Irazu Junco—a primitive member of the genus.—*Junco vulcani* (Boucard), the Irazú Junco, has been called by A. H. Miller (1941. *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 44 (3) :233) "the most aberrant species of the genus." He also states (*op. cit.*:372) that *J. vulcani* "appears to represent a primitive, possibly ancestral, stage," but that (p. 233) it would be "highly desirable to compare carefully the internal structure of *vulcani* with that of the other *Juncos*, ..."

In a recent study of the structure of the skull of fringillids (*Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool., Misc. Publ.*, in press), I presented evidence to show that certain peculiarities of the palatal and squamosal regions of the skull of sparrows can be evaluated as to relative primitiveness. Although I concluded that lack of inflation of the squamosal region and incomplete fusion of the palato-maxillaries to the prepalatine bars of the palatines were primitive characters on the subfamily level (in the Fringillinae, as defined by me), I have since noted that the same criteria seem valid for groups of generic level. Of course, the amount of difference between primitive and advanced members of a single genus is much less, and interpretation correspondingly more difficult, than between extremes of a subfamily.

I discussed earlier (*op. cit.*) the functional significance of the various modifications of the palatal and squamosal regions in sparrows. For present purposes, it is sufficient to point out that *Junco vulcani* shows slightly less complete fusion of the palato-maxillaries to the prepalatine bars (except that *J. vulcani* and *J. phaeonotus* are nearly equal in this respect) and also the least inflation of the squamosal region of the species of *Junco* which I have examined osteologically (*hyemalis*, 6 specimens; *aikeni*, 2; *oreganus*, 5; *caniceps*, 5; *phaeonotus*, 4; *vulcani*, 5). Miller's conclusion that *J. vulcani* is the most primitive member of the genus seems substantiated by the structure of the skull of the species.

I should re-emphasize Miller's thesis that the geographic position (Costa Rica to Panamá, in the mountains at and above timberline) of this "primitive, possibly ancestral," junco does not necessarily indicate that the genus originated in Central America. Instead, because of the probably greater environmental stability of southern regions, as opposed to regions nearer to glaciation in the Pleistocene, the modern occurrence of primitive forms in Mexico and Central America, even in genera of more northerly origin, is to be expected (Miller, *op. cit.*:371–372).—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, *Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, May 20, 1952.*

Little Blue Herons in northwestern Pennsylvania.—In the afternoon of July 22, 1951, Robert L. Calvin of New Castle, Pennsylvania, Charles J. Shontz of the Pymatuning Laboratory, and I observed two Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) in adult plumage at Hartstown Swamp, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. The birds were seen in excellent light with a 26 power telescope.

Hartstown Swamp had been drained early in July and by July 22 there were many small pools of water. These small pools were probably rich in aquatic animal life since many Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), and American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) were concentrated in this area. The Little Blue Herons were observed for one-half hour before they flew northward in the direction of Pymatuning Lake. One adult was observed in the same area on the afternoon of July 29 by Charles J. Shontz.

All Little Blue Herons recorded previously in the area have been immature birds.—JOHN F. MEHNER, *Pymatuning Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, September 1, 1951.*