

THE ALBA B. GHERE COLLECTION OF BIRDS' EGGS PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY.

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Alba B. Ghere of Frankfort, Indiana, was born in 1870 and died March 25, 1904, at the age of thirty-four years.

It is said of him that he was a born naturalist, an enthusiastic student of birds, their eggs and their nests. To this line of endeavor he gave all of the spare time of his life from the fourteenth year to the end. A careful list of the spring and fall migrations was recorded for a period of years, and at the end of each season was forwarded to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for record. The incomplete list of the spring migration of 1904, in which he entered notes to a day or two before his death, accompanies the collection of eggs.

That Mr. Ghere was a careful observer is attested to by the fact that his notes, among those of many other persons, are quoted at five or more points by Dr. C. H. Merriam in the Bulletin No. 1, on The English Sparrow in North America (1889), Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy, Washington, D. C.

Through the kindness of his mother, Mrs. India S. Cottingham, of Frankfort, Indiana, the complete collection of eggs, the oölogical instruments, and his oölogical books were presented to Purdue University in October, 1914.¹ The collection numbers somewhat more than four hundred specimens of eggs from about one hundred and thirty species of birds, some of which are western or marine species that were acquired by exchange or by purchase. It may be of special interest to know that one egg is said to be from the once abundant passenger pigeon.²

¹Among the books are government publications on birds; Davis and Baker's *Oologist's Directory*, 1855; Davies' *Nests and Eggs of North American Birds*, 1856; Capen's *Oology of New England*, 1886. The latter is an elaborate quarto in natural colors, and is one of a limited small edition.

²Its measurements and diagnostic characteristics seem to correspond with the descriptions given for this species.

Order I. PYGOPODES.

A. O. U.

Family *Podicipidæ*.

3. Horned Grebe.....
- Colymbus auritus*
- .

Family *Gaviidæ*.

7. Loon.....
- Gavia imber*
- .

Family *Alcidæ*.

27. Black Guillemot.....
- Cephus grylle*
- .
-
30. Murre.....
- Uria troile*
- .
-
- 30a. California Murre.....
- Uria troile californica*
- .

Order II. LONGIPENNES.

Family *Laridæ*.

41. Red-legged Kittiwake.....
- Rissa brevirostris*
- .
-
47. Great Black-backed Gull.....
- Larus marinus*
- .
-
49. Western Gull.....
- Larus occidentalis*
- .
-
51. Herring Gull.....
- Larus argentatus*
- .
-
- 51a. American Herring Gull.....
- Larus argentatus americanus*
- .
-
54. Ring-billed Gull.....
- Larus delawarensis*
- .
-
58. Laughing Gull.....
- Larus atricilla*
- .
-
59. Franklin Gull.....
- Larus franklini*
- .
-
60. Little Gull.....
- Larus minutus*
- .
-
70. Common Tern.....
- Sterna hirundo*
- .
-
74. Least Tern.....
- Sterna antillarum*
- .
-
75. Sooty Tern.....
- Sterna fuliginosa*
- .
-
77. Black Tern.....
- Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*
- .

Family *Rhynchopidæ*.

80. Black Skimmer.....
- Rhynchops nigra*
- .

Order IV. STEGANOPODES.

Family *Phalacrocoracidæ*.

122. Brant Cormorant.....
- Phalacrocorax penicillatus*
- .

Order VII. HERODIONES.

Family *Ardeidæ*.

191. Least Bittern.....
- Ardetta exilis*
- .
-
196. American Egret.....
- Herodias egretta*
- .
-
197. Sao vy Heron.....
- Egretta candidissima*
- .

199. Louisiana Heron.....Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis.
 200. Little Blue Heron.....Florida coerulea.
 201. Green Heron.....Butorides virescens.
 202. Black-crowned Night Heron.....Nycticorax nycticorax naevius.

Order VIII. PALUDICOLÆ.

Family *Rallidæ*.

212. Virginia Rail.....Rallus virginianus.
 214. Carolina Rail; Sora.....Porzana carolina.
 218. Purple Gallinule.....Tonornis martinica.
 221. American Coot.....Fulica americana.

Order IX. LIMICOLÆ.

Family *Phalaropodidæ*.

224. Wilson Phalarope.....Steganopus tricolor.

Family *Scolopacidæ*.

261. Bartramian Sandpiper.....Bartramia longicauda.
 263. Spotted Sandpiper.....Actitis macularia.

Family *Charadriidæ*.

