METHODS
OF CATALOGUING

DINGYI TANG

AN ORNITHOLOGIST'S LEGACY

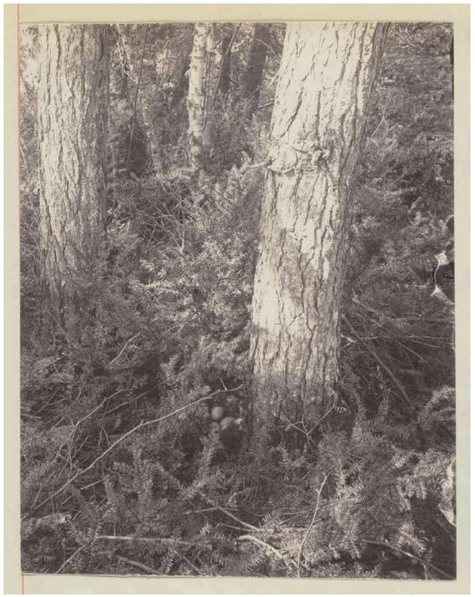
WILLIAM BREWSTER (1851-1919), A RENOWNED AMERICAN AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST, GIFTED A LIFETIME OF BIRD OBSERVATIONS TO HARVARD. BREWSTER'S COLLECTION OF DIARIES, JOURNALS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND PHOTOGRAPHS ARE BOTH A TROVE OF VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC DATA AND A DELIGHTFUL ACCOUNT OF HIS YEARS EXPLORING THE WOODS, FIELDS, RIVERS, AND LAKES OF NEW ENGLAND.

An Ornithologist's Legacy?

Perhaps this is an archive concerning wild birds.

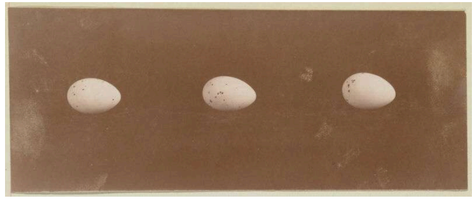
Perhaps I might see photographs of birds taken by people from the last century.

P1–10



P11–20

P21-30



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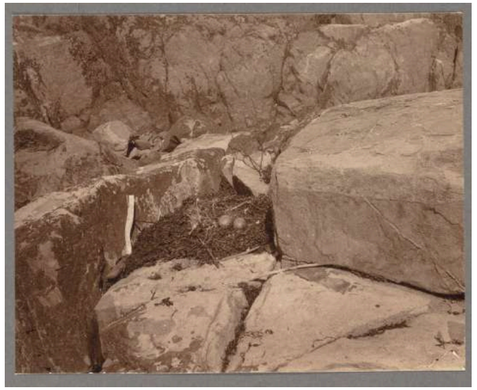
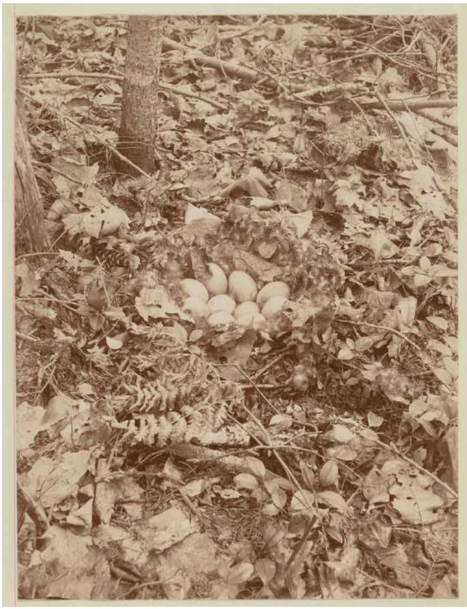


P41–50

P51–60



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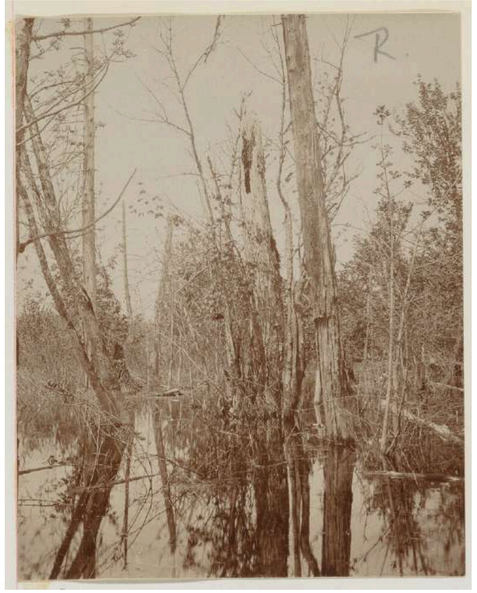

