

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW.

The Dignity of a Calling is its Utility.

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## THE O. A. C. REVIEW.

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Ex students will confer a great favor on the Editors  
of this journal by sending news, particularly experi-  
ences of practical value.



## BIRDS AND THEIR HABITS.

W. T. Shaw.

The study of Bird Life presents a fascinat-  
ing aspect, be it that of the Eagle, with its  
majestic sweep through space, the tiny Hum-  
ming Bird, as it hovers among the blossoms,  
or the Swallow, with its graceful curves, as it  
circles in and out among the caves. It is in-  
teresting to note the similarities which may  
be observed as common to the various species,  
and also the peculiarities which distinguish  
each individual. Every student of Ornithology  
will remember the thrill of delight he ex-  
perienced on discovering a new specimen as  
each new discovery lends a charm to the pur-  
suit. In speaking of this study, an American  
writer says, "Audubon on the desolate coast

of Labrador, is happier than any king ever  
was; and on shipboard is nearly cured of his  
sea-sickness when a new gull appears in sight."

Song birds are the most abundant of our  
land birds, among our native song birds the  
Blue Bird is one of the most distinguished.  
John Burroughs, a writer on Ornithology, in  
Wake Robin, gives the following beautiful  
description: "When nature made the blue  
bird she wished to propitiate both the sky and  
the earth, so she gave him the color of the one  
on his back and the hue of the other on his  
breast, and ordained that his appearance in  
in spring should denote that the strife and war  
between these two elements was at an end.  
He is the peace harbinger; in him the celestial  
and terrestrial shake hands and are fast friends."

Arriving about the latter end of March, his  
rich, plaintive voice may be heard for a few  
days before the bird is seen, as he hovers  
about not knowing whether to alight or go  
further north. It is frequently seen on a fine  
evening in March about sunset. The nest is  
frequently built in a bird-house put up for  
them, but more commonly in an excavation  
made by the woodpecker in some low stub.  
Among birds such as the ground builders there  
is generally some way to decoy intruders  
from the nest, for example the partridge when  
driven from the nest, will flutter off appear-  
ing to be wounded or lame, with the purpose  
of inducing you to give chase and thus draw-  
ing your attention from the nest. The blue bird  
has no device of this kind and its nest is easily  
found.

The great American Horned Owl is one of  
the noblest birds of the owl family. It is of a  
secluded disposition rarely venturing near the  
buildings except to prey upon poultry, as is  
sometimes the case. It inhabits dense pine  
forests, also heavy timbered, hardwood forests.  
Its cry is a dull succession of hoots, conveying  
a dismal sound, which may be heard at a  
great distance. This species of the owl family  
is not wholly a night bird, being exceedingly  
difficult to approach in the day time. Re-  
maining in this country all winter it is the  
object of persecution by the crows in the