Breeding of the Rough-winged Swallow at Shelter Island, New York.— While collecting with Mr. W. W. Worthington of Shelter Island, N. Y., June 3, 1893, I found a nest of the Rough-winged Swallow containing four much incubated eggs. The nest was placed in a bank about forty feet high, on the shore; it looked like an old Bank Swallow's burrow. It was two feet from the top of the bank and twenty-seven inches deep. The chamber the nest was in was twelve inches in diameter, and was completely filled with dried sea grasses on which the eggs were laid.

I shot the female, and as it fell in the water the male came up and tried to help its disabled mate, at the same time uttering a most plaintive cry.— HARRY B. SARGENT, *New York City.*

Cœreba versus Certhiola.—In a recent number of 'The Ibis' (April, 1893, pp. 246, 247) Mr. Sclater takes American ornithologists to task for having "recently caused needless confusion by proposing to reject the long-recognized name *Certhiola* of Sundevall [1835], and to use in its place *Cœreba* of Vieillot [1807], a term always hitherto applied to a different genus." Mr. Sclater, to make his point, claims that *Cœreba* Vieillot "was intended as a Latin equivalent for the 'Guit-Guit' of Buffon; and the 'Guit-Guit' of Buffon was primarily the South American species usually called *Cœreba cyanea*," etc. While it is true that Vieillot evidently intended to include other species in the genus *Cœreba*, the fact remains that he definitely mentioned at this time only one species, "Le Guit-guit sucrier, *Cœreba flaveola*." This then, by all rules of nomenclature touching the restriction of genera, must be the type of the genus *Cœreba*, and consequently Sundevall had no right, nearly thirty years later, to make *Cœreba flaveola* the type of a new genus *Certhiola*. It makes no difference that Vieillot later placed other species in the genus *Cœreba;* at the time *Cœreba* was established *C. flaveola* was the only species so referred, and becomes therefore necessarily the type of the genus. Whatever we may imagine to have been his "intentions," we have to be governed by what he actually did. Hence the synonymy of the genus stands as follows:

Cœreba Vieillot, Ois. Am. Sept., II, 1807, p. 70. Type and only species, *C. flaveola* = *Certhia flaveola* Linn.

Certhiola Sundevall, Œfvers. Vet.-Ak. Handl. 1835, p. 99. Type *C. flaveola*.

Mr. Sclater (Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., XI, p. 31) gives "*C. cyanea*" as the type of Vieillot's genus *Cœreba*, as follows:

"Cœreba *Vieill., Ois. Am. Sept. ii*, p. 70 (1807). . . . Type, C. cyanea."

We have thus the incongruity of a species given as the type of genus which was not placed in that genus till some years after the genus was originally established! In fact, as I have previously stated (Auk, VIII, p. 95), it proves unsafe to take as types of genera the species explicitly stated to be such in the various volumes of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' since it sometimes turns out that some other species is in reality the type.

It may be added that it seems a little singular not to find *Cœreba flaveola* Vieill. anywhere cited in Volume XI of the 'Catalogue.'—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

Stray Notes from the vicinity of Muskeget Island, Massachusetts.—**Charadrius squatarola.**—Tuckernuck Island, May 10, 1893. While in my stand today, which faced a large sand flat recently exposed by the retreating tide, I perceived Black-bellied Plover picking up some large worms which they held wriggling in their bills before swallowing. Never before having seen them eat such, I secured several for identification. They are locally known as 'cod worms,' and resemble a centipede, being flat to oval, their sides being fringed with legs. In color they vary from a blood red to a dirty brown. They are from four to six and a quarter inches long. These worms first make their appearance on the flats in shoal water during the latter part of March, and they disappear early in June. Mr. Samuel Henshaw of the Boston Society of Natural History has kindly identified them as *Nereis*, the clam worm of the fisherman.

Somateria dresseri.—Muskeget and Tuckernuck Islands, March 30 and 31, 1893. Almost all the American Eiders which have been living in these waters, and which I estimate at about six hundred, departed on these dates.

Ægialitis meloda.—While walking along the shore of Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a Piping Plover and heard it whistle. On the 29th I saw two near where I saw the first. These dates are earlier than I have before remarked.

Tachycineta bicolor.—At Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a White-bellied Swallow apparently flying due north on migration; it was at an elevation of about sixty feet.

Circus hudsonius.—Muskeget Island, March 26, 1893, I saw a Marsh Hawk in the red plumage, apparently flying on migration northward, at an elevation of about ninety feet.

Branta bernicla.—Muskeget and Tuckernuck Islands, March 26, 1893. I estimate the number of Brant living in these waters at this date at about six hundred. Two wing-tipped birds I have in confinement eat with avidity the alga *Ulva lactuca*. They also eat *Zostera marina*, preferring the white portion farthest from the extremity of the blade. They cut this up by chewing first on one side and then on the other of their mandibles which cuts the grass as clean as if scissors had been used. The motion reminds one strongly of a dog eating, the bird turning its head much in the same way. They are fond of whole corn and common grass. These confined birds drink after almost every mouthful from a pan of fresh water. The wild birds living in this neighborhood have no opportunity of obtaining fresh water.

Asio accipitrinus.—At Muskeget Island, March 27, 1893, I saw a Short-eared Owl, which appeared to be domiciled.

Numenius hudsonicus.—Nantucket Island, July 17, 1893. The first Jack Curlew were observed today. They were at the western extremity