

clearly demonstrates. This mistake arose from taking Professor Baird's identification of Vieillot's *Piranga rubra*, — P. R. R. Rep., IX, 1858, p. 300, where he cites it as a synonym of the bird now known as *Piranga erythromelas*, in which course he has been followed by some other authors. Further comment is unnecessary; and the two birds in question remain in undisputed possession of their present names. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Clivicola versus Riparia. — In 'The Auk' for July, 1898, pages 271-272, Dr. Coues draws attention to the fact that the generic name *Riparia* Forster (Synop. Cat. Brit. Birds, 1817, 17) has page priority over the current *Clivicola* Forster (*ibid.*, p. 55); at the same time expressing his preference for the adoption of the former. The A. O. U. Committee, however, refused to accept *Riparia* on the ground that *Clivicola* was used by the 'first reviser.' These two names are founded upon the same species and are both unaccompanied by diagnoses, so that there can be no question of their equal pertinency. Canon XVIII of the A. O. U. Code, which treats of generic terms published simultaneously, makes no definite provision for just this kind of a case; but in the preceding canon, with regard to specific names, the following occurs: "Of names of undoubtedly equal pertinency, and founded upon the same condition of sex, age, or season, that is to be preferred which stands first in the book." Therefore, unless we are to have on this point arbitrarily different rules for species and genera, a procedure apparently both unnecessary and undesirable, *Clivicola* must give way to *Riparia*. That the above quoted principle of page priority was intended to apply to genera as well as to species is evidenced by rulings of the Committee; as witness *Guara*, instead of *Leucibis*, which was adopted by the 'first reviser' — a perfectly parallel case.

While recourse to the decision of the 'first reviser' is often attended by more or less uncertainty, arising from the possibility of overlooking some obscure publication, the great advantage in the strict application of the principle of anteriority, as priority of pagination or sequence in the same book may be called, is that it furnishes means for a definite and final decision, thereby contributing to hasten on the millennium of zoölogical nomenclature—stability of names. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Nest of Long-billed Marsh Wren lined with a Snake Skin. — On June 6, 1898, on the meadow near Rutherford, New Jersey, I found a curious nest of *Cistothorus palustris*. It was fastened two feet above the water, to some green cat-tails, and was composed of reeds and broad grasses, and lined with a cast-off snake skin which was about a foot long. It contained six fresh eggs. — JOSIAH H. CLARK, *Paterson, N. J.*

The Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*) in Maine. — In Smith's List of the Birds of Maine (*cf.* Smith, Forest and Stream, Vol.