

Breeding of the Rough-winged Swallow at Shelter Island, New York.—While collecting with Mr. W. W. Worthington of Shelter Island, N. Y., June 3, 1893, I found a nest of the Rough-winged Swallow containing four much incubated eggs. The nest was placed in a bank about forty feet high, on the shore; it looked like an old Bank Swallow's burrow. It was two feet from the top of the bank and twenty-seven inches deep. The chamber the nest was in was twelve inches in diameter, and was completely filled with dried sea grasses on which the eggs were laid.

I shot the female, and as it fell in the water the male came up and tried to help its disabled mate, at the same time uttering a most plaintive cry.—HARRY B. SARGENT, *New York City*.

Cœreba versus *Certhiola*.—In a recent number of 'The Ibis' (April, 1893, pp. 246, 247) Mr. Sclater takes American ornithologists to task for having "recently caused needless confusion by proposing to reject the long-recognized name *Certhiola* of Sundevall [1835], and to use in its place *Cœreba* of Vieillot [1807], a term always hitherto applied to a different genus." Mr. Sclater, to make his point, claims that *Cœreba* Vieillot "was intended as a Latin equivalent for the 'Guit-Guit' of Buffon; and the 'Guit-Guit' of Buffon was primarily the South American species usually called *Cœreba cyanea*," etc. While it is true that Vieillot evidently intended to include other species in the genus *Cœreba*, the fact remains that he definitely mentioned at this time only one species, "Le Guit-guit sucrier, *Cœreba flaveola*." This then, by all rules of nomenclature touching the restriction of genera, must be the type of the genus *Cœreba*, and consequently Sundevall had no right, nearly thirty years later, to make *Cœreba flaveola* the type of a new genus *Certhiola*. It makes no difference that Vieillot later placed other species in the genus *Cœreba*; at the time *Cœreba* was established *C. flaveola* was the only species so referred, and becomes therefore necessarily the type of the genus. Whatever we may imagine to have been his "intentions," we have to be governed by what he actually did. Hence the synonymy of the genus stands as follows:

Cœreba Vieillot, Ois. Am. Sept., II, 1807, p. 70. Type and only species, *C. flaveola* = *Certhia flaveola* Linn.

Certhiola Sundevall, Œfvers. Vet.-Ak. Handl. 1835, p. 99. Type *C. flaveola*.

Mr. Sclater (Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., XI, p. 31) gives "*C. cyanea*" as the type of Vieillot's genus *Cœreba*, as follows:

"*Cœreba Vieill.*, Ois. Am. Sept. ii, p. 70 (1807). . . . Type, *C. cyanea*."

We have thus the incongruity of a species given as the type of genus which was not placed in that genus till some years after the genus was originally established! In fact, as I have previously stated (Auk, VIII, p. 95), it proves unsafe to take as types of genera the species explicitly stated to be such in the various volumes of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' since it sometimes turns out that some other species is in reality the type.



1893. "Breeding of the Rough-Winged Swallow at Shelter Island, New York." *The Auk* 10, 369–369. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067842>.

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