269. Lapwing.....Vanellus vanellus.
 274. Semipalmated Plover.....Aegialitis semipalmata.
 280. Wilson Plover.....Oethodromus wilsonius.

Order X. GALLINÆ.

Family *Tetraonidæ*.

289. Bob-white.....Colinus virginianus.

Order XI. COLUMBÆ.

Family *Columbidæ*.

315. †Passenger Pigeon; Wild Pigeon...Ectopistes migratorius.
 319. White-winged Dove.....Melopelia leucoptera.

Order XII. RAPTORES.

Family *Cathartidæ*.

325. Turkey Vulture; Turkey Buzzard...Cathartes aura.

†Its measurements and diagnostic characteristics seem to correspond with the descriptions given for this species.

Family *Falconidæ*.

337. Red Tailed Hawk..... *Buteo borealis*.
 339. Red-shouldered Hawk..... *Buteo lineatus*.
 357. Pigeon Hawk..... *Falco columbarius*.
 360. Sparrow Hawk..... *Falco sparverius*.
 364. American Osprey; Fish Hawk..... *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.

Family *Strigidæ*.

365. Barn Owl..... *Strix patrincola*.

Family *Bubonidæ*.

366. American Long-eared Owl..... *Asio wilsonianus*.
 367. Short-eared Owl..... *Asio accipitrinus*.
 375. Great Horned Owl..... *Bubo virginianus*.

Order XIV. COCCYGES.

Family *Cuculidæ*.

387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo..... *Coccyzus americanus*.

Family *Alcedinidæ*.

390. Belted Kingfisher..... *Ceryle alcyon*.

Order XV. PICI.

Family *Picidæ*.

- ?? Undetermined species.
 412. Southern Flicker..... *Colaptes auratus*.
 412a. Northern Flicker..... *Colaptes auratus luteus*.

Order XVI. MACROCHIRES.

Family *Caprimulgidæ*.

420. Nighthawk..... *Chordeiles virginianus*.
 425. White-throated Swift..... *Aeronautes melanoleucus*.

Family *Trochilidæ*.

428. Ruby-throated Hummingbird..... *Trochilus colubris*.
 429. Black-chinned Hummingbird..... *Trochilus alexandri*.
 431. Anna Hummingbird..... *Calypte anna*.

Order XVII. PASSERES.

Family *Tyrannidæ*.

- ?? Flycatcher.
 461. Wood Pewee *Contopus virens*.
 466a. Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii alnorum*.
 467. Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*.

Family *Alaudidæ*.

- ?? Larks, undetermined.

Family *Corvidæ*.

488. American Crow *Corvus americanus*.

Family *Icteridæ*.

497. Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*.
 ??? Oriole Undetermined.
 506. Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*.
 507. Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*.

Family *Fringillidæ*.

- 519a. Crimson House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*.
 546. Grasshopper Sparrow *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*.
 552a. Western Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*.
 584. Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*.
 585. Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*.
 598. Indigo Bunting *Cyanospiza cyanea*.
 601. Painted Bunting; Nonpareil *Cyanospiza ciris*.

Family *Hirundinidæ*.

612. Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon lunifrons*.
 613. Barn Swallow *Hirundo erythrogastra*.

Family *Ampelidæ*.

619. Cedar Waxwing *Ampelis cedrorum*.

Family *Vireonidæ*.

631. White-eyed Vireo *Vireo noveboracensis*.
 ?? Unidentified species.

Family *Mniotiltidæ*.

683. Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*.

Family *Troglodytidae*.

703. Mockingbird.....Mimus polyglottos.
 705. Brown Thrasher.....Toxostoma rufum.
 713. Cactus Wren.....Heleodytes brunneicapillus.
 718. Carolina Wren.....Thryothorus ludovicianus.
 721. House Wren.....Troglodytes aedon.
 722. Winter Wren.....Olbiorchilus hiemalis.
 724. Short-billed Marsh Wren.....Cistothorus stellaris.
 725. Long-billed Marsh Wren.....Telmatodytes palustris.

Family *Turdidae*.

758. Russet-backed Thrush.....Hylocichla ustulata.
 761. American Robin.....Merula migratoria.
 761a. Western Robin.....Merula migratoria propinqua.
 766. Bluebird.....Sialia sialis.
 767. Western Bluebird.....Sialia mexicana.
 768. Mountain Bluebird.....Sialia arctica.

Unidentified, about thirty species, chiefly of the common native birds.

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