

pletely hidden by thick underbrush. The birds were so excited that they allowed the observer to advance to within two or three feet of them, without paying the least attention to him; the snake, however, on seeing someone approach, relinquished his prize, and glided off into the thicket. As soon as they saw the enemy routed, the storm of angry chirps ceased, and the robins and catbirds flew off; while the thrushes, although they continued to give vent to occasional mournful whistles, did not manifest nearly the same anger or alarm at seeing their offspring in human hands, as they did when the snake had possession of it. The young thrush, which had evidently just left the nest, was only slightly skinned on the wing, but was terribly frightened, and died the next day. During the whole of the combat a least flycatcher (*Empidonan minimus* Bd.) was quietly sitting on her nest in the fork of a small willow, only a few feet away, paying not the slightest heed to the exciting scene which was enacting beneath her.

Among the nests found this season might be mentioned several of the white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis* (Gm.) Bp.) About the 8th August the nest of a common Bittern (*Botaurus mugitans* (Bartr.) Coues) a collection of oak twigs, placed in the centre of a small clump of *Cassandra calyculata*, was found in Lake Flora Swamp, Hull, with five half-grown young ones in it.

On the 11th July, Mr. Scott found what was probably the nest of a red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus* (L.) Veillot) containing two eggs of the cowbird (*Molothrus ater* (Bodd.) Gray) *almost hatched!* This is a most interesting find, as it has been hitherto supposed that the birds which are forced to do duty as nurses to the cowbird's young, would not hatch the eggs of the intruder, unless some of their own eggs were present.*

The following additions have been made to the "List of birds shot in the vicinity of Ottawa," appended to last year's report, and published in "Transactions" No. 3, of the Club. (The numbers refer to the second edition of Coues' "Check List.")

6. *Turdus mustelinus* Gm., Wood Thrush. This bird is not uncommon with us, and was inadvertently omitted from last year's list.

*Since the above was written, the following has appeared in an article by Mr. W. Dunlop in the *Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist* for June, 1883: "Dr. Brewer mentions a case in which a red-eyed vireo hatched three of these (the cowbird's) eggs without laying any of her own."