

lowed out crannies and caves. In one of these latter, which penetrated the granite wall to a depth of some twenty feet, I found four or five Barn Swallows' nests, some containing young, and two, although it was so late in the season (July 9, 1895), contained eggs. Others were to be found in neighboring crannies outside the cave. Another visit paid to this spot on August 10 of this year (1896) discovered one nest still occupied, which contained four eggs. Although breeding thus in a perfectly primitive state there was no important difference observed in the birds' methods of construction. The nests were either affixed to the vertical walls of the cavern or else rested slightly on rocky knobs and projections. The feathery linings of the nests consisted of copious collections of the feathers of wild fowl, such as Ducks, Grouse, etc.

The only other place in Okanogan County where I recall having seen Barn Swallows was at Malott, some 60 miles distant, where the birds had adopted the manners of civilization and were breeding in a large barn.—  
WILLIAM L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

**Characters of *Dendroica cærulescens cairnsi*.**—Cairns's Warbler is named by me as a new subspecies in the work entitled: 'Papers Presented to the World's Congress on Ornithology,' pub. Chicago, Nov. 8, 1896, p. 138. It is a local race of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, breeding in the mountains of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, where the individuals arrive a week or ten days in advance of those that pass onward in their migration, and may be observed building and rearing their young while the migration in the same region is still going on. At the time I named the subspecies I had seen no specimens, but was satisfied that the bird could not have thus been localized for many generations without developing distinctive characteristics. At the recent meeting of the A. O. U. in Cambridge, I examined several specimens in the cabinet of Mr. William Brewster, collected by the late Mr. Cairns, and was pleased to find my prescience in the case confirmed upon comparison with a large series of the ordinary form from many different localities. The examination was made in company with Mr. Brewster, Dr. Allen, Mr. Chapman and others, who were immediately persuaded of the subspecific validity of the new form; and the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature at once voted unanimously to accept it. The bird is somewhat smaller than the average of *D. cærulescens*, and has the middle of the back nearly or quite black, instead of blue, or blue with only a few black touches. Some specimens in the large series were fortunately found to be intermediate, showing intergradation with the typical form, and thus relieving me from the necessity of recognizing *cairnsi* as a full species. The diagnosis of the new subspecies may be given as: ♂ *D. cærulescens* *simillima, sed minor, dorsoque medio nigro*. It is dedicated to its discoverer and original describer, Mr. John S. Cairns, of Weaverville, N. C., whose lamented death was recently noticed in these pages, and whose interesting article upon the summer home and nidification of the

bird occupies pp. 136-139 of the book named in the beginning of this note. The specimen which I have selected as the type of *cairnsi* is in Mr. Brewster's collection; it is a ♂, in full dress, and was collected by Mr. Cairns. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

**Dendroica cærulea vs. Dendroica rara.** — *Sylvia cærulea* WILSON (Am. Orn. II, 1810, 141, etc.), the earliest name for the Cerulean Warbler, is unfortunately preoccupied by *Sylvia cærulea* LATHAM (Index Orn. II, 1790, 540), which is a synonym of *Poliophtila cærulea* (LINN.); hence, No. 658, of the A. O. U. Check-List becomes *Dendroica rara* (WILSON) (*Sylvia rara*, WILSON, Am. Orn. III, 1811, 119, pl. 27, fig. 2). — ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

**Note on the Genus Lucar of Bartram.**—The names given to many North American birds by William Bartram in his 'Travels,' orig. ed. 1791, are likely to raise nomenclatural questions until we come to some conclusion whether they are to be accepted or rejected. At present our usage wavers. The A. O. U. rejects most of his names, on the ground that he was not a strict binomialist; yet it accepts the term *Aphelocoma floridana* for the Jay named *Corvus floridanus* by Bartram, Trav., p. 291. Let us at least be consistent, if we cannot be just! With regard to generic names, if Bartram was not very orthodox in binomiality, neither was Brisson, whose heterodoxy in this particular does not prevent us from adopting his genera; and the jewel of consistency requires us to treat both these authors alike. On p. 290bis of this book Bartram names the genus *Lucar*, with formal indication of its type species, *L. lividus*. This brings the case distinctly within our rules regarding generic names, whether properly 'characterized' or not, and disposes of the apparent objection that it is a *nomen nudum*. For this bird is of course the well-known Catbird, Bartram's specific name of which is the obvious origin of *Turdus lividus*, Wilson, 1810. Bartram's *lividus* is antedated by *carolinensis* Linn., 1766; but his *Lucar* antedates *Galeoscoptes* Cab., 1850. As the Catbird is now removed from the genus *Mimus*, its only tenable name would appear to be *Lucar carolinensis* Coues, Pr. Phila. Acad., 1875, p. 349. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

**Breeding of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) on Long Island, N. Y.**—On the 20th of March, 1896, I heard a Carolina Wren in a swamp near my home in Roslyn, Queen's Co., N. Y. Knowing it to be rare on Long Island I decided to watch it as closely as possible, hoping it might have a mate.

The village of Roslyn is situated at the head of Hampstead Harbor, and is shut in by hills on three sides. There are three ponds in the village, a few hundred feet apart, with swamp land between, and being in a row, one above the other, they divide the village in two parts. Between the highest pond and the second one is a swamp three or four acres in