

Cuvier *Totanus speculiferus* (Règn. An. ed. 2, i, p. 531; Pucheran, Rev. et Mag. de Zool, 1851, p. 369), and should therefore be termed *Symphemia speculifera*." On referring to Cuvier I find that this author gave only a very brief description of the specimen which served as the basis of his *Totanus speculiferus*, although he says it stands higher on the legs and has a longer bill than *T. semipalmatus*. Pucheran, however, in 1851, in his important paper 'Etudes sur les types peu connus du Musée de Paris,' described with great detail Cuvier's type, which description shows it to be beyond doubt a winter example of Mr. Brewster's subspecies *inornata*. He especially says it is to be distinguished from "*Totanus semipalmatus* Tem." by the length of the bill, while his measurements of the specimen nearly equal the maximum for *inornata*, as given by Mr. Brewster.

It may be noted that none of the American citations of Cuvier and Pucheran, as given above, prove to be correct, indicating that these references have been generally given without verification.

The *Totanus crassirostris* Vieill. (1816), as Mr. Brewster claims, is unidentifiable, though pointing to *speculifera*, the bill being given as 2.50 inches long. The larger Western Willet should therefore stand as *Symphemia semipalmata speculifera* (Cuv.).—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

**A Second Maine (and Fourth New England) Specimen of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).**—Through the kind offices of Mr. Manly Hardy I have just secured a Swainson's Hawk, which was killed about eight miles from Bangor in the town of Glenburn, Maine, May 19, 1888. Like the Gouldsboro (Maine) specimen which I obtained last year,\* it is of the melanistic type, but not entirely black. It was sent in the flesh to Mr. S. L. Crosby of Bangor, and was examined by Mr. Hardy before the skin was removed.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Nesting of the Black Swift.**—On June 6, 1888, I collected a set of five eggs of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*). As far as I am aware, this is the first set of this species collected. The nest was in the cornice of a small wooden building on Yesler's Wharf of this city. The cornice was of the kind usually known as store cornice, the interior being divided into compartments by the rough brackets to which the planceer, facure, and deck were nailed. At one end of the cornice the deck or top was sprung up so as to leave an opening into the first compartment, in which the nest was made. The compartment was about twenty inches square.

The nest was composed of leaves, which were yet green, bits of paper, chips from a planing-mill near by, a few horsehairs, and straw, and was surrounded by a large quantity of loose straw. The leaves and paper formed the lining of the nest.

The eggs were white and were fresh, the birds having been sitting only two or three days. As will be seen, they are very uniform in size: they measure 1.00 × .71, 1.00 × .70, 1.02 × .70, .96 × .68, .96 × .68 inch.

---

\*Auk, IV, 1887, p. 160.

On June 28 I collected another set of four eggs of the Black Swift. This set was taken from the same nest as the former one, and presumably from the same pair of birds. Incubation had commenced, the embryos having just begun to form. The nest was composed of the same kind of materials as before, with the addition of a small piece of the tinfoil used to cover tobacco. The dimensions of the eggs are as follows: .96 X .67, .98 X .71, .99 X .69, 1.00 X .71 inch.

When this second set was taken the female had to be pushed off the nest in order that the eggs might be obtained.

*In neither of these nests were the materials glued together with saliva, there being no trace of saliva about the nests.* The nests were put together so loosely that they could not be preserved. Portions of the materials of which they were composed were, however, collected.

These birds are rather abundant here, and usually nest in the cornices of buildings near the water front, in the business part of the city. I have known of several nests which were built in galvanized iron cornices. It is, however, usually impossible to get at these places. I have tried for several years to obtain specimens of the eggs, but till now have found it impossible, although I have torn open three different cornices in hopes of getting them. — M. H. GORMLEY, *Seattle, Washington Territory.*

**Xantus's Becard** (*Platypsaris albiventris*) in the Huachuca Mountains, Southern Arizona.—On June 20, 1888, I secured an adult male, in breeding plumage, of this species in the pine forests of the Huachuca Mountains, at an elevation of about 7500 feet, and seven miles north of the Mexican boundary. (See Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds,' p. 325.) I am certain there were a pair of these birds, as I heard their very peculiar notes in different places at the same time, but the locality being so extremely rough and broken I only secured the one above recorded. Several times while collecting at high altitudes I have heard bird notes that I thought were these, but they were always on almost inaccessible mountain sides. Their note reminds one of the song of Stephens's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni stephensi*), but is not so long continued, and is harsher. From observing the actions of the bird I killed, I am sure its mate was in the vicinity, and probably nesting, although I have since carefully searched the place without success. This species will doubtless be found breeding in Arizona, as was *Trogon ambiguus*. — WILL. W. PRICE, *Riverside, Cal.*

**Coccythraustes vespertina** in Nebraska.—On March 12, 1886, a flock of eight Evening Grosbeaks appeared in this locality, and these are the only ones that have been observed by myself, or by anyone so far as I know.

I first observed them about 9 A. M. They were then feeding on the samaræ of the box elders, and were very easy to approach. The flock consisted of seven females and but one male. I secured the male and one female. The contents of both their stomachs consisted entirely of box