

comprised "fresh meat, mice, and boiled egg." In the spring (1893) "it commenced cooing, and sometimes would be gone over night. It roosted in a large outbuilding, and "for fear of losing it," writes Mrs. Smith, "we put a screen to the door and have it confined now" (May 23, 1893).

Col. N. S. Goss in his 'Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas' (1886) states that two Road-runners were seen in 1884 near the western line of the State, and says: "I feel confident that they occasionally breed in the southwestern corner of the State, a natural habitat for the birds." The occurrence here noted is the only one, excepting the one referred to by Col. Goss, which has been so far recorded for Kansas.—VERNON L. KELLOGG, *Lawrence, Kansas.*

Two Corrections.—In an article which appeared in the July number of 'The Auk' I described at some length a peculiar process of regurgitation employed by the Flicker in feeding its young, believing—and indeed remarking at the time—that the habit was unknown or at least unrecorded. It seems, however, that it had been previously observed by Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller who published an account of it in 1890 in the 'Atlantic Monthly,' the article being afterwards (in 1892) republished in a collection of essays entitled 'Little Brothers of the Air.'

It is a pity that writers like Mrs. Miller—gifted with rare powers of observation and blessed with abundant opportunities for exercising them—cannot be induced to record at least the more important of their discoveries in some accredited scientific journal, instead of scattering them broadcast over the pages of popular magazines or newspapers, or ambushing them in books with titles such as that just quoted. But an opportunity for delivering a properly frank and telling homily on this sad evil is unfortunately denied me on the present occasion, for some one of these writers might be unkind enough to point the moral of a second admission which I am about to make, viz., that my announcement, in the last number of 'The Auk,' of the capture in Georgia, by Mr. Worthington, of two specimens of the Ipswich Sparrow, proves to have been anticipated in a previous issue (Vol. VII, April, 1890, pp. 211, 212) of *the same journal*. It is needless to say that this fact had quite escaped my memory—as it had also, apparently, that of our usually vigilant editors—and I was further thrown off my guard by Mr. Worthington's statement that, as far as he was aware, his birds had never been reported. This assurance—unquestionably given in good faith—affords a striking as well as amusing instance of the fallibility of human memory, for the record just cited was made by *Mr. Worthington himself*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Number of Ribs in Cypseloides.—The occurrence of a rudimentary seventh pair of ribs is so common among Swifts that I have long been looking for a species in which the normal number of ribs should be seven pairs. Apparently this looked-for species has at last been found in the western Cloud Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), for four specimens of this bird recently