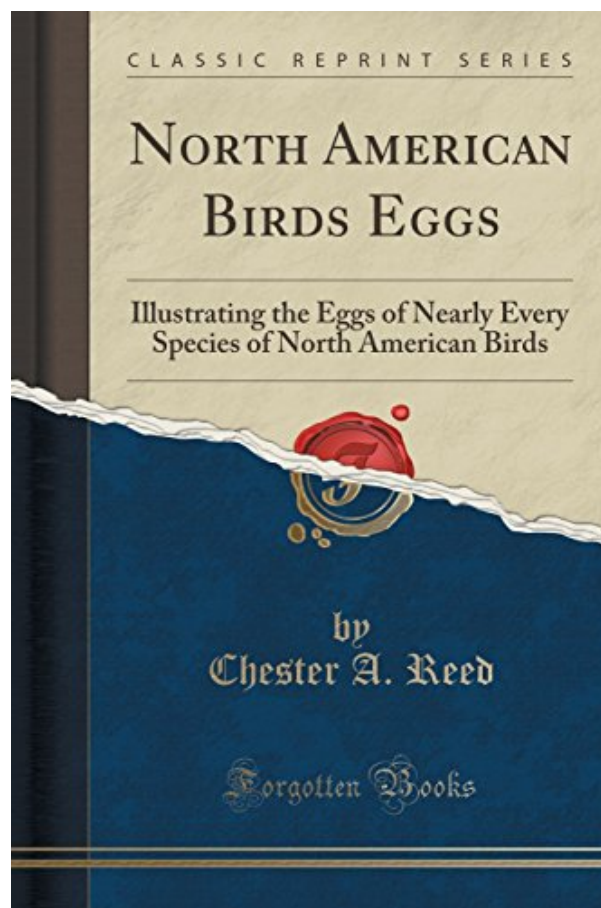
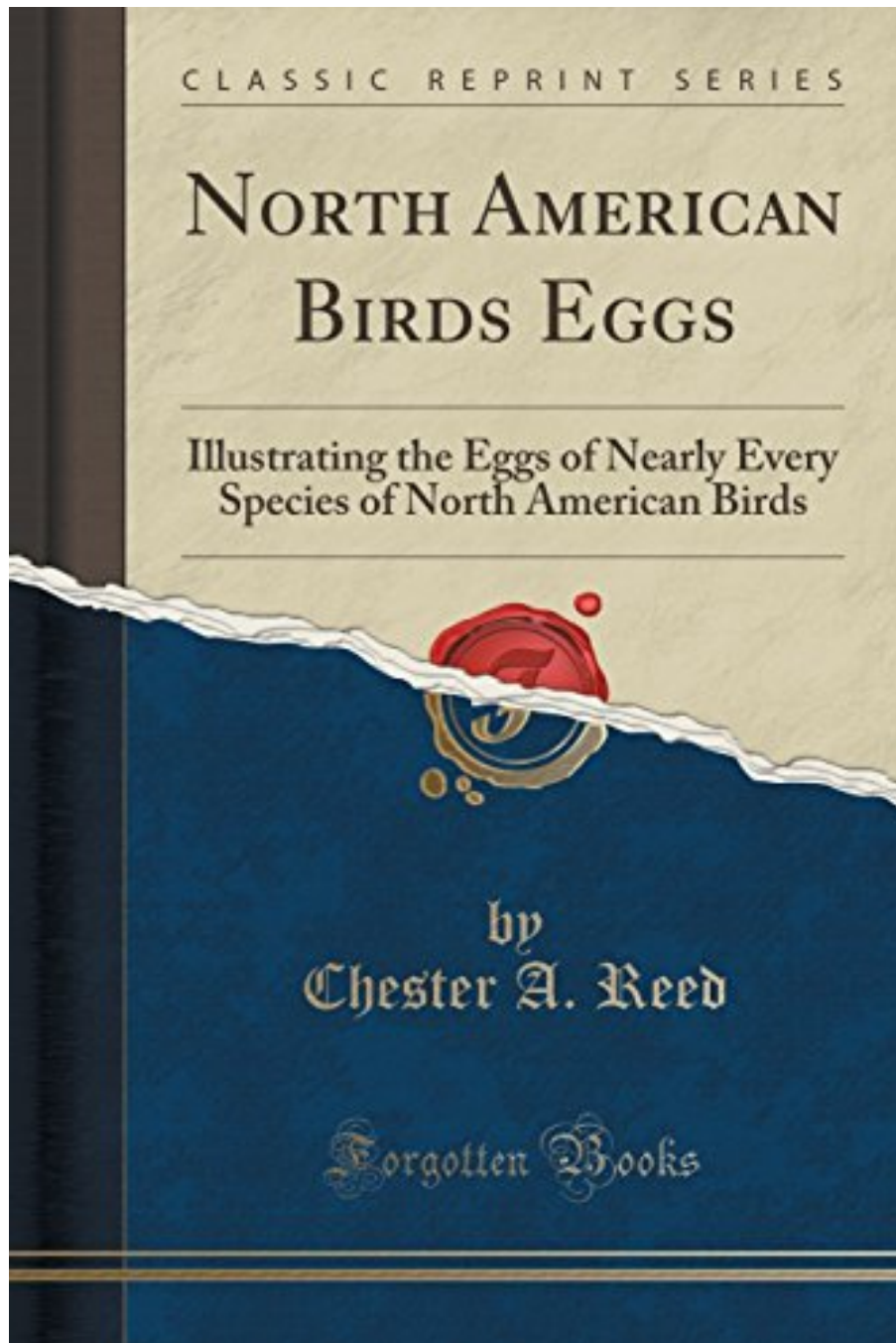


