

Note on *Junco annectens* Baird and *J. ridgwayi* Mearns.—Although Professor Baird based his *Junco annectens* (Ornithology of California, I, 1870, p. 564) on several specimens representing the bird which we have been accustomed to call by that name and one example typical of *J. ridgwayi* Mearns (Auk, VII, July, 1890, p. 243), reference to these specimens and careful comparison with Prof. Baird's description show clearly that the rufous-backed specimen is the type of *J. annectens*. *Junco ridgwayi* Mearns, therefore, becomes a synonym of *J. annectens* Baird, and the other form (*J. annectens*, Auct. nec Baird) being without a name I take pleasure in bestowing upon it the name *Junco mearnsi*, in compliment to my friend, Dr. Edgar A. Mearns, U. S. A.

Junco mearnsi is similar to *J. annectens*, but may easily be distinguished by having the back hair brown, not conspicuously different in color from the gray of hind neck and rump, instead of being bright rusty or rufous, as in *J. caniceps*.

The type of *J. mearnsi* is No. 11164, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♂ ad., Fort Bridger, Wyoming, April 12, 1858; C. Drexler. The type of *J. annectens* is No. 10701, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♀ ad., Fort Bridger, May 28, 1858; C. Drexler.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Rectifications of Synonymy in the Genus *Junco*.—The *Junco hyemalis danbyi* which I described in the Nidologist, III, No. 2, Oct. 1895, p. 14, as a provisional new subspecies from the Black Hills, and named for Prof. Durward E. Danby, principal of the high school of Custer, S. D., proves to be simply the young of *J. aikeni*, the characteristic representative of the genus in the said region. The type specimen, lacking the white wing-bars of the adult, has lately been deposited in the U. S. National Museum. The naming of the supposed new form will prove to have been not entirely in vain if it serves to emphasize the fact that *J. aikeni* is so thoroughly distinct from *J. hyemalis* that it can be recognized at any age, apart from the presence of its supposed chief distinctive characters—the white wing-bars. These are wanting at first, in birds of the year, and first appear as two rows of white dots on the ends of the median and greater coverts, respectively; these dots enlarge to spots by degrees, and finally coalesce as complete bars. The bird could not be mistaken for *hyemalis* at any age; the 'aspect' in life, even at gunshot range, is distinctive; for one receives the impression of a large gray bird, more like *caniceps* than like *hyemalis*.

J. h. connectens of my 'Key', 2d-4th eds., 1884-90, p. 378, is a good subspecies which has been accidentally overlooked by the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature in preparing both the editions of our Check-List, 1886 and 1895. In fact it also escaped my own memory, until it was brought to mind by the description of *J. h. shufeldti* by Mr. Coale, in The Auk, IV, Oct. 1887, p. 330; since which time I have been intending to bring up the case for final readjustment, but have meanwhile been much preoccupied with other than ornithological affairs. Mr. Coale's

shufeldti of 1887 is my *connectens* of 1884, characterized in the 'Key' as intermediate between *hyemalis* proper and *oregonus* proper, and as occupying a range between the habitats of the two forms as now restricted—that is, the interior region at large, and especially the Rocky Mountain region. I remember characterizing this form hypothetically some twelve or fifteen years ago, at which time I picked out type-specimens from a lot of Juncos which I examined in the South Tower of the Smithsonian Institution, in the presence of Mr. Brewster, Dr. Allen, Mr. Ridgway and others; these type specimens belonged to Mr. Brewster's collection and one of them has just now been identified by the A. O. U. Committee with what we have been calling *shufeldti*. Thus the case is perfectly clear, and the subspecies rests securely upon the diagnosis given in the 'Key' in 1884. The requisite rectification of synonymy will be made in the next supplement to the last edition of our Check-List. I only regret that I have been so dilatory in bringing the case up.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Spiza americana near Kingston, New York.—The familiar song of this species attracted my attention as I was driving a few miles from Kingston on June 5, 1896. The bird proved to be a full-plumaged male, but I was unable to secure him at the time or to return later to the same spot. The occurrence, however, of the species in the Hudson River Valley seems worthy of special mention.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City.*

Correct Nomenclature of the Texas Cardinal.—Having very recently, for the first time, seen the original description of *Cardinalis sinuatus* Bonaparte, I was much surprised to find the locality given as "the western parts of Mexico." The name *sinuatus* belongs, therefore, in a restricted sense, to the form which I characterized, in 1887, as *Pyrrhuloxia sinuata beckhami*, under the erroneous supposition that Bonaparte's bird was the eastern form; consequently, the latter requires a subspecific name; and, being known in the vernacular as the Texas Cardinal, I propose for No. 594 of the Check-List the name *Pyrrhuloxia sinuata texana*, No. 594 *a.* being the true *P. sinuata*.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Natural Breeding Haunts of the Barn Swallow (*Chelidon erythrogaster*).
—The Barn Swallow is such a familiar tenant of our barns and out-houses that it may not have occurred to many to wonder where they nested before man provided them with such resorts. During the summer of 1895, while visiting the headwaters of Lake Chelan, in Washington, I found the Swallows *at home*. The shores of the lake near its head are very precipitous, since the mountains rise here some 7,000 feet above the surface of the water. Along the shore line, in the side of the cliffs, which continue several hundred feet below the water, the waves have hol-