

much as Beebe¹ has obtained that indicating the probable inducing causes of melanism in caged birds subjected to slightly abnormal degrees of heat and humidity; a result in conformity with Faxon's² hint of over twenty years ago. — HENRY L. WARD, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

An Interesting Audubon Specimen.— It has long been known that many of Audubon's specimens were deposited in the Charleston Museum toward the close of 1850. Lack of space forbids going into details, so it must suffice to say that, while it is certain that these specimens were at one time in this Museum, we do not know just what species were represented and, until recently, had been unable to find any trace of Audubon's birds among our collections — which contain many very old specimens. Probably most of the records and perhaps most of the specimens were among material destroyed during the Civil War. Recently, however, while examining some old and damaged specimens which had been stored away for many years, I found a bird which is apparently an Audubon specimen. It bears two labels. The first, a piece of cardboard tied to the bird's leg, reads as follows:

“*Loxia maculata* Gmelin
Spotted Grosbeak — Pennant”

The second, consisting of a scrap of paper folded up and attached to the string of the other label, bears the inscription:

“Black Hills
Male
June 3 — 34
J. K. Townsend”

Mr. Witmer Stone has kindly examined both these labels and informs me that the second one is in Townsend's handwriting.

The specimen is in reality a representative of the Black-headed Grosbeak — *Zamelodia melanocephala* (Swainson). The assumption that it is an Audubon specimen is based on the following facts:— (1) that some of Audubon's birds were once in this Museum; (2) that Audubon received some of the Western birds from which he drew his figures from Townsend and that these birds of Townsend's were examined and figured by Audubon in Charleston in 1836 (see *Ornith. Biog.*, Vol. IV, *Introd.* pp. xii-xiv); (3) that this specimen was taken by Townsend on the same day, month, and year and in the same locality as the female Evening Grosbeak figured by Audubon and received by him from Townsend (see *Ornith. Biog.*, IV, p. 517).

In his 'Narrative of a Journey across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia River . . . with a Scientific Appendix,' published in 1839, Townsend lists, among the birds collected, Mottled or Spotted Grosbeak, *Frin-*

¹ Beebe, C. William, *Zoologica*, Vol. 1, part 1.

² Faxon, Walter, *Auk*, Vol. III, p. 284. Other citations of black robins: Ruthven Deane, *B. N. O. C.*, Vol. I, p. 24; Barrows, *Auk*, Vol. 1, p. 90.

gilla maculata. This is the name used by Audubon in the 'Elephant Folio.' Since there can be little doubt that Audubon's figure of the male Black-headed Grosbeak was drawn from the specimen in this Museum, it is evident that the name *Fringilla maculata* was not, as supposed hitherto, a new one originating with Audubon. Furthermore, this name should certainly be considered a synonym of *Zamelodia melanocephala* Swainson, although Mr. Ridgway, in his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' does not include it as such.

Townsend seems to have confused the Black-headed Grosbeak with the Spotted Grosbeak — *Loxia maculata* of Gmelin, and out of this confusion arose the specific name *maculata* applied by Townsend and Audubon to the Black-headed Grosbeak. I am informed by Mr. Stone that the identity of *Loxia maculata* has never been determined and that it remains an unidentifiable (and probably merely hypothetical) species.—HERBERT RAVENEL SASS, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Three Erroneous Georgia Records.—COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*).—In Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Part II, p. 208, the breeding range of this species is given as "south to Georgia (Wayne and McIntosh counties)." In the citations, however, no authority is mentioned for this breeding record. During the month of May, 1891, I was making observations on the birds of Wayne, McIntosh and Glynn counties but failed to detect the Cowbird.

This species does not breed on any portion of the South Carolina coast, and, if the birds really breed on the coast of Georgia (which is questionable), the breeding range would undoubtedly extend northward along the coast to South Carolina, as the Cowbird breeds far north. This Georgia record requires confirmation.

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*).—Although the Bank Swallow is said by Mr. H. B. Bailey (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VIII, 1883, p. 39) to breed on St. Simon's Island, he doubtless mistook migrating birds for breeding ones, as the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) was the species I found breeding in May, 1891.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus stellaris*).—Mr. H. B. Bailey, in Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VIII, 1883, p. 38, refers to this wren as breeding on St. Simon's Island. This statement is erroneous, as the Short-billed Marsh Wren does not breed in any portion of the South Atlantic States, the birds being simply autumnal, winter and late spring residents.

While Mr. Ridgway does not give the range (breeding and winter) in his great work (Birds of North and Middle America, Part III, p. 483), the so-called "breeding" record by Mr. Bailey is perpetuated in the citations. Since 1884 I have known that the birds are simply winter and late spring residents, and that their breeding range was far to the northward of the South Atlantic States. Mr. Ridgway's inclusion of Mr. Bailey's