

As both names are derived from the same roots, have the same meaning, and are practically identical, it is questionable whether the difference in the connecting vowel is sufficient ground for considering them distinct. In case *Campylorhynchus* Spix is rejected its first synonym, *Heleodytes* Cabanis,<sup>1</sup> seems to be the earliest name available for the genus of birds commonly known as the Cactus Wrens.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D.C.*

**Salpinctes obsoletus in Washington and Oregon.**—In his 'Notes on some Birds of Gray's Harbor, Washington' (*Auk*, IX, 310) Mr. Palmer quotes R. H. Lawrence as giving the Rock Wren a place in his list of the birds of Gray's Harbor, and considers its occurrence west of the Cascades as somewhat doubtful. In 'The Auk' for October, 1892 (p. 357), Mr. Lawrence repeats his statement that *Salpinctes obsoletus* was the species observed at Gray's Harbor and adds that it was also met with at Seattle. It certainly seems rather out of place to meet with this species in the heavy fir forests of the Northwest, but that it occurs cannot be questioned. I took a specimen on May 21, 1885, at the edge of a clearing in the heavy fir timber, a few miles west of Portland, Oregon, a country very similar to that about Gray's Harbor, where Mr. Lawrence met with the species.—A. W. ANTHONY, *Denver, Colorado.*

**The Carolina Wren in the Lower Hudson Valley.**—The occurrence of the Carolina Wren on the eastern slope of the Palisades furnishes a marked illustration of the influence exerted by river valleys in extending the range of species. While as abundant during the summer in this locality as in any part of its range, it is as yet a comparatively rare bird on the eastern shore of the river, and on the western shore is seldom found far from the cliffs of the Palisades. I have observed it at Fort Lee, New Jersey, and just below Piermont, New York, but for the most part my observations have been confined to the 'Under Cliff' road at Englewood. Here on July 3 a nest containing young was found. It was placed in a small pocket-like opening in the face of a perpendicular cliff fifteen feet from the crest of the Palisades and an equal distance from a ledge below. On the same day within a distance of a mile no less than ten Carolina Wrens were seen, and on returning to the place a week later six birds were seen. But, as before remarked, although so abundant here, the birds are comparatively rare in the adjoining country. My friend Mr. Evan Evans, who lives less than a mile west of the spot where the nest was found, tells me that he rarely sees this species except in the immediate vicinity of the cliffs. At West Englewood, distant three and a half miles, I have found one or two individuals each spring and fall, and it has seemed to me that the species was slowly becoming more regular. During 1892 I noted single individuals at West Englewood on May 20 and October 23, and also

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<sup>1</sup> Mus. Hein. I, 1850, p. 80.

at Larchmont on Long Island Sound on July 18 and in Central Park, New York City, on August 29. Dr. Mearns does not include it in his 'Birds of the Hudson Highlands,' and Dr. Fisher tells me he has not met with it at Sing Sing. Mr. J. Rowley, Jr., informs me that at Hastings-on-the-Hudson a few miles north of Yonkers he sees one or two of these birds each year. But the most interesting evidence concerning the Carolina Wren in the Hudson Valley is furnished by Mr. Bicknell whose notes were made at Riverdale on the eastern shore of the river, exactly opposite Englewood. Mr. Bicknell writes: "About Riverdale the Carolina Wren is certainly more common than it used to be. Up to 1879, when I found it breeding at Spuyten Duyvil, I regarded it as an accidental visitor. My brothers were close observers of birds before me, and they had never seen it, although one had been shot at Riverdale in the late autumn of 1873. Of late years I have come to look upon it as a regularly irregular visitor, and every year I expect to meet with it at least two or three times. . . . It has seemed to me the eastern shore of the Hudson gets the overflow from the Wren population of the slopes of the Palisades, which has undoubtedly been increasing. For years past on occasional visits to the Palisades from spring until late in autumn I have never failed to hear the Carolina Wren, and have frequently heard two singing at the same time. On one occasion I heard two singing and saw still another, all at the same moment." My own more recent experience with this bird on the Palisades, as herein recorded, confirms Mr. Bicknell's remarks, and it would appear that, having become permanently established there, it is gradually spreading through the surrounding country.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**Sitta canadensis appearing in Numbers in the District of Columbia.**—Last autumn the writer collected birds quite extensively at Takoma, D. C., and vicinity, especially in the southern part of Montgomery County, Maryland. During all that time and the following winter not a single specimen of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*S. canadensis*) was observed, and there is every reason to believe that they were not at all represented among the fall migrants of that season (1891-1892). This autumn, however, (1892) the case is entirely different, for in the same localities the bird came early, and in most unusual numbers. They have appeared in loose flocks, associated with the usual autumn small birds, as Juncos, Titmice, Wrens, etc., and upon several occasions one could count as many as thirty or forty of them from a single point of observation. There would be no trouble in collecting as many as fifty specimens in a day. Many birds of the year are among them, as is indicated by their duller plumage and less decided markings. A number of years ago I remember this species appearing thus suddenly one autumn in the neighborhood of Stamford, Connecticut, a place where the writer collected birds for a long time early in the sixties and where the species had not been noticed for many seasons.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Takoma, D. C.*