New Jersey, writes me: "About the year 1874, when traveling through the White Mountains of New Hampshire, I found the nest of *Junco hyemalis* in a green bush (juniper?) about four feet high, on the summit of Mt. Willard. The nest, which was placed about two feet from the ground, contained a set of four eggs, for the safety of which the birds were very solicitous, thus giving me an ample opportunity to identify them."

This is the first authentic instance of bush-nesting on the part of *J. hyemalis* which has come to my knowledge.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Peculiar Nest of Chelidon erythrogaster.—A nest of the Barn Swallow having no mud or dirt in its composition may be something of a curiosity. Such a nest was found by me on Cobb's Island, Virginia, July 7, 1884, under the eaves of the porch of the main house in the settlement. It was rather compactly made up of rootlets and grass, and was thickly lined with downy chicken feathers. It was four and a half inches in diameter and one inch in depth. In it were four newly laid eggs. The writer is wholly at a loss to account for this departure from the usual style of architecture adopted by the Barn Swallow; there was certainly no dearth of mud out of which to construct a nest of the more approved type.—HUGH M. SMITH, *National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

The Orange-crowned Warbler in Eastern Massachusetts.—During a visit to Cambridge last autumn, Mr. H. W. Henshaw spent a day with me in rambling through certain fields and woods which we used to ransack together years ago. We had not expected to do much more than enjoy the brilliant autumn coloring and revive old-time associations; but late in the afternoon, as we were passing through a lane in Belmont, Mr. Henshaw had the good fortune to discover and shoot an Orange-crowned Warbler (*Helminthophila celata*) which was feeding in a low birch in company with several Yellow-rumps (*Dendroica coronata*). This specimen, an adult male in unusually fine plumage, is only the second for Middlesex County, and, I believe, the fifth for the State. Through my friend's generosity it has found a final resting place in my collection by the side of the female which I shot at Concord in 1876.* The date of this last capture was September 30, 1885.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Seiurus ludovicianus in Maine—A Correction.—The recent death of Prof. C. E. Hamlin makes it necessary to correct an error, which, if he had lived, he intended to have corrected himself.

In his Catalogue of the Birds of Waterville, Maine,† the Large-billed Water-Thrush was included on the evidence of a single specimen (No. 2392, Cambridge Museum Comp. Zoöl.). Professor Hamlin and I re-

*See Bull. N. O. C., Vol. I, Nov., 1886, pp. 94, 95.

†Tenth Annual Report of the Maine Board of Agriculture for 1865, pp. 168–173.

cently examined this bird and found it to be the common Oven-bird (*S. aurocapillus*).

It is only just to Professor Hamlin to state that he should not be held responsible for the error, as he sent a large number of alcoholic specimens to the Cambridge Museum at that time, and after they had been identified, the list of names (among which was (*Seiurus ludovicianus*) was returned to him and by him incorporated in his paper. Nor was the mistake Mr. Allen's, as he was not connected with the Museum until several years later.

This leaves *Seiurus ludovicianus* with but a single record for the State of Maine.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Changes in the Plumage of Geothlypis trichas. — In the interesting review in the October 'Auk' (1885), of the tenth volume of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, Mr. Allen very appropriately takes occasion to correct the gross error, into which most of the books have fallen, in regard to the winter plumage of the males of so common and extensively distributed a species as *Geothlypis trichas*. The error in question is a statement to the effect that in winter the adult male loses the conspicuous black and ashy markings about the head, and takes on the uniform olivaceous and brownish colors of the upper parts of the female. In making this correction, however, Mr. Allen, I believe, does not go far enough, for according to my observations the males not only never assume the plumage of the female after having once attained the masculine livery, but young birds moult directly into a plumage approaching that of the adult male (which will be indicated in detail farther on), when they begin in August to shed the well-known fluffy 'first plumage,' with its greenish and ochreish tints, brownish wing-coverts, etc.

There are, Mr. Allen states, instances in which the young male has been taken in winter in the female plumage, but these, I think, should be regarded as exceptional. I have examined very carefully the two large series of this bird (including Mr. Brewster's *occidentalis*, which, for the purpose we have in hand, may be 'lumped' with *trichas*) contained in the collection of the National Museum, and in that of Mr. Henshaw, besides ten or a dozen other specimens, amounting altogether to 144 individuals, and have failed to find a single winter male without the adult black and ashy markings. But I did find three spring males with these characters so imperfectly developed as to indicate, probably, that the birds had passed the preceding winter in the plumage of the female.

The changes in plumage when the young male begins his first moult, which occurs in August, in the latitude of Washington, may be briefly summarized as follows:—The feathers of the head and middle of the throat appear to be the first that are lost. The latter are replaced by yellow ones (not so bright, however, as in the adult), which at first are to be seen in linear blotches. Those of the head give place to a new set, of a fine chocolate brown color, shading off into olivaceous towards the nape in most birds, in some, however, extending over almost the whole of the