

superficial resemblance to