

soon found containing eleven eggs of this species (*Florida Gallinule*). Nearby, a floating mass of dead rushes, the home of a pair of pied billed grebes, allowing that they were sometimes at home, held five eggs partially covered with rushes laid lengthwise of the nest.

Leaving the open water and coming to a more central portion of the island, we were in the home of the long-billed marsh wren, whose long tails were far more conspicuous than their bills. When startled from the rushes they appeared to have some definite destination in view and would solve the problem of getting there by a direct mathematical flight on quickly whirring wings, swerving neither to right nor left. Their globular nests were everywhere, and resembled those of the field mouse but were very strongly woven with rushes with a lining of feathery down from the bullrushes. The entrance was a small round hole in the side, which, in the first nest, I did not readily find, but later I observed that it invariably opened out between the rushes to which the nest was fastened. The nesting sites were chiefly in clumps of last year's rushes, when they were composed of dead material. Many birds, however, fastened their nests to the long rank grasses which covered the marshes where the water was only a few inches deep. In the latter choice, green grasses were used in building, the wrens thus blending the color of their homes with that of the immediate surroundings. Often three or more nests appeared to be the property of one pair of birds, those occupied being several yards apart. The surplus nests are probably built with the purpose of discouraging enemies, or possibly having cause to fear rising of water, the birds are not satisfied with their first attempts.

One nest that I found contained four eggs of a pure glossy white, without a sign of coloration. They were slightly malformed and almost globular in shape, measuring:  $.58 \times 53$ ;  $.58 \times 52$ ;  $.59 \times 54$ ;  $.57 \times 53$ , averaging  $.58 \times 53$ , whilst an average specimen of the normal egg measures  $.66 \times 49$ . In two of these eggs incubation was somewhat advanced, whilst the other two were almost fresh. It has been suggested to me that these albino eggs might be the short-billed marsh wrens. The same idea caused me to stand in one and one-half feet of water for a