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About the Author

Chester A. Reed is an accomplished author and skilled taxidermist with experience in all branches of the art.

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Excerpt from North American Birds Eggs: Illustrating the Eggs of Nearly Every Species of North American Birds

The greatest interest in the study of birds centers in their home life. Soon after their arrival from their winter quarters, all birds take upon themselves the duties of reproduction, the first step of which is the securing of a satisfactory location; some species, such as Auklets, Petrels, Burrowing Owls, Kingfishers, Bank Swallows, etc., nest at the end of burrows or holes in the ground; a great many nest upon the ground, some laying their eggs upon the bare sand, leaves, or rock, while others build nests, either bulky or slight as suits their respective tastes; hundreds construct their homes among the branches of trees or bushes, some close to the ground, others among the highest branches, and still others swaying from the ends of the outermost limbs; other species lay their eggs at the bottom of holes in trees, either in natural cavities or in holes dug by their own efforts, the most noticeable in the latter class being the Woodpeckers, which often chisel their way into limbs of living trees.

The study of nests alone is most interesting; the rude and slight platforms of the Herons, Cuckoos, Grosbeaks, etc.; the rough but substantial structures of the Robin; and the exquisite, architectural creations of the Hummingbirds, Flycatchers, Orioles, Bush-tits, etc. Surely the work of some of these little feathered creatures, these "homes without hands," show as great a degree of skill and artistic temperament as is seen in the human race.

The eggs of the different species vary through all the tints from white to blue, green and brown, some unmarked, others handsomely specked, spotted, blotched or wreathed with different shades of brown, lilac and lavender, and their sizes vary from that of the diminutive Hummingbird to the Albatross, Swan and California Vulture as the largest North American eggs, and the Ostrich of Africa whose egg will contain several quarts.

The nesting season ranges from January with some of the Owls to August in the case of the American Goldfinch, but by far the majority of species lay their eggs during May or June. It is at this period during their lives, that birds are at their best; their plumage is the brightest, their voices are the sweetest, and their actions the most brilliant.

The purpose of this volume is to furnish a reference and guide to all bird students who may desire to study the home life of our feathered creatures, by a description of how, when and where they build their nests, and the appearance of their eggs.

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- Sales Rank: #5151198 in Books
- Published on: 2015-09-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .98" w x 5.98" l, 1.42 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 486 pages

About the Author

Chester A. Reed is an accomplished author and skilled taxidermist with experience in all branches of the art.

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North American Birds Eggs

Chester A. Reed

Chester A. Reed's study of the eggs of North American birds has for many years been the comprehensive work in this area. Unfortunately, it has long been Out of print and, due to many changes in nomenclature and classification, somewhat out of date. Thoroughly revised by Paul A. Buckley of Cornell University's famed Laboratory of Ornithology, with all material brought up to (late in accordance with the American Ornithologists' Union 1957 Check list, the book is now available in its first low-cost edition.

While Reed often used the terms "species," "race," "form," and "variety" interchangeably, Buckley has modernized the terminology, rearranging classifications to coincide with the modern species concept. Nearly every North American bird (loons, gulls and terns, (lucks, geese, cranes, shorebirds, owls, hawks and falcons, jays, parrots, cuckoos, woodpeckers, wrens, nuthatches, thrushes, swallows, finches, etc.) is included. For each one, details are given on the common and official names, range, and general life history, stressing nesting and laying habits.

There follows a thorough description of the eggs of each species, including size, color and surface texture. Alongside this descriptive text are more than 560 actual life-sized photographs illustrating both field and museum egg specimens. 82 additional photographs taken in the field show undisturbed nests and eggs in their natural sites, and hundreds of line drawings sketched in the margin provide still another identification aid by showing what the mature bird looks like.

While collecting eggs is undesirable and often illegal, the study of eggs, when (lone without sin disturbing the nest, can be both profitable and fascinating. This book is an invaluable reference and identification guide in such activities for ornithologists, amateur and professional naturalists, and bird watchers.

Revised 1965 edition. Author's Preface. New preface by Paul A. Buckley, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. Note on Egg Collecting by Dean Amadon, American Museum of Natural History. Index. 51 plates, photographs of eggs. 31 other illustrations of nests, etc. Numerous line drawings of birds. xii + 372pp. 6 1/8 x 8 3/8. 21361-7 Paperbound

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By David HUNT

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