

FIELD NOTES

THE C. HUBER WATSON EGG COLLECTION FROM ALLEGANY COUNTY:

C. Huber Watson, a jeweler and optometrist by occupation and naturalist by hobby, lived most of his life in Andover, Allegany County New York. He was born June 17, 1879 in Cuba, N. Y. and died at Andover May 22, 1957. St. Bonaventure University acquired his collection of eggs shortly before his death. It contains clutches which represent 106 species and 40 families of birds. The collection authenticates many nesting records of historical and ecological interest for this County.

Of greatest historical record are: the clutch of Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) eggs taken in 1922 at Andover; the probable clutch of Rough-winged Swallow taken in 1898 along the Genesee River near Belfast (Eaton, E. H. vol. 2, says they arrived at Springville between 1884 and 1900); House Sparrow clutches which were taken at Cuba in 1897 and 1899; and a clutch of Horned Lark eggs from Cuba in 1899.

All dates and localities are of ecological interest because there are few published records of nesting from Allegany County. Besides collecting eggs Watson also ran a bird banding station and was a very competent photographer. Many of his photographs were published in *Bird Lore* and other naturalist journals of the early part of the 1900's (McMurtry, Edna Hewes-Kingbird Vol. 5, pp. 3-7.). Below is a list of clutches collected by Watson from Allegany Co.

Red shouldered Hawk, 4 eggs fresh, April 12, 1925, Andover; Marsh Hawk, 2 eggs fresh, May 15, 1901, Cuba; Ruffed Grouse, 9 eggs May 7, 1904 fresh, Alfred; Wilson's Snipe, Belmont 1948—2 eggs saved from deserted nest of 4 (collected by Walter McMurtry, Jr.); Spotted Sandpiper, 4 eggs May 22, 1896 fresh, Cuba; Black-billed Cuckoo, 4 eggs May 20, 1895, fresh, Cuba; Great Horned Owl, 2 eggs Feb. 5, 1933 fresh, Cuba; Long-eared Owl, 5 eggs May 5, 1896 incubation advanced, nest in natural hollow in maple tree about 25 feet up composed of leaves, Cuba; Kingfisher, 6 eggs June 10, 1899 incubation slight, Cuba; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5 eggs May 31, 1905 incubation slight, Alfred; Downy Woodpecker, 3 eggs May 31, 1906, Alfred; Flicker, 7 eggs May 17, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Phoebe, 5 eggs June 9, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Kingbird, 4 eggs fresh, Cuba; Rough-winged Swallow (marked Bank Swallow but the solitary hole and ecology suggest Rough-winged Swallow), 6 eggs June 4, 1898, Genesee River bank near Belfast; Crow, 6 sets taken at Cuba and Andover, one set of 5, Apr. 29, 1897, another of 5 eggs Apr. 13, 1898, another of 4 eggs Apr. 30, 1900, another of 5 eggs Apr. 24, 1899, another of 3 eggs May 5, 1933; Catbird 5 eggs May 30, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Wood Thrush, 4 eggs May 30, 1906 fresh, Alfred; Veery (Wilson's Thrush), 4 eggs June 2, 1906 fresh, Alfred; Bluebird, 6 eggs Apr. 30, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Cedar Waxwing, 4 eggs July 5, 1896 fresh, Cuba; Starling, 5 eggs June 13, 1922 fresh, Andover in Methodist Episcopal Church belfry, bird seen, nest of roots and grass; Yellow Warbler, 4 eggs May 27, 1898, Cuba; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 4 eggs June 10, 1905 fresh, Alfred; Ovenbird, 5 eggs May 27, 1905 fresh, Alfred; Horned Lark, 3 eggs April 17, 1899, Cuba (according to E. H. Eaton (Birds of N. Y. vol. 2, p. 203) this bird was not found nesting in Niagara Co. until 1884); House Sparrow, 5 eggs Apr. 25, 1899 and May 2, 1897 fresh, Cuba; Bobolink, 5 eggs June 1, 1898, fresh, Cuba; Meadowlark, 4 eggs July 8, 1896 fresh, Cuba; Red-winged Blackbird, May 17, 1898, May 27, 1898, June 8, 1898 all sets of 4 fresh eggs, Cuba; Baltimore Oriole, 4 eggs May 27, 1898 fresh, Cuba; Common Grackle, May 2, 1899 (set of 5) Cuba, May 9, 1907 (set of 6) Alfred, May 8, 1899 (set of 4) Cuba; Indigo Bunting, 4 eggs June 6, 1898, Cuba; Purple Finch, 3 eggs July 8, 1899 incubation slight, Cuba; Goldfinch, 4 eggs July 30, 1898, Cuba; Chipping Sparrow, 4 eggs June 10, 1898, Cuba; Field Sparrow, 4 eggs June 6, 1898, Cuba; Song Sparrow, 5 eggs June 3, 1898, Cuba, another set June 11, 1906 of 4 eggs, Alfred. — Stephen W. Eaton, Department of Biology, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N. Y.