I also found a nest of *Merula migratoria*, taken possession of by *Coccyzus americanus* before it was finished, which was filled nearly full of rootlets; and in this condition the Robin laid one egg and the Cuckoo laid two and commenced incubation, when a Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) also occupied it and laid two eggs and commenced incubation with the Cuckoo. I found both birds on the nest at the same time, when I secured nest and eggs. The eggs of the Robin and Cuckoo were slightly incubated; those of the Mourning Dove were fresh. The above was published in the 'Forest and Stream,' Aug. 24, 1882, p. 65.

I also have a nest of *Sayornis phœbe* in which a Robin's egg is nearly embedded, and another of this same species with a Cowbird's egg quite covered. The latter is often found in the nests of small birds, but I have found them covered up, except in this instance, only by the Goldfinch and Summer Warbler.—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, N. Y.*

New Species of Winter Birds in New Brunswick.—On January 4 of the present year a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) was taken near St. John, N. B., and the following day a Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*) was captured. Five days later a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipter velox*) was shot while lurking around a barnyard.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

Additions to Mr. Drew's List of the Birds of Colorado. — Mr. Frank M. Drew in 'The Auk' for January, 1885, gives a list he believes complete of Colorado birds. I have observed here five years and can add to his list the following: viz.

Merganser serrator. Rather rare.

Chen hyperborea. Common.

Branta bernicla. Rare.

Grus canadensis. Not common.

Micropalma himantopus. Common.

Numenius hudsonicus. About fifty seen April 30, 1885. No others observed.

Asio accipitrinus. Common.

Colaptes auratus. But one seen.

Contopus pertinax. But one specimen.

Scolecophagus carolinus. Common. Not identified until this year. Found in flocks with *S. cyanocephalus*.

Spizella socialis. Abundant in spring. The bulk make a short stay. Not found breeding, though I suspect a few do breed. I am confident that this is not *S. s. arizonæ*.

Melospiza georgiana. About eighty seen in May, 1885. More in other years.

Pipilo maculatus arcticus. Common. Some years all seen are *T. m. megalonyx*.

Vireo olivaceus. Tolerably common.

Vireo bellii. Tolerably common.

Anthus spragueii. Four seen.
Thryothorus ludovicianus. One seen.
Thryothorus bewickii. One seen.
Turdus fuscescens. One seen.
Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasi. Not common.

This is a prairie country and many of the birds named in Mr. Drew's list are not found here.—P. M. THORNE, CAPT. 22d INFT'Y, U. S. A., *Fort Lyon, Col.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.*]

Individual Variation in the Skeletons of Birds, and other matters.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Dear Sirs:—Before saying anything about the individual variation in the skeletons of birds, allow me to pass a few remarks upon the letters of Dr. Stejneger and Mr. Lucas, which appeared in the last issue of 'The Auk' (April, 1887), and wherein I am called upon to hold up my hands for a number of sins. Dr. Stejneger is quite correct in calling me to account for saying that 'such forms as *Picus*' were birds with a 'two-notched' sternum; all Woodpeckers have *four* notches in their sternums, as we well know, and I must be pardoned for making such a *lapsus calami* or *lapsus memoriæ*, whichever it was. When Dr. Stejneger asks the question, however, with respect to the Swifts and Hummingbirds, and says, "What in the nature of these birds' flight has brought about such an extraordinary similarity, osteologically, myologically, and pterylographically in the wing-structure of the Swifts and Hummingbirds, as compared with that of the Swallows?"—it's another matter. And so far as the *osteology* of the wing-structure of a Swift and a Hummingbird is concerned and their "extraordinary similarity," I would simply invite Dr. Stejneger's attention to a short paper of mine in a recent issue (the April number, 1887, I believe) of the 'Proceedings' of the Zoölogical Society of London, wherein I have figured the *humerus* for a Swallow, Swift and a Hummingbird, and ask him where the "extraordinary similarity" comes in, in *that* part of the wing-structure of the last two forms mentioned?

As to the other extraordinary similarities I will dwell upon them in another connection, later.

Mr. Lucas's letter requires no special notice, for I must still plead *not guilty* to the charge of having published an "imperfect" drawing of the base of the skull of *Tachycineta thalassina*, and that is the sole point of