

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons* Say) — **A Cuban Record.**— I beg to report the taking of a male specimen of the Cliff Swallow on November 11, 1911. It was flying with others of this species in a band of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastra*), quite early that morning, over abandoned cane fields of the San Carlos Estate, Guantanamo, Cuba. This I believe is the first Cuban record for the species.— CHAS. T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

The Connecticut Warbler in Central Park, New York City.— I was fortunate enough to find an individual of the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) in Central Park on May 16. The bird was a male in curious plumage, as there was not the usual amount of slate-gray on the breast. At first sight I thought it was a Nashville Warbler, but soon noticed it walking on the ground, with its tail up in the air, and then obtained a view of its breast. It was absurdly tame, and was within eight feet of me, when first observed. During the day I showed it to about ten bird students. Mr. W. deW. Miller, of the American Museum of Natural History, came over in the afternoon, and four of us leaned in a row on a fence, while the bird walked unconcernedly around catching flies, not more than 15 feet from us. We were able to make out every detail, including the elongated tail-coverts. Part of the time the bird was so close that I was unable to focus on it with my binoculars. The Warbler remained in the Park in the rhododendron bushes for six days, walking about frequently in the open. This species is apparently a very rare spring migrant along the Atlantic Coast.— LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.*

Type of the Genus *Saxicola*. In the April number of 'The Auk', p. 271, in commenting upon Mr. Gregory Mathews' discussion of the type of the genus *Saxicola*, I insisted that Gray's designation of *S. ænanthe* as the type settled the matter. While this conclusion is correct when we consider only the data presented by Mr. Mathews in the January Ibis, I entirely overlooked another paper (Novitates Zoologicae, XVIII, June, 1911, p. 20), in which he calls attention to the earlier designation by Swainson in 1827, of *Motacilla rubicola*. This, of course, alters the situation and renders necessary the use of *Saxicola* for the Chats (*Pratincola* of authors) while *Ænanthe*, as stated by Mr. Mathews, will have to be used for the Wheatears.— WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Two Interesting Records for Canada.— **Arquatella maritima couesi** (Ridg.) ALEUTIAN SANDPIPER. In going over the collections of the Geological Survey in the Museum, I find three specimens of this form of the Purple Sandpiper taken by Mr. Wm. Spreadborough at Clayquot, Vancouver Island, B. C., May 11, 1907. The subspecific determination was made by Dr. Jonathan Dwight who remarks that they are "undoubtedly *couesi*" though darker than the typical coloration and

approaching *maritima*. Clayquot is on the west coast of Vancouver Island in about latitude 49-15'. This forms the first record for this subspecies within the Dominion.

Scotiaptex nebulosa (Forster), GREAT GRAY OWL. Breeding records of this species are rare enough to make note of a bird recently received by the Museum. It is a young bird just changing from the natal down into the juvenal and first winter plumages. Patches of the former remain on all parts of the body but interspersed freely with the latter two. The natal down plumage is dull brown, made hoary by the lighter tips to the feathers. The underparts, wings, back of the neck and facial disk are barred with yellowish gray. The juvenal plumage includes the large flight and tail feathers which are as in first winter coloration. The remainder of the plumage is heavily barred with an ochraceous gray more yellow on the back of the neck and shoulders than elsewhere. The bars average about half an inch wide and the same distance apart. The first winter plumage shows but here and there in small patches and is about as generally seen in winter specimens.

The large wing and tail feathers are well formed and the bird was evidently capable of short flights. However it had not left the nest long nor was it able to fend for itself. Another in like plumage was taken at the same time so the brood had evidently not separated and I think we are justified in concluding that the nesting site was not far distant from the place of capture.

These birds were killed July 31, 1911, in the township of Chisholm, Nipissing District, Ont., by Mayor Kelly of Powassan, Ont. Chisholm township lies about five miles east of the extreme eastern corner of Lake Nipissing, extending south and east from that point.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Ont.*

Some Erroneous Wisconsin Bird Records.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1911, and again in the issue for April, 1912, Mr. Henry K. Coale refers to a pamphlet published in 1902 on 'Birds of Oconto County,' by A. J. Schoenebeck, and republishes some records for Wisconsin which seem to call for further consideration. After first reading Mr. Schoenebeck's list in 1903, I wrote him regarding certain records and received from him prompt and courteous replies, with full accounts of these extraordinary finds. Now that some of the most questionable have received the wide circulation and dignity of 'General Notes,' in 'The Auk' it seems necessary to publish what I have regarding them. Mr. Schoenebeck's absolute honesty and sincerity of belief in these records, at the time, is not to be questioned. It is purely a matter of mistaken identification, and it is a great pity that not one of the questionable records is backed up by a preserved specimen. Had not Mr. Coale republished them in 'The Auk' with the statement that most of the species recorded in Mr. Schoenebeck's original list were preserved in Mr. Schoenebeck's collection, I should have much preferred to say nothing about them.



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