

ORNITHOLOGICAL QUERIES.

In former numbers of this journal we have asked for information regarding the economy of certain birds inhabiting Canada, of which very little is known. The natural history of the following species appears to us, worthy of further investigation.

The Gray Sea Eagle or Ern (*Haliaetus albicilla*) It was described by Cuvier. Now, there is a doubt expressed by American ornithologists as to its being a true species. An eagle resembling the European Ern occurs in Canada to which the name Gray Sea Eagle is applied, but some persons contend that it is only the young of the Bald Eagle. Mr. R. Rowe, of St. John, N.B., writes to ask "If the female of *Haliaetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle) has plumage same as male—*i. e.*—with white head and tail. I am inclined to think that the female has not the white head and tail. I saw a pair this fall; one had head and tail like snow, and the other which I concluded was the female, was brown. I am speaking of course of mature plumage. If I had had my rifle with me at the time, I believe I could have killed the two, as they were not twenty yards from me, and both in a line sitting on an old stump." Can any of our correspondents inform us if the Northern Sea Eagle (*H. pelagicus*, Siebold), has been shot in Canada? These three eagles are evidently mixed up in such a way that it will take some time to separate them properly. Have ornithologists compared the eggs of *H. pelagicus* with those of *H. leucocephalus*, or can the eggs of *H. albicilla* be produced as identified?

Golden-crested Wren, (*Regulus satrapa*, Licht.) I saw this species feeding its young at Mingan on the North Shore of the Lower St. Lawrence. Has its nest been found in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or the Western portion of the Province of Quebec?

Tit Lark (*Anthus ludovicianus*, Licht.) This species visits the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec in the Fall; is said to nest in high latitudes. The bird is terrestrial and possibly the nest may approach the form of that of a *Melospiza*, and may therefore be overlooked. I have never noticed the Tit Lark in Ontario or Quebec in Summer, hence it is questionable if it nests in the vicinity of latitude 46.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica Blackburniae*.) This pretty warbler passes north through our forests about the middle of May. Has its nest been found in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia? I saw numbers of this

species in the woods of Labrador on the 17th June, but could not discover the nest. I found the nest of the Black and Yellow Warbler (*D. maculosa*) at Natashquan on the latter date.

The Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*, Bon.) Occurs in Western Ontario. Can any of our correspondents send us a description of its nest, and the geographical range of the bird in Canada? How far East has it been noticed in Ontario?

The Pine Finch (*Chrysomitris pinus*, Bon.) Has this bird been found breeding in Canada?

The Lesser Red-poll (*Aegialitis linaria*, Cuv.) Two species of Red-poll are sometimes common in the Province of Quebec in the Fall, but I have not yet met with a person who found their nests in Canada.

The Sea-side Finch (*Ammodramus maritimus*, Sw.) Can any of our Nova Scotian or New Brunswick ornithologists inform us if this finch breeds within their Provinces? I found nests of a finch on the Labrador coast which I took for this species, but at the time had no facility to identify them.

The Tree Sparrow (*Spizella monticola*, Baird.) This is another species which appears in the Province of Quebec. It passes north in April. The Fall birds are mostly all young. Probably they nest in the woods on the Laurentian Mountains. I would like to obtain information regarding the nest of this species.

The Magpie (*Pica Hudsonicus*, Bon.) This bird is said to frequent the vicinity of Lake Superior. Has its nest been discovered near the latter region? C.

BULLETIN OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The first proceedings of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick are before us; the matter, scientifically viewed, is fully equal to that issued by older institutions. It contains a catalogue of the birds of New Brunswick, by Mr. Montague Chamberlain, who appends brief notes relating to their migrations, breeding, &c. The discovery of the breeding localities of birds forms the most important research in Ornithology at this age of human inquiry, and a compiler of matter relating to this portion of American bird history, should certainly be encouraged in order to have it authentic. From Mr. Chamberlain's notes we obtain new information regarding a few species which were heretofore considered mysterious as to their breeding places, and we wish