

Calais, Me., and Williamstown, Mass., are before me. I am inclined to think, from what I can learn from collectors and others, that four is the usual number laid by this bird, — probably seldom more. Their ground-color varies from a deep cream or yellowish-buff to a pale reddish-white: this is covered, more or less thickly in different specimens, with spots and confluent blotches of reddish-brown and Vandyke-brown, or chocolate. Their form is nearly spherical, being but very little pointed at either end. Their dimensions vary from 1.40 inch by 1.15 inch to 1.30 inch by 1.13 inch. This species breeds later than most of the other birds of prey, as the eggs which I found in Maine on the 11th of June, 1864, were newly laid. This species usually nests in a hollow tree or a deserted woodpecker's nest.

Sub-Family ACCIPITRINÆ. — The Hawks.

Form rather long and slender; tail and legs long; wings rather short; bill short, hooked; upper mandible lobed, but not toothed. Very active and vigilant, and swift of flight; pursuing their prey, which consists of birds and small quadrupeds, into the woods and forests.

ASTUR, LAC.

Astur, LACÉPÈDE, Mem. Inst., III. p. 500.

The largest birds of this sub-family. General form strong, but rather long and slender; wing rather short; tail long and broad; tarsi long, covered in front with rather wide transverse scales; toes and claws moderate, the latter fully curved, sharp; bill short, curved; nostrils large, ovate, inserted in the cere. This genus contains about twelve species of all countries.

ASTUR ATRICAPILLUS. — Bonaparte.

The Goshawk.

Falco atricapillus, Wilson. Am. Orn., VI. 80 (1812).

Falco regalis, Temm. Pl. col. I. (liv. 84, about 1827).

Dedalion pictum, Lesson. Traité d'Orn., I. 67 (1831).

DESCRIPTION.

Adult. — Head above, neck behind, and stripe from behind the eye, black, generally more or less tinged with ashy; other upper parts dark ashy bluish or slate color, with the shafts of the feathers black, and frequently with the feathers narrowly edged with black, presenting a squamate or scale-like appearance; a conspicuous stripe over the eye, and an obscure and partially concealed occipital and

nuchal band, with every feather with irregular and distinct and regular shade of the same color; other upper parts obscure bands under tail cover.

Young. — Especially on the head nearly white; the sides of the head, the brow, and the nuchal band, a darker shade of the same color; webs; under parts pale; sides and tibiae of the same color; under tail cover.

Adult. — Greenish-blue; the sides of the head, the brow, and the nuchal band, a darker shade of the same color.

Young. — Greenish-blue; the sides of the head, the brow, and the nuchal band, a darker shade of the same color.

AUDUBON. Total length, ten and a half; tail, nine and a half.

This hawk is the most common in the Northeast, which is common, and a nest of its egg in me two or three Woburn, and which I showed thought the doubt concerning them as figures they are almost