

Elliot has kindly sent me a comparative description of the differences between *A. fulvigula* and this new species, and I find them so good that I have adopted much of his wording in the specific characters given above. Mr. Elliot says, "It seems to me a good species and I wonder it has been overlooked."

The most marked differences between *A. maculosa* and *A. fulvigula* are that the cheeks of the former are streaked with brown while those of the latter are plain buff; the speculum is purple instead of green; the general effect of the coloration, especially on the under sides, is mottled instead of streaked; the light color everywhere is a pale buff or isabella color instead of a rich, deep buff; and the tail markings also are different, as indicated. The female had in its oviduct a perfect egg, which I have not yet received from Mr. Singley. Mr. Priour is familiar with the Duck, and finds it not uncommon on the grass flats of Nuesces Bay and River.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Cory's Birds of the West Indies.*—Mr. Cory has republished in a book of 324 pages his various papers on West Indian birds published during the last three years in 'The Auk,' together with much new matter, including two maps of the West India Islands, and a bibliography of West Indian ornithology (pp. 5-14). Several new cuts have been added, and changes have been made at various points in the text, which in the main is a reprint from the electrotype plates of Mr. Cory's series of papers in 'The Auk.' About 555 species are recorded as West Indian, of which 350 are described at length; the remaining 205 (or thereabout) are North American, respecting which merely the character of their occurrence in the West Indies is chronicled, with a citation of the references to their West Indian history. Nearly three fifths of the species treated are distinctively West Indian, being not found elsewhere. Mr. Cory states (p. 3) that in the preparation of the work he examined a large series of birds

*The | Birds of the West Indies. | Including | all species known to occur in the Bahama Islands, the Greater | Antilles, the Caymans, and the Lesser Antilles, excepting | the Islands of Tobago and Trinidad. | By | Charles B. Cory, | Curator of Birds in the Boston Society of Natural History, Fellow of the | . . . [= 5 lines of titles] | Author of | . . . [= 4 lines, titles of works. | — | Illustrated. | — | Estes & Lauriat, | Boston, U. S. A. | 1889.—8vo, pp. 324, 2 maps, and numerous woodcuts in the text.

from nearly all of the islands of the West Indies, numbering altogether many thousands of specimens. He, himself, made five trips to different parts of the West Indies, and besides, sent out various collectors to the different islands, some of whom were in the field for from six to eighteen months each. Mr. Cory's book forms an invaluable hand-book of West Indian ornithology, and will prove indispensable to all future workers in this field, his citation of the extensive literature being especially important.—J. A. A.

Sclater's Catalogue of the Mesomyodian Passeres.*—Few books can be more welcome to the general student of birds than monographic works treating of the non-oscine Passeres of America, the literature relating to them being widely scattered and difficult of access, the synonymy perplexing, and the species of the larger genera exceptionally difficult to distinguish. When the task of bringing order out of this almost hopeless chaos is undertaken by a master in the field, as in the present case, whose familiarity with the birds to be treated is admittedly greater than that of any of his fellow-workers in the same field, the ordinary student can but feel that a great burden has been lifted, and a vast flood of light spread over a dark corner of the ornithological field. While the work before us is an inestimable boon, and will make the way far easier for all who may come after, it still leaves much to be desired, and is in some ways disappointing and unsatisfactory. But, from the nature of the case, this was perhaps unavoidable, and the attitude of the reviewer should be one of gratitude for blessings received rather than of criticism and complaint that an ideal treatment of the subject has not been presented.

"In dealing," says Dr. Sclater, "with the five Neogean families—Tyrannidæ, Oxyrhamphidæ, Pipridæ, Cotingidæ, and Phytotomidæ—I have followed throughout, with few exceptions, the divisions and arrangement adopted by Mr. Salvin and myself in our 'Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium,' published in 1873. It would have been better, no doubt, in some respects, to have attempted a thorough revision of these groups; but I felt that the short time assigned to me for the preparation of the present volume, and the comparatively little leisure I had to devote to it, would not give me a chance of performing this revision satisfactorily. This, therefore, I must leave to some younger and better qualified worker to perform. Nevertheless, . . . I feel that I have accomplished a not unsatisfactory piece of work, and one that will enable the ornithologist of the future, who may wish to take in hand a real monograph of these difficult groups, to start with much greater advantage." To concede this claim,

*Catalogue | of the | Passeriformes, | or Perching Birds, | in the | Collection | of the British Museum. | — | Oligomyodæ, | or the Families | Tyrannidæ, Oxyrhamphidæ, Pipridæ, Cotingidæ, | Phytotomidæ, Philepittidæ, Pittidæ, | Xenicidæ, and Eurylæmidæ. | By | Philip Lutley Sclater. | London: | Printed by order of the Trustees, | 1888.—8vo, pp. xx + 495, pl. xxvi. Forming Vol. XIV of 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum.'