

illinoensis Ridgway, 1879, must become a synonym of *bachmani* Audubon, 1834. It may be added that there is no doubt whatever that Lichtenstein's *Fringilla æstivalis* was based on specimens of the dark race. The two will accordingly stand as follows:

Peucæa æstivalis (Licht.) Cab.—*Habitat*, Florida and Southern Georgia.

Peucæa æstivalis bachmani (Aud.) Brewst.—*Habitat*, South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Southern Illinois and Indiana.

The respective distribution of these two forms remains to be definitely ascertained. Charleston, South Carolina, seems to be the only point on the Atlantic Coast where var. *bachmani*—as we must now call the red bird—has been found. It breeds there in abundance, as I learned during the past season (1884), when I collected a series of about fifty specimens in April and May. Some of them are intermediates, and a few approach *æstivalis* rather closely, but the majority are essentially typical *bachmani*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Black-throated Bunting in Maine.—On Sept. 29, 1884, I shot a Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*) at Job's Island, one of the smaller islands in Penobscot Bay, Maine. The bird was found in a grass-field near a farm-house, and proved to be a young male of the year in good plumage. This is, I believe, the first instance of its capture north of Massachusetts.

The fact that the specimen was a young of the year, and that it was taken during the autumn migration, would lead one to think it had been reared in the region where it was found, or even farther north.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Foster Parents of the Cowbird.—During the season of 1884 I found young Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) in the nests of the Kingbird, House Wren, and Chipping Sparrow.—WILLIAM L. KELLS, *Listowel, Ontario.*

Nest and Eggs of the Rusty Grackle (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*).—I have found but one nest of this species, but its location differs so from that given in the books that I am induced to record a description of it. During the spring of 1884 a pair of Rusty Grackles were noticed for several weeks about the garden of a neighbor in the suburbs of St. John, and apparently making their head-quarters in a large spruce which grew within 30 feet of the house, on the edge of a lawn that formed the daily playground of a bevy of children.

I had spent many an hour looking for the nest of this species "among the foliage of low alders overhanging the water," "in low trees and bushes in moist places," and "in swampy tangle," and I was puzzled to determine why this pair were spending the breeding season far away from all such surroundings. There was no doubt about the identification of the birds; I had grown familiar with their appearance from handling numerous specimens, and I saw these daily, frequently within a few feet of me.

They did not appear in the least disturbed by my presence, but if a Crow invaded their territory it was at once made the object of a vigorous assault. The Grackles were, however, frequently chased by both Robins and Rey-eyed Vireos.

At last something aroused my suspicion that a nest was in that spruce, and on June 24 I climbed up to investigate the matter. When my head was about 28 feet from the ground and among the dense foliage of the upper branches I came in sight of a bulky nest—extremely large for the size of the bird—set close to the stem and loosely laid upon a limb, portions of it spreading over several smaller branches and twigs. But it was merely resting upon them, they being not imbedded in the mud which formed part of the structure. In the nest were two young birds and two eggs unhatched; the latter were secured and the youngsters left for future study.

There was considerable difference in the size of the eggs and in their coloration. The smaller of the two measured $1.09 \times .76$, and was very similar in color and markings to those described in 'New England Bird Life.' The largest egg was 'pipped' and was destroyed before measured. The markings on it were less distinct than on the other, giving it a somewhat clouded appearance.

On examining the nest it proved to be very roughly constructed, without any approach to artistic work. It was composed chiefly of dried vines of honey-suckle loosely entwined at the sides and by an admixture of mud welded into a solid mass at the bottom. There was no attempt at a lining of any sort.

I noticed that while the young were in the nest both parents were attentive in feeding them, though the male was more frequently found guarding the nest, of which he was most watchful.—JAMES W. BANKS.
St. John, N. B.

A White Crow (*Corvus frugivorus*).—I have to thank M. Dionne for generously granting me permission to announce the addition of an albino Crow to the Museum of Laval University of which he is in charge. The specimen was taken near the city of Quebec.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.
St. John, N. B.

A Remarkable Migration of Canada Jays.—On the 5th of September, 1884, Mr. Napoleon A. Comeau wrote me from his home at Godbout, on the north shore of the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence: "We have lately had a most extraordinary migration of the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus*). One afternoon I counted over a hundred in the open space near the old Hudson's Bay Company's house here; and almost every day since the first of this month it has been the same. I believe this unprecedented flight must be owing to scarcity of berries in the interior, and, since they happen to be plentiful along the coast this fall, the birds follow the shore to feed on them."—C. HART MERRIAM, *Locust Grove, New York*.