

NOTES ON THE SIZE OF HAWKS' EGGS.

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(Read before the Ornithological Section of the Entomological Society of Ontario.)

A measurement and comparison of the cubic contents of the eggs of the red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks, with the addition of the measurements of a small series of broad-winged and Swainson's hawk. In making the following measurements, I am indebted to Mr. W. E. Saunders for the use of his collection and for notes on the same.

In all, eighty-five eggs of red-shouldered, seventeen of red-tailed, three of broad-winged, and six of Swainson's hawk, have been measured, and although no large sets of red-tailed were available, the measurements go to show, that presuming that every two sets of red-tailed hawk contained five eggs unitedly (which in this locality is far above the average), still the average set of red-shouldered would exceed that of the red-tailed by nearly 15 cc., and six of the twenty five sets of red-shouldered measured, are greater than an average set of three red-tailed, while two others are almost equal.

Of the eighty-five red-shouldered eggs, only one exceeds the average red-tailed in size, although four others are within a small fraction of a cc. of being equal to it.

An article published in "The Ornithologist and Oologist," 1886, page 118, entitled: "The Relative Size of Eggs of the Red-tailed Hawk to the Parent Bird," proves with but little doubt, that the larger the female of a species, the larger the egg deposited by her. Accepting this as a fact, it would now be of interest to compare the female birds of this species, not by measurement but by weight, for although the red-tailed hawk is apparently a much larger bird, its feathers are longer and looser, and there is a doubt in my mind whether it weighs as much more as it appears to.

It would also be of interest to compare the relative weights of both these birds with the cubic contents of sets deposited by