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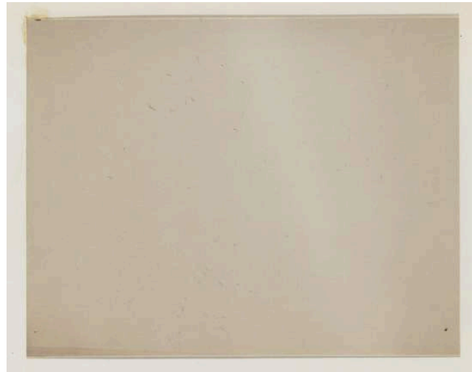

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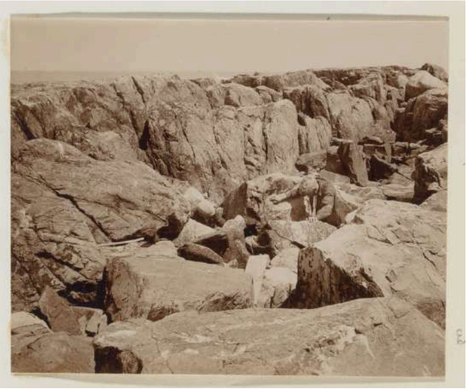
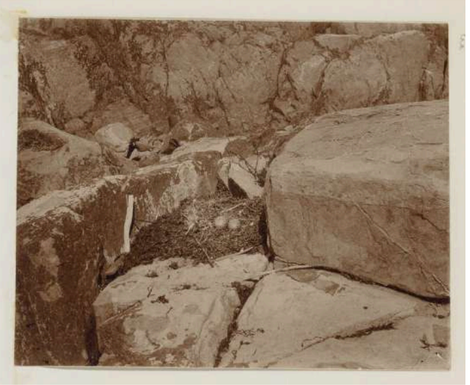
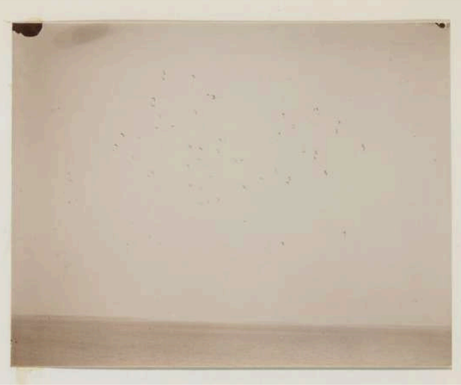
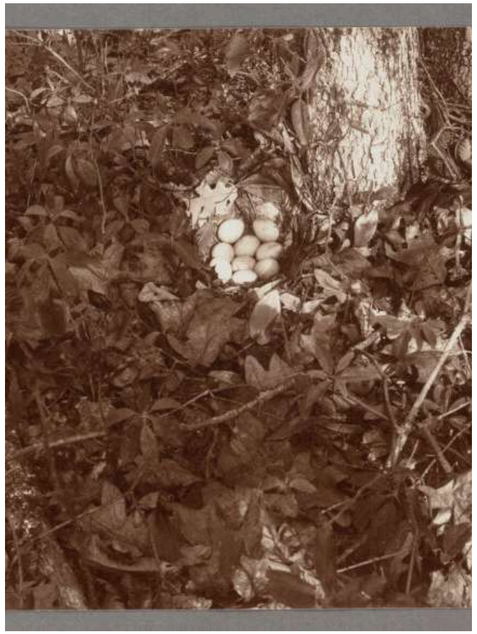


