

Purple Martins that I watched near North Adams, Mass., in 1895, and Mr. Brewster tells me that he found a pair of these birds breeding in a similar situation in Colebrook, N. H., in 1896. Probably many of the readers of 'The Auk' who live in a Martin region are familiar with this nesting habit of the Martin, though I do not remember to have seen any mention of it in print. The late Frank Bolles ('Boston Post,' Feb. 3, 1891) facetiously remarked that the House Sparrow's propensity to build its nest and rear its young "on the edge of Hades" (*viz.*, in electric-lamp reflectors) was sufficient evidence that it was the offspring of evil and justly under the ban of the Commonwealth. I had always deemed this a just count against the Sparrow, until I discerned the same disposition in our own favorite Martin! I hope the lamp-tenders of Vergennes discriminate between Martins and Sparrows in their daily visits to the lamps. — WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

The Tree Swallow Breeding in Virginia. — The second edition of the A. O. U. Check-List gives the breeding range of *Tachycineta bicolor* as "breeding from the Fur Countries south to New Jersey," etc. Dr. Rives in his 'Birds of the Virginias,' page 77, says of this species: "Common summer resident of the Tidewater region from April to September, but rare away from the rivers." He mentions no instance of its breeding, however. Mr. E. J. Brown, formerly of Washington, tells me that in May, 1894, he found a nest containing eggs, on Smith's Island, Virginia. Mr. P. H. Aylett, of Aylett, King William County, Virginia, wrote me some years ago about a pair which reared their young one summer at that place. I afterwards saw the site — a cherry stump in a meadow. The birds are fairly numerous on Smith's Island in summer, and I found a nest containing three young, in a hollow tree near the ocean beach, on June 10, 1897. — WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) in Greene and Ulster Counties, N. Y. — On May 29, 1897, I found a pair of Rough-winged Swallows beginning to build in Palenville, Greene County, June 11. The nest with six eggs was procured. At Quarryville (about five miles south of Palenville, being in the extreme northern part of Ulster County) there is a small colony of these birds breeding regularly every year, in the crevices of the rocks. Here I took a male specimen June 27, 1896, and a nest containing five eggs June 29, 1897. These specimens were identified by Mr. Frank M. Chapman. — S. H. CHUBB, *New York City.*

Peculiar Nesting of the Maryland Yellow-throat. — While collecting in a large slough in Jackson County, Minnesota, on June 9, 1897, amid the green rushes where Long- and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were breeding, I ran across a pair of Yellow-throats (*Geothlypis trichas*) in some high rushes in about four feet of water, and upon investigating I found the nest placed almost level with the water in a thick clump of cat-tails, over fifty feet from shore, and right in the midst of a colony of Marsh

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Wrens. The nest was constructed of the usual materials — leaves, bark, and grasses — lined with grape-vine bark and hair, and contained two fresh eggs. This is, I believe, the first recorded instance of the Yellow-throat breeding over water, and is indeed surprising, as the nests are usually to be found in dense woods far from water. — WALTON I. WHITEHILL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

The Names of Two Mexican Wrens. — It is now generally believed that Baird was in error when he identified his *Thryothorus bewickii leucogaster* (Baird's Wren, so-called) with the *Troglodytes leucogaster* of Gould (Proc. Zoöl. Soc., 1836, 89; Tamaulipas). This belief was first expressed by Messrs. Sclater and Salvin (Nomencl. Av. Neotrop., 1873, 155), who identified Gould's bird with *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl. (Proc. Zoöl. Soc., 1859, 372) = *Uropsila leucogastra* Scl. & Salv., 1873. Accordingly Messrs. Salvin and Godman (Biol. Centr.-Amer., Aves, I, 1880, 95) have renamed Baird's bird *Thryothorus bairdi*. It appears to me that these authors, by beginning their history of Baird's Wren with the 'Review of American Birds,' 1864, instead of the 'Birds of North America,' 1858, have overlooked the fact that Baird had Gould's type of *Troglodytes leucogaster*. On page XV of the 'Birds of North America,' Baird says that he received from Gould about 150 species of birds, including some from Mexico, and on page 363 he says that Gould's specimen of *Troglodytes leucogaster* from Tamaulipas agrees perfectly with others in the Smithsonian Museum, — the "others" being the identical specimens which he afterward (in Rev. Amer. Birds) separated from the typical *Thryothorus bewickii* as *T. b. leucogaster*. Gould's type is not included in Baird's list of specimens in the Smithsonian Institution, probably because he intended to return it to Gould. It appears that Messrs. Sclater, Salvin, and Godman did not have Gould's type of *Troglodytes leucogaster* (see Biol. Centr.-Amer., Aves, I, 78); does it, then, seem reasonable to prefer their determination of *Troglodytes leucogaster* Gld. to Baird's, who had not only the type of *T. leucogaster* Gld. but also one of the types of *Cyphorhinus pusillus* Scl. (see Rev. Amer. Birds, p. 120)? Messrs. Sclater and Salvin's opinion concerning the identity of Gould's bird doubtless had its origin in the ill fit of Gould's measurements and the incompleteness of his diagnosis when confronted with skins of Baird's Wren. Gould's measurements do not seem to fit either Baird's *leucogaster* or Sclater's *pusillus*, for that matter:

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill.	Tarsus.	
<i>Troglodytes leucogaster</i> Gld.	2.75	2	1.12	.75	.33	(Gould.)
<i>Cyphorhinus pusillus</i> Scl.	3.5	1.75	1.1	.7	.75	(Sclater.)
	3.5	2.05	1.35			(Baird.)
<i>Thryothorus bewickii leucogaster</i> Bd.	4.7	2.1	2	.75	.6	(S. & G.)
	5-5.75	2.1-2.4	2.1-2.55	.5-6	.68-.78	(Ridgw.)

Canon XLIII of the A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature provides that "in no case is a type specimen to be accepted as the basis of a specific or