

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-

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