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GENERAL NOTES.

Note on the Correct Name of *Symphemia semipalmata inornata* Brewst.

—In 'The Auk' for April, 1887 (Vol. IV, p. 145), Mr. Brewster described the western form of the Willet under the name *Symphemia semipalmata inornata*. In discussing the synonymy of the new form he concludes "(4) that *Totanus speculiferus* Cuvier (R. A., I, 1817, 351 [*lege* R. A. 2d ed., I, 1829, 531]) and Pucheran (R. et M. Z., III, 1859, 569 [*lege* R. et M. Z. 2^e sér., III, 1859, 369]) is not now determinable." It turns out, however, that the two forms of the Willet had long since attracted the attention of Dr. Sclater (Ibis, 1862, p. 199, footnote), who, in examining specimens taken in Florida by Mr. G. C. Taylor, was "inclined to consider them distinct. The larger variety," he adds, "seems to have already been called by

Cuvier *Totanus speculiferus* (Règn. An. ed. 2, i, p. 531; Pucheran, Rev. et Mag. de Zool, 1851, p. 369), and should therefore be termed *Symphemia speculifera*." On referring to Cuvier I find that this author gave only a very brief description of the specimen which served as the basis of his *Totanus speculiferus*, although he says it stands higher on the legs and has a longer bill than *T. semipalmatus*. Pucheran, however, in 1851, in his important paper 'Etudes sur les types peu connus du Musée de Paris,' described with great detail Cuvier's type, which description shows it to be beyond doubt a winter example of Mr. Brewster's subspecies *inornata*. He especially says it is to be distinguished from "*Totanus semipalmatus* Tem." by the length of the bill, while his measurements of the specimen nearly equal the maximum for *inornata*, as given by Mr. Brewster.

It may be noted that none of the American citations of Cuvier and Pucheran, as given above, prove to be correct, indicating that these references have been generally given without verification.

The *Totanus crassirostris* Vieill. (1816), as Mr. Brewster claims, is unidentifiable, though pointing to *speculifera*, the bill being given as 2.50 inches long. The larger Western Willet should therefore stand as *Symphemia semipalmata speculifera* (Cuv.).—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, New York City.

A Second Maine (and Fourth New England) Specimen of Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).—Through the kind offices of Mr. Manly Hardy I have just secured a Swainson's Hawk, which was killed about eight miles from Bangor in the town of Glenburn, Maine, May 19, 1888. Like the Gouldsboro (Maine) specimen which I obtained last year,* it is of the melanistic type, but not entirely black. It was sent in the flesh to Mr. S. L. Crosby of Bangor, and was examined by Mr. Hardy before the skin was removed.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Nesting of the Black Swift.—On June 6, 1888, I collected a set of five eggs of the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*). As far as I am aware, this is the first set of this species collected. The nest was in the cornice of a small wooden building on Yesler's Wharf of this city. The cornice was of the kind usually known as store cornice, the interior being divided into compartments by the rough brackets to which the planceer, facure, and deck were nailed. At one end of the cornice the deck or top was sprung up so as to leave an opening into the first compartment, in which the nest was made. The compartment was about twenty inches square.

The nest was composed of leaves, which were yet green, bits of paper, chips from a planing-mill near by, a few horsehairs, and straw, and was surrounded by a large quantity of loose straw. The leaves and paper formed the lining of the nest.

The eggs were white and were fresh, the birds having been sitting only two or three days. As will be seen, they are very uniform in size: they measure 1.00 X .71, 1.00 X .70, 1.02 X .70, .96 X .68, .96 X .68 inch.

*Auk, IV, 1887, p. 160.



Allen, J. A. 1888. "Note on the Correct Name of *Symphemia semipalmata inornata* Brewst." *The Auk* 5, 423–424. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067001>.

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