

handsome nest, built directly against the wall of rock, five feet above the floor of the cave. The bird was sitting when I found the nest, and returned as soon as I left the cave. There were three eggs, two evidently much incubated and one infertile, which latter I took. These eggs were creamy white, with pale reddish specks and dots about the larger end. The specimen which I secured is now in the collection of Brown University, Providence, R. I.

The Island Flycatchers had nearly all left Santa Cruz (or retreated to distant parts of the island) by the first of August, and I saw none after August 10.—ELI WHITNEY BLACK, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

The White-throated Sparrow Breeding at Hubbardston, Mass.—A few pairs of *Zonotrichia albicollis* breed each year, or have for the last two years, among the lower hills (about 1000 feet elevation) about Wachusett Mountain in Hubbardston, Mass.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

Henslow's Sparrow in Michigan—A Correction.—Dr. Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator, Department of Birds, U. S. National Museum, calls my attention to a misprint in my article on this species in the April 'Auk' (XIV, p. 220) where, in an extract from his letter, he is made to say "this species ought not to be seen in Michigan." "Seen" should read "rare." I think, however, that Henslow's Sparrow may very properly be termed rare in this State. Should one offer a reward for specimens of this bird taken here he would be surprised at the very few he would obtain. A young ornithologist, in reporting his observations, might easily mistake the Grasshopper Sparrow for this species.—JAMES B. PURDY, *Plymouth, Mich.*

Nesting of *Cardinalis cardinalis* at Nyack, N. Y.—During the spring of 1897 there have been not less than six instances of the breeding of *Cardinalis cardinalis* at Nyack, N. Y. Mr. Rowley, of the American Museum of Natural History, tells me that a pair of this species nested at Hastings, N. Y. So far as is known, I believe this constitutes the northernmost breeding record of this bird.—C. L. BROWNELL, *Nyack, N. Y.*

Notes on the Moults and certain Plumage Phases of *Piranga rubra*.—In 'The Auk' for July, 1891 (pp. 315, 316) I described an instance wherein the Summer Tanager (*P. rubra*), a female, had assumed the plumage of the male. That specimen was collected by my son, Percy Shufeldt, and has since been added to the collections of the U. S. National Museum. Since that date the same collector has added to his private series, thirteen more specimens of this species, and as some of these exhibit certain notable conditions of the moult and plumage, it is my intention here to pass a few remarks upon the more interesting of these. Twelve of the skins are from male birds, while the thirteenth is from an adult female, taken in

August, 1895, and exhibits the autumnal plumage nearly completed. All these individuals were collected either in the northeastern part of the District of Columbia, or in the adjacent parts of southern Maryland. Of the seven red males in the series taken at random from April 18, 1896, to July 15, only one of them shows the full and completed plumage, and that the one shot on the first-mentioned date. All of the others present more or less green in the wings and tail, and one with a greenish patch on the throat. A specimen, an old male, shot on the 15th of July, 1896, has both the plumage of the entire body and tail red, while the secondaries and primaries of the wings are in the process of the moult,—the new feathers likewise coming in *red*,—the same applying to the wing-coverts. This tends to prove, in so far at least as this particular specimen is concerned, that in the male of this species in the autumnal moult they reassume the red plumage. Another specimen, which I take to be a young male of the first spring, and shot on May 14, 1897, has the body plumage red, with red and green wings, but the tail exactly half red and half green,—the green feathers on the left half of the tail being half a centimeter shorter than the red ones. All these feathers are new, with the exception of one of the green ones, and it is found next to the outermost one of that side. Now the first plumage taken on by both sexes of this species after leaving the nest is the olive-green plumage corresponding to that of the normal adult females, and in that plumage the birds of the year migrate south in the autumn. So that the aforesaid specimen shot on May 14, possibly met with an accident, losing all the feathers of the left side of the tail with the exception of the one mentioned, and these being replaced came in *green*. This seems to be the only explanation to account for the state of affairs seen in this individual.

In another specimen of this series, a young male of the first autumn in the full green plumage, shows a broadish transverse red bar across the green and perfected feathers of the tail.

Perhaps the most interesting specimen in the collection is that of a female (adult) which in the spring had, in part, the red plumage of the male, and when collected on the 2d of August, 1897, was in full moult,—the red feathers of the entire plumage being replaced by the green ones of the adult female bird with normal coloration. This particular example then, would tend to show that when the females of this species assume in the spring the red plumage of the males, that in the autumnal moult they pass back again to the plumage of the normally-colored females,—whereas the *old* males reassume the red plumage.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) Breeding in Electric Arc-light Caps.—During a recent visit to Vergennes, Vt., I noticed that many pairs of Purple Martins were nesting in the caps suspended over the electric street lamps in the heart of that rural city. Indications of the same proclivity to utilize the street lamps for domestic purposes were shown by