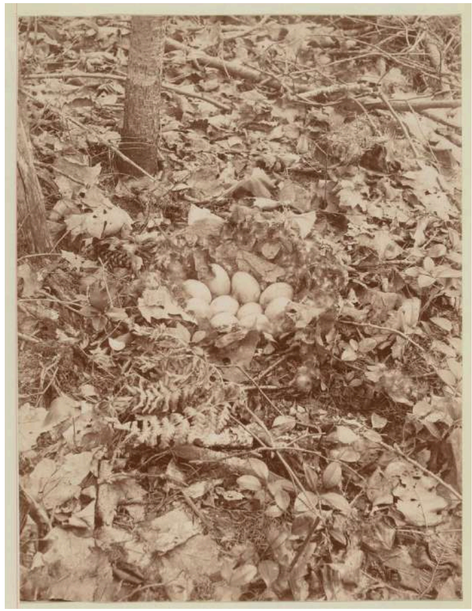




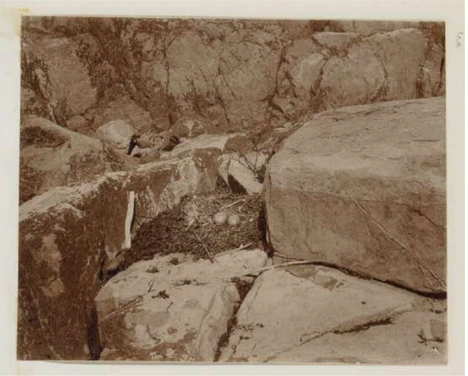
P91-100

Barely any birds themselves





eggs&nests



Forests, tree trunks, rocks, marshes, watersides

Occasionally a few birds

NESTS, EGGS,
WOODLANDS, ROCKS,
MARSHES,
TREE TRUNKS,
WETLANDS, THICKETS
...

HABITAT & TRACE

Cataloguing

01.
From a bird's-eye view

SAFE PLACE

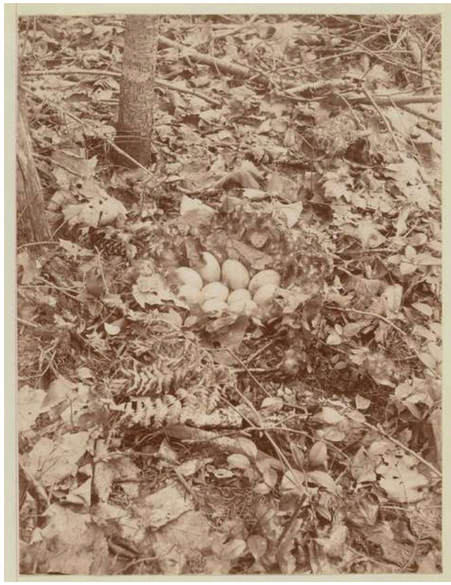
With numerous branches,
far from land,
undisturbed by humans

