

a view to nest-building. Those poles being longer and larger than the mesquite timber, which abounds along the road from San Antonio to Castrovilla in Medina County, seem to offer better facilities for nesting than the small short trunks of the mesquite. From Medina County we traced the species northeasterly to the Colorado River, in San Daba County, about one hundred and fifty miles. From this point to Gainesville, Texas, some two hundred miles northeast, we did not encounter the species, and there seems to be a narrow belt of neutral land between the eastern range of the Yellow-faced Woodpecker and the western limit of its near relative, the Red-bellied Woodpecker.

"During the fall of the same year (1878) I started from Gainesville, Texas, and traveled a little south of west, and was surprised to find the species on the Brazos River, so far north. Traveling westward, we seemed to pass beyond the bird, as we did not see it in Taylor and Nolan Counties at all.

"On our return we noted the species again in the vicinity of the Brazos River still above where we crossed that river going out and near Fort Belknap. At this point it is only about forty miles from Red River; and the bird may be looked for on that stream, although Lieutenant McCauley does not mention it in his notes on the birds of the upper Red River.—*G. H. Ragsdale, Gainesville, Texas, Aug. 1, '79.*"

Eastland County lies south of $32^{\circ} 30'$ while Belknap is north of 33° .—*G. H. RAGSDALE, Gainesville, Texas.*

Notes on *Eugenes fulgens*.—This Hummingbird is a summer resident in the Huachuca Mts., Arizona. It arrives in May, but is nowhere plentiful until the mescal shrubs begin to blossom, about the middle of June. From this time on during the entire summer one may observe on almost any hillside below the pine belt large clusters of bright red or yellow flowers spreading out from stalks ten or fifteen feet high. There are many varieties of this plant and all are favorite feeding resorts of the Rivoli Hummer. I have shot as many as a dozen in a day simply by sitting down and watching for them to come and feed. It is necessary to select a well-matured plant, and at the proper elevation, as well as in good surroundings of spruce pines. While feeding, these birds range from 4,500 to 8,000 feet altitude or up to the pine belt, their favorite grounds being where the pines end on the downward slope. Their flight is exceedingly rapid at times but they often fly slowly so that the wings can be easily seen during the beats. The noise made by this bird's wings during a rapid flight is not like the buzzing of the small Hummer's wings, the beats being more slow and distinct, without any buzzing noise.

Their note is a twittering sound, louder, not so shrill, and uttered more slowly than those of the small Hummers.

From July 5 to 9 I examined nine females; one had already laid and the others contained eggs that would probably have been laid within from one to four days. On July 10 my search for the nest was at last rewarded. The country I had explored was from 7,500 to 10,000 feet elevation,

where a dense growth of tall spruce pines covers the hillsides. These pines are all more or less covered with bunches of moss and lichens. I was resting on a rock in the cool shade beneath one of these trees when I was suddenly attracted by the noise of a Hummer's wings close to my head. Looking up, I saw a female Rivoli making perpendicular dives at me. After repeating this until I had moved off a sufficient distance, she alighted upon a small dead twig and there sat watching me for some moments. As all remained quiet, she now flew about the tree slowly, and when about fifty feet up made a rapid dart to the crotch of a mossy limb about ten feet from the trunk, where the nest was built, nearly hidden from the ground. I now came up, and by throwing things at her flushed her off the nest, but she at once returned to it. After much trouble the nest and the two eggs it contained were secured in safety.

The nest was firmly attached to the limb just beyond a crotch, the limb at the nest being about an inch in diameter. It is of a uniform oval shape, its diameter outside being from 2.03 to 2.62 inches; inside from 1.20 to 1.45. The depth outside is 1.55 inches; inside it is .62. It is composed outwardly of bits of fine moss and lichens, and is indistinguishable from the limbs about it. It is well lined on the inside with many star-shaped downy seeds of a delicate cream color, similar to those of the common thistle of the East, but smaller and softer. The two eggs are pure white, shaped alike at both ends, and measure $.53 \times .37$ and $.52 \times .37$ inch.—OTHO C. POLING, *Ft. Huachuca, Arizona*.

The Philadelphia Vireo in Vermont.—Although the distribution of the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) leads one to expect its regular occurrence in Vermont, I find no record of its capture in that State. It may therefore be of interest to mention that on September 11, 1889, I took a female of this species at Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont. I found the bird among some low alders which overhung a meadow brook.—FRANK H. HITCHCOCK, *Somerville, Mass.*

Spotted Eggs of Swainson's Warbler.—On May 13 of this year I found a nest of Swainson's Warbler in Coosawhatchie Swamp,—which is a very large river-swamp about five miles from Yemassee. Upon looking into the nest I found a single egg, and was very much surprised to see that it was distinctly marked over the whole of the egg. I left the nest with the egg to get the full set, and returned on the 15th and found the bird sitting. The nest contained three eggs which were all spotted. As these are the first eggs of Swainson's Warbler which are distinctly spotted, a description will doubtless be of interest.

I sent these eggs with the nest to Capt. Bendire, and at my request Mr. Ridgway has kindly described the eggs and I herewith give his description.

"The two eggs measure, respectively, as follows:— $.83 \times .59$, $.85 \times .60$ inch. One of them, being broken, cannot be measured. The ground color of the eggs is yellowish or buffy white; one of them is very faintly and rather sparsely flecked, chiefly on and near the larger end, with pale



1890. "Notes on *Eugenes fulgens*." *The Auk* 7, 402–403.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/4067576>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54990>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067576>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/87444>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.