

MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHTS
OF EGGS OF BIRDS
ON THE DUTCH LIST

BY

W. PH. J. HELLEBREKERS



LEIDEN
E. J. BRILL
1950

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Excellent work has been done by de Vries, who collected a great number of scattered data concerning the measurements and weights of eggs in the oological section of the book "De Nederlandsche Vogels". Moreover, he gave many corrections and additions based on the material in his own collection. Naturally, some omissions are inevitable, and originally I intended to publish additional notes in the journal "Limosa" of the "Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen".

It is clear, however, that reference to the data is much easier in a tabular form than in the form necessarily used by de Vries in the book mentioned above. Therefore I remodelled the data published by de Vries, and added the data taken from my own collection and from the collection in the "Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie" at Leiden.

In using this summary the following points must be noted:

1. I followed Schönwetter in not giving the maximum and minimum measurements for each egg separately, but added these measurements between brackets behind the average length and breadth. The proportion between length and breadth can easily be found in the average measurements; 0,01 mm. is shortened to read 0,1 mm., because a measurement to two decimal places is useless for identification purposes.
2. I omitted all data concerning "runt eggs", as these are pathological exceptions.
3. "Huge or double yolked eggs" are omitted in the tables, but mentioned separately in the explanatory notes. It is of course difficult to decide when to differentiate between "large" and "huge" egg specimens.
4. All doubtful points are omitted in the tables, but are mentioned in the notes. Where de Vries gives data from other authors with some reserve, I agree with him in the majority of cases.
5. If I had at my disposal a fair number of eggs from Dutch birds I used these for the average measurements (in that case N is placed behind the number of eggs). The minima and maxima are absolute figures, they are the lowest and highest measurements, respectively, in my collection, or as recorded in literature.

My best thanks are due to de Vries, who kindly permitted me to use his published data.

This survey has no other pretension than to give a quick and easy reference. The trouble I took will be largely repayed if other oologists are stimulated to weigh and record details of those eggs of which next to nothing is known.

Delft, October 1949.