DANGEROUS PLACE

Excessively open,
with no cover,
close to the road

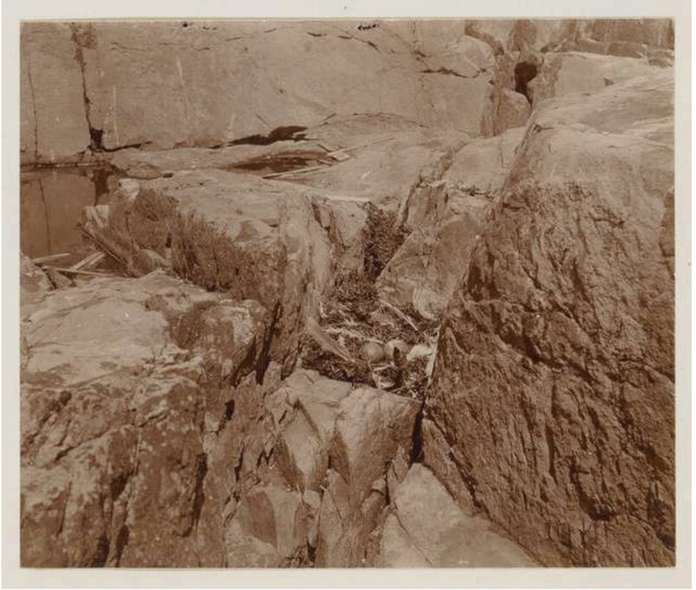
A FINE PLACE TO RESIDE

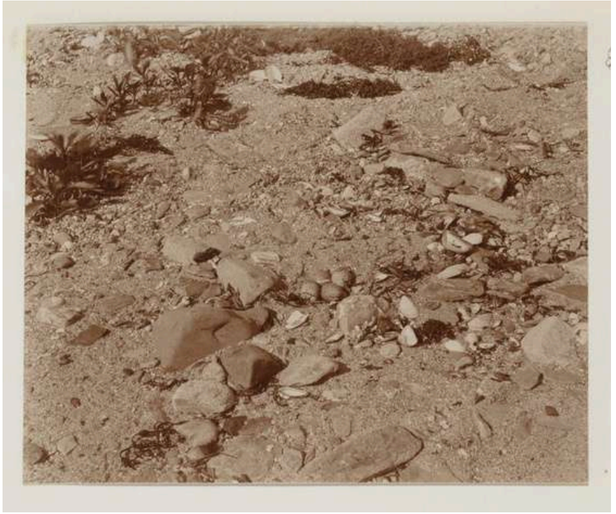
concealed enough,
well sheltered,
dry



BAD PLACE TO RESIDE

lack protection,
eggs were stolen



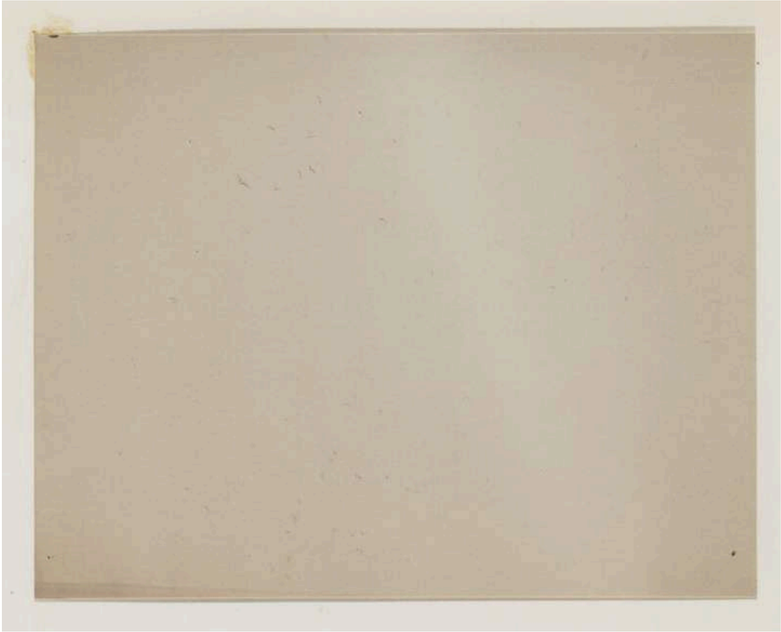


02.
Constructing context

Narrative Classification

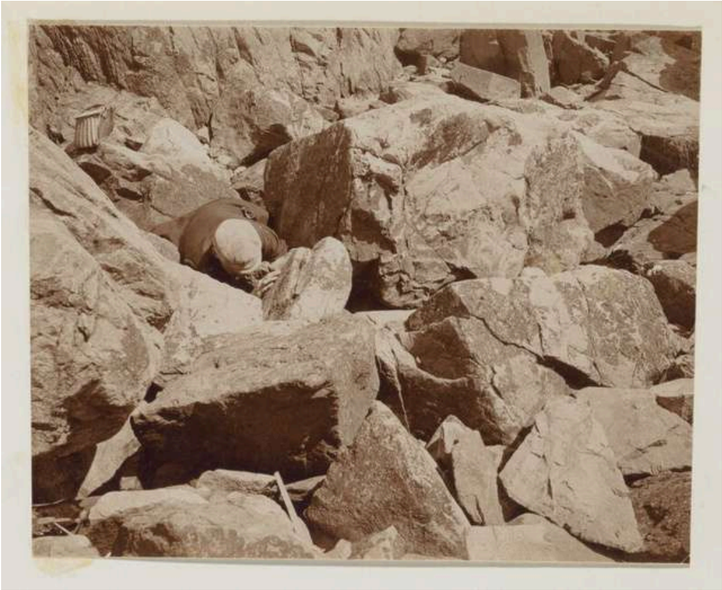
FIRST TIME VISITING THIS LAND

Bird arrived its destination, a new beginning



FIRST NESTING

The bird chose its home

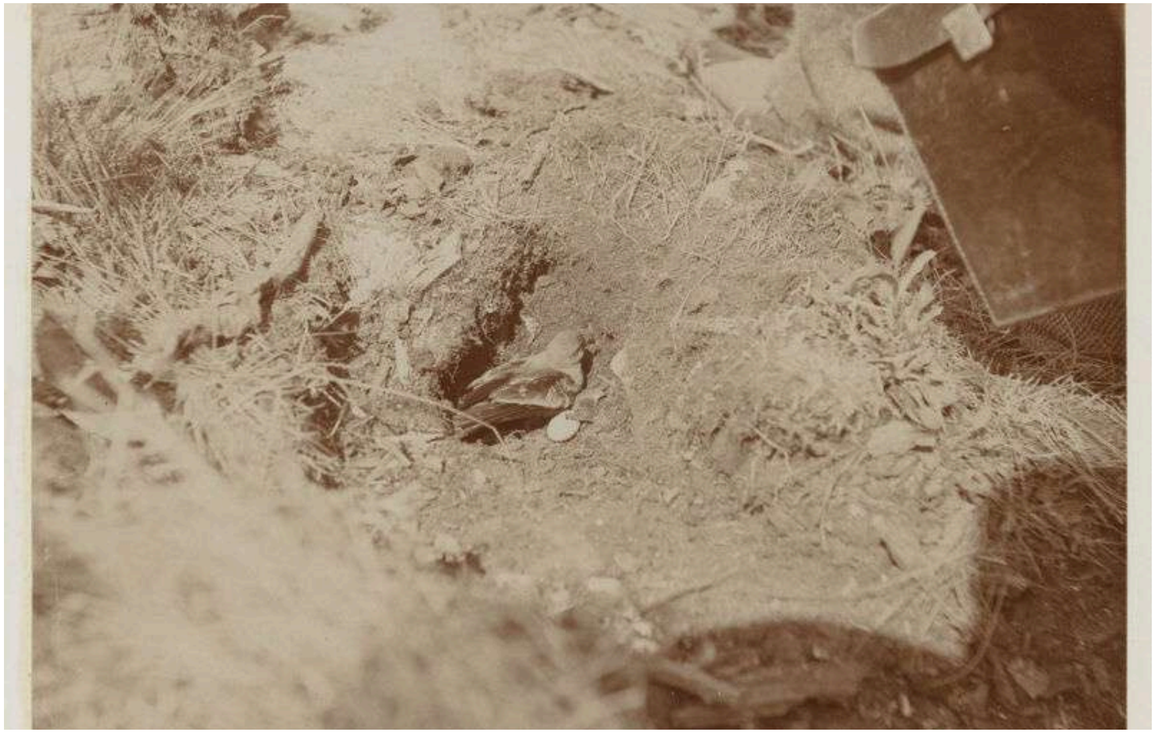


AFTER THE STORM

Branches were snapped, nests overturned

YOUNG BABIES COME

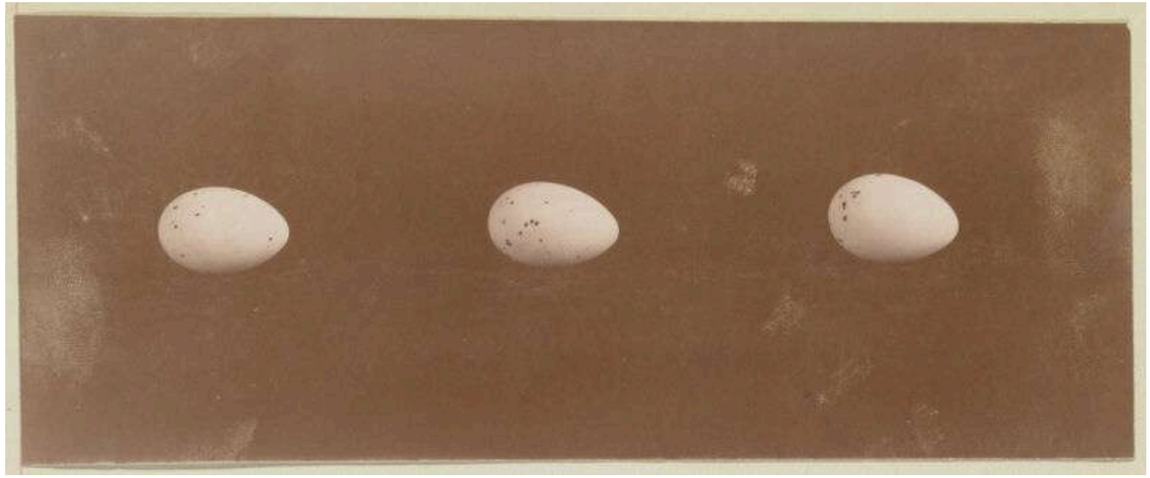
The young bird hatched from its shell



03.
My first feeling when looking at photographs

Looks very wet

Looks very messy

Looks very quiet&lonely

Looks very lovely