

pagination, and I believe we recognize that myth officially; if so, the name of the Bank Swallow becomes the tautonym *Riparia riparia*, or else *R. europaea*, or else *R. cinerea*. It is but justice to Dr. Stejneger to say that he was aware of this (Pr. Nat. Mus. V, 1882, p. 32), only he "preferred to accept the name *Clivicola*," though the reason for his preference is obviously a futile one by our rules. It is also due him to add, that he only "supposed" his generic synonymy of Swallows to be correct (*ibid.* p. 31). But neither supposition nor preference has any place in the A. O. U. Code. I can suppose a good many things that are not canonized in the code, and certainly prefer some things that are not canonized. For example, I "prefer" *Riparia* to *Clivicola*, and I "suppose" Dr. Stejneger wrong about *Hirundo*. The case thus raised by Dr. Sharpe should come up for consideration at the next meeting of the Union.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Accidental Death of a Hooded Warbler (*Sylvania mitrata*).—On May 27, 1898, while wandering along a roadway in the vicinity of Great Timber and Beaver Swamp, Cape May County, New Jersey, in company with Dr. William E. Hughes, a male Hooded Warbler attracted our attention by its uneasiness.

While searching the surroundings for its nest, the Doctor discovered a female Hooded Warbler suspended by a horse hair tightly looped around the lower part of the neck, it having slipped up underneath the feathers, and the other end was tangled among some small twigs and briars, where it no doubt was caught while the bird was carrying the material to line her nest with. She was hanging about two feet above the ground with her head dropped back exposing her throat, the feathers of which were parted by the action of heavy rains of the past few days. The condition of the bird was apparently fresh, and no nests of this species were found containing more than one egg at this time.—J. HARRIS REED, *Beverly, N. J.*

Notes on the Nesting of Palmer's Thrasher at El Plomo, Sonora, Mexico.—Palmer's Thrasher (*Harporhynchus curvirostris palmeri*), is one of the most common birds in this region (100 miles southwest of Tucson, Arizona); they may be seen in pairs throughout the year, and seem to remain around the old nest all winter, using it for a roost. The nesting site seems to be in any convenient place. In flat country anywhere, but in hilly country generally at the foot of a hill, seldom over quarter way up on a hill or mountain, unless on the bank of some small arroyo.

Some pairs begin building the latter part of February. The new nest is generally placed near the old one, often in the same cactus, and sometimes on top of the old nest. The nests are large and well made. The body is composed of thorny sticks, three to ten inches in length; then

comes a layer of finer sticks, sometimes bark; then grass for a lining, which has more or less hair and sometimes rags, paper, twine or a few feathers added to it. In a few cases the grass lining is replaced by hair. The nests are externally about ten inches in diameter and eight inches deep, internally about three and one half inches, both in diameter and depth.

In one instance I saw a series of five half completed nests built around the central stalk of a cholla cactus and resting on the branches that grew out from the main stalk; they were all connected, and made a platform two feet in diameter, and only about a foot and a half from the ground. It was built during the winter and was used only for a roosting place. The nest that was used as a breeding place was built five feet away in the top of a small cholla.

The height of nests found containing eggs varied from two to seven feet, but most are built at about three feet. Nests are found in the cholla and sibiri cacti, and in palo verde and mesquite trees. Of fifty nests, in the average, forty will be in cholla, seven in sibiri, two in palo verde, and one in mesquite.

Fresh eggs may be found on March 1, and later, and the number of eggs in a set varies from one to three,—about two thirds are of three, one third of two, and very few are of one. The time of year has nothing to do with the number of eggs in a set as sometimes the first set is two and the next three; then again it is the reverse. Some birds will lay three sets of three each. The number of broods raised per year is two or three.

If the eggs are taken the birds will build a new nest and use some of the lining of the old one, and will have another set of eggs in twelve days (the shortest time noted); the new nest will be well built and resemble the other in every respect. I have known some pairs to take a month in which to build their first nest of the season. One peculiar thing is that the same pair builds its nests at the same height, if possible, but some build low and others high. In one instance the first nest was five and one half feet, the second was seven feet, the third was six feet from the ground, all in different chollas; and as these were high for the general height of the cholla, the nests were further apart than usual; they were in a straight line, the second fifty feet from first, and the third one hundred feet from second.

Birds desert a new nest very easily, but if it contains eggs it can be moved from one branch to another without their deserting it. When squirrels or snakes take the first egg the bird will often lay the second and third in the same nest.

The eggs vary in shape from oval-oblong to pyriform, and the ground color is generally light bluish green, sometimes light green, or bluish white, minutely speckled or spotted with reddish brown and lavender. The less the number of spots the larger they are. The size of the eggs varies,— $1.28 \times .78$, $1.15 \times .83$, and $1.05 \times .77$; average, $1.15 \times .78$. The eggs are laid one each day; I never knew them to skip a day.

The male assists in incubation, and also in taking care of the young. Palmer's Thrasher is very bold when you are at the nest, and will often come within a few feet, while Bendire's Thrasher will slip off the nest and you may not see it even if you remain by the nest for a half hour or more. — JOSIAH H. CLARK, *Tucson, Arizona*.

Carolina Wren at Lyme, Conn., in December. — On the morning of December 17, 1897, I was surprised to see and hear a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at this place. As it is the first one I have ever seen in New England, it may be of interest to record the occurrence. — ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, *Lyme, Conn.*

Nesting Habits of the Robin. — In Mr. Howe's interesting paper on the 'Breeding Habits of the Robin' I notice (Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 167) that he has not observed an instance of a second brood being raised in the same nest. So it may be of interest to note that here a slightly different record can be made.

I have under observation at this writing three nests in which second clutches of eggs have been laid and are now being incubated. One is in a window corner of my office, — and in this case the lining was not even changed. The first egg was laid just one week after the young of the first brood left the nest.

Another nest is in the cornice of a stable building, and in this instance the lining was torn out and replaced by fresh material. The third nest is in a young linden tree, and I did not notice the house cleaning after the first brood left.

Last year a Robin built her nest and raised a brood in the transom over the door of the Glen Island Museum. She returned about a week after the flight of the first brood, and laid three eggs, but deserted them, when about half incubated. I think I recognize her as the same one that has built in my office window this year. — S. M. McCORMICK, *Glen Island Museum, Westchester Co., New York*.

Notes From Ontario. — The American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonica*) is recorded as occurring on rare occasions in Algoma, northwestern Ontario. This season several specimens have wandered far east and south. On March 12, 1898, Chas. M. Clarke of Kingston, observed a Magpie near Odessa, and since that date two specimens have been shot and sent to the taxidermist. This is believed to be the first time Magpies have been recorded in Eastern Ontario.

Horned Larks breed regularly in this district. Last year the Rev. C. Young, of Lansdowne, found a nest (eggs slightly incubated) on April 5. This year I found a nest on April 3. The eggs were four in number, incubation almost completed. There is some doubt about the variety of the Horned Lark which breeds here, although I have little hesitation in classifying the eggs found this season as those of *Otocoris alpestris prati*