

These are about average measurements, and this extreme shallowness is only rendered safe by the heavy limbs on which the nests are built, the least diameter of the supporting limb among the eight nests I examined this year being  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch. The eggs, 4 in number, closely resemble some sets of the Yellow Warbler, but the spots are more brownish.

Near London I found two more nests this year, which were both made by the same birds, but for some unexplained cause the first was never occupied. The second yielded me a set of four eggs, larger, more creamy, and handsomer than those from our western trip, of which I have two sets. All these were taken with the nest attached to the limb as placed by the birds. Of the eight nests found this year four were in basswood, two in maple, and two in oak.

To show how much an acquaintance with the birds affects one's ability to find their nests I may mention that of three species whose nests I never found before, I took three sets of each, viz., the Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Sharpshinned Hawk; in fact, the latter bird rather bewildered the three active oologists of London, who had searched a great deal without finding any nests in previous years, but this year we took between us six sets, comprising 27 eggs, the most distant nest being less than four miles from the city limits.

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#### WINTER SOIREES.

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The inaugural meeting of the winter lectures took place on the 11th December in the large Assembly Hall of the Normal School. The proceedings were opened by the delivery of an Address of Welcome by Mr. J. H. Putman, the Science Master of the Normal School. This was followed by the Inaugural Address of the President, Dr. H. M. Ami, F.R.S.C., etc. An interesting feature of the evening was the presentation of a fine portrait of the late Elkanah Billings to the Government of Canada for deposition in the museum of the Geological Survey Department. This portrait was painted by Mr. C. E. Moss, from a painting in the possession of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and was received.