School. This is now well under way and is to include departments of archæology, ethnology, ostiology, physiology, botany, zoölogy, chemistry, geology, history and economic industries. Part of the museum is to build up itself naturally by small accessions. Specimens will be transferred to this section only as they are illustrative of the branches in which instruction is given. In this way it is hoped the section may be developed, by the students themselves, into a typical High School museum entirely independent of the remaining specimens, which will be arranged more as a public museum, with attention to original research in the lines being investigated by citizens. An endeavor will be made that this museum shall not become a mere place for the storing of curiosities, but may be built up each step with a purpose into a teaching institution.

—The Iowa Academy of Sciences will meet in Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 26 and 27, 1893. This Academy includes the active scientific workers of the state and a very interesting programme is prepared, including papers on the geology and natural history of the state, as well as papers in chemistry, physics and engineering. The meetings will be held in the Y. M. C. A. building, and all who are interested in the objects of the Academy are cordially invited to attend the sessions and take part in the discussions. The programmes may be obtained prior to the meeting by addressing the Secretary, Herbert Osborn, Ames, Iowa.

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Museum of Hamline University desires to exchange Marine Shells, preserved alcoholic material of marine zoology, or microscopic slides for zoological specimens from southern and western United States, especially for rodents in the flesh. Correspondence solicited. Address: Herbert L. Osborn, Biological Laboratory of Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn.

For Sale.—Small collection of fine first-class sets of birds' eggs; single breech-loading shotgun, gold-filled hunting-case watch and telescope. Write for list of eggs and particulars. B. S. Bowdish, Phelps, N. Y.

I am desirous of obtaining the following back numbers of *The Auk*: One copy each of Oct., 1885; July, 1886; January, 1887; July, 1887; April and July, 1891 and two copies each of the following: January, 1886; Oct., 1886; Oct., 1887; July, 1888; January, 1889; January, 1890. My own contributions in them only are required; otherwise the copies need not be perfect. I have in exchange for them two vols. (zoology) *Mex. Birds* by J. J. J. (col. plates) or complete set of *Illustrations of Osteology of Arctic Water-Birds*, etc., (col. plates, 24 lith. plates) or other rare scientific reprints of any subject required. Address Dr. Shufeldt, Takoma, D. C.

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