

THE COW BIRD.—In the second number of "Nature," Professor Newton has an uncommonly interesting and suggestive article on the variation observed in Cuckoos' eggs, which seems to depend upon, or to be in some way connected with the characters of the eggs of the birds selected by the parasite as the foster-parents of its offspring. Has anything of the sort been determined regarding the eggs of the Cow-bird? Do they vary, in the first place, to anything like the extent that the Cuckoo's do; and secondly, do they ever tend unmistakably to assimilate in marking to the eggs of birds usually selected by the Cow-bird as its dupes? Or, again are the birds so chosen, those whose eggs have any special resemblance to a Cow-bird's? It is not always so, I know; but is it so sometimes, frequently, or usually? The subject is worthy of the attention of our ornithologists, from whom it would be well to hear. — ELLIOTT COUES.

OCCURRENCE OF THE BROWN PELICAN IN MASSACHUSETTS. — Since writing "Notes on Some of the Rarer Birds of Massachusetts," I have received, through the kindness of Mr. Martin, further information respecting the Pelicans mentioned in the February number of the NATURALIST. The gentleman who saw the flock referred to there, and who fired at them, writes that the number was five instead of thirteen, as at first erroneously reported, and that they were the *smaller brown species* (*Pelecanus fuscus*) instead of White Pelicans. They came in from the sea, apparently much fatigued, and alighted on the beach near the Sankaty Head lighthouse, where they remained till driven away by being fired at. A White Pelican seems, however, to have been recently killed on Brant Point, Nantucket, as previously stated. The Brown Pelican I have not known to occur previously so far north. — J. A. ALLEN.

THE CHIPMUNK. — One of our chipmunks was noticed a few days ago busily nibbling at a snake that had been recently killed. He could hardly be driven away, and soon returned to his feast when his tormentors had withdrawn a short distance. Does the *Tamias striatus* in other regions possess such carnivorous propensities? — A. J. COOK, *Lansing, Mich.*

ALBINO RODENTS. — In the back yard of a small restaurant in this city is kept a beautiful albino squirrel, of the black and gray species (*Sciurus Carolinensis* Gm.). It was taken in Central Wisconsin, where another was killed at the same time. There is an albino rat at a bird-store in town. — W. J. BEAL.

CONCHOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 4th, 1869. — Mr. Tryon called the attention of the members to specimens of *Amnicola grana* Say, from Carter County, Missouri, presented this evening. This very minute species was apparently unknown to Professor Haldeman, who in his monograph of the genus, merely quotes Say's original description and citation of locality and does not figure it. The species was for years considered a doubtful one, until Mr. Tryon had discovered it, six or eight years ago, existing in considerable numbers in ditches in the southern part of the city of Philadelphia.