

CORRESPONDENCE.

EDITOR, THE OTTAWA NATURALIST:

It is with pleasure that I am able to report that for the fourth year in succession "*Tyrannus verticalis*" has migrated hither. A pair are now (May 26) looking over last year's nest with a view to re-occupation. Probably they are the original pair. In any case, they are far more welcome than their cousins, *T. tyrannus*.

H. M. SPEECHLY, Pilot Mound, Man.

NEST OF BELTED KINGFISHER.

A nest of this species with the eggs and parent bird has been acquired by the Canadian Fisheries Museum. The nest is from Meach Lake, Gatineau District, P.Q., and was found by Mr. Alex. C. Finlayson, Inspector of Fish Hatcheries, and his son, on 24th May. It was situated in a sand-pit about 10 feet from the ground and about 3 feet from the top of the pit. An excavated tunnel about 8 feet in length led from the entrance to the nest—the diameter of the entrance being about 2½ inches, and the extremity of the tunnel, where the nest was, was dome-shaped, and about 8 inches across and some 6 inches high. The nest was placed on the sand of the pit, and was merely composed of clean fish-bones and scales, upon which was the full complement of eggs—7 in number, fresh, semi-spherical, and pure white, only that their contents before being blown gave them a pinkish hue. The parent bird, which was found in the burrow, is the male, which lacks the chestnut band across the breast characteristic of the female. The nest, eggs and bird, when together exhibited in the museum, will form a graceful object.

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle alcyon*). "This is the familiar bird whose loud, coarse, rattling notes are heard along our streams. It may be seen perched upon the lower branches of a tree overhanging the water or on the top of a dead stump; these places furnish a favorite outlook, from which it plunges beneath the water to secure its prey, which is chiefly fish. It is a curious fact that Mr. W. E. D. Scott frequently met with this bird in the desert region of Southern Arizona, far from water, feeding on the large insects and lizards." (Oliver Daire, in "*Nests and Eggs of North American Birds*.")

ANDREW HALKETT.