



Ootheca Wolleyana Edited from the Original Notes by Alfred Newton

John Wolley



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1864 Excerpt: ...From Mr. J. Greens Collection. 164. Four.--Petaja-vaara, Kemi Lappmark, about N. lat. 68, May, 1857. On the 23rd of July 1857 Nicolai brought these four eggs and said they belonged to a very shy, strange kind of Hawk, that flies high up from its nest, and that stands in the air in one place, and then changes its place. The nest was in a dry Scotch fir, three or four fathoms from the ground. It was found before the 30th of May. In August, the boy Gustaf has explained to me that it is a Hawk quite strange to the country: he does not know about its hovering, but it flies away from its nest, and sits to watch on a tall tree, in a manner quite different from Pouta-Haukka Falco asalori. Nicolai had been before asked by me about this bird, and he said he had seen it once or so. On looking at these eggs among some thirtyeight Merlins, I see they are not larger than the largest of them, but are of a yellower red, or at least have a different look. On the whole, I have very little doubt that the eggs above-mentioned were rightly assigned by Mr. Wolley to the Kestrel. In his Catalogue of Eggs for 1868 (p. 10), he suggests, and with probability, that the unusual numbers of several kinds of mice had attracted this species so far beyond its usual limits. Previously to 1857, he was aware of only one instance of its occurrence north of the Gulf of Bothnia. That happened on the 13th of September 1855, when he and I were approaching Haparanda, on the Swedish side of the Tornea river. We then saw, and for some minutes watched, an undoubted Timiuncuhis akuidaritu hovering over a corn-field by the road-side. Its occasionally breeding further north was, however, known to Herr Wallengren (Naumannia, 1865, p. 134). 165. Two.--Elveden, April, 1859. Giv...

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