

comprised "fresh meat, mice, and boiled egg." In the spring (1893) "it commenced cooing, and sometimes would be gone over night. It roosted in a large outbuilding, and "for fear of losing it," writes Mrs. Smith, "we put a screen to the door and have it confined now" (May 23, 1893).

Col. N. S. Goss in his 'Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas' (1886) states that two Road-runners were seen in 1884 near the western line of the State, and says: "I feel confident that they occasionally breed in the southwestern corner of the State, a natural habitat for the birds." The occurrence here noted is the only one, excepting the one referred to by Col. Goss, which has been so far recorded for Kansas.—VERNON L. KELLOGG, *Lawrence, Kansas*.

Two Corrections.—In an article which appeared in the July number of 'The Auk' I described at some length a peculiar process of regurgitation employed by the Flicker in feeding its young, believing—and indeed remarking at the time—that the habit was unknown or at least unrecorded. It seems, however, that it had been previously observed by Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller who published an account of it in 1890 in the 'Atlantic Monthly,' the article being afterwards (in 1892) republished in a collection of essays entitled 'Little Brothers of the Air.'

It is a pity that writers like Mrs. Miller—gifted with rare powers of observation and blessed with abundant opportunities for exercising them—cannot be induced to record at least the more important of their discoveries in some accredited scientific journal, instead of scattering them broadcast over the pages of popular magazines or newspapers, or ambushing them in books with titles such as that just quoted. But an opportunity for delivering a properly frank and telling homily on this sad evil is unfortunately denied me on the present occasion, for some one of these writers might be unkind enough to point the moral of a second admission which I am about to make, viz., that my announcement, in the last number of 'The Auk,' of the capture in Georgia, by Mr. Worthington, of two specimens of the Ipswich Sparrow, proves to have been anticipated in a previous issue (Vol. VII, April, 1890, pp. 211, 212) of *the same journal*. It is needless to say that this fact had quite escaped my memory—as it had also, apparently, that of our usually vigilant editors—and I was further thrown off my guard by Mr. Worthington's statement that, as far as he was aware, his birds had never been reported. This assurance—unquestionably given in good faith—affords a striking as well as amusing instance of the fallibility of human memory, for the record just cited was made by *Mr. Worthington himself*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Number of Ribs in Cypseloides.—The occurrence of a rudimentary seventh pair of ribs is so common among Swifts that I have long been looking for a species in which the normal number of ribs should be seven pairs. Apparently this looked-for species has at last been found in the western Cloud Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), for four specimens of this bird recently

examined have each seven pairs of ribs, and it seems hardly probable that these specimens, collected at different times and localities, should all be abnormal. The peculiar interest attached to the possession of seven pairs of ribs by a Swift lies in the fact that no known Passerine bird has, normally, more than six pairs of ribs, while such Hummingbirds as have been examined have eight pairs. *Cypseloides* is also peculiar in its skull, as has been pointed out by Dr. Shufeldt, the vomer not being expanded distally as in the other Cypselidæ. The Tree Swifts have a somewhat similar vomer, but these, to my mind, form a separate and well marked family, as set forth in 'The Auk' for January, 1889. — FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Washington, D. C.*

An Attractive Addition to the Avifauna of the United States.—*Icterus gularis yucatanensis* von Berlepsch.—MR. E. A. McIlhenny recently sent me for identification a skin of a handsome Oriole which proves to be this subspecies and which he kindly presented to the collection of the United States National Museum here. He shot the bird on June 3, 1893, on Avery's Island, New Iberia Parish, Louisiana, from a flock of four; and he writes me that although these birds were quite tame he only shot the one in hopes that the remaining ones would bring others there. His attention was first called to them by their unfamiliar whistle, which is a soft flute-like note expressed by the word 'whae' about as well as anything; this is repeated from time to time as the birds move from limb to limb in search of food. On dissecting the specimen he found a number of small green caterpillars and several spiders, but the principal food seemed to consist of the small purple figs, which were just ripe. While in search of food they move about exactly as the Baltimore Oriole does, swinging from slender twigs head downward, looking under limbs for insects, and moving about continually. He observed the remaining three birds again on June 5 in some fig trees in the plantation garden.

Although this beautiful Oriole may be an irregular, it appears to be sometimes a common summer visitor along the Gulf coast of Louisiana, and less frequently perhaps of Mississippi as well, as the following notes will show; and it seems even probable that it breeds occasionally within our borders. Mr. McIlhenny had already obtained a specimen of this Oriole two years previously and sent me the following extracts, relating to its occurrence, copied from his note-book.

"May 17, 1891. John Goffney brought me today a beautiful bird that he killed in the swamp back of the sugarhouse. It is undoubtedly an Oriole, but one I have never seen before. Owing to the poor condition of the plumage, I did not make a skin of it. The markings are: head, breast, under and upper tail-coverts, orange; wings black with orange markings at their base; back black from base of neck to upper tail-coverts. It is a male, and much larger than the Baltimore Oriole. On dissection the only food found was a few insects and three small caterpillars.

"August 3, 1892. Today I went out to Mr. Herters's rice field to try and get some of the birds I hear feed there. I met J. Mason and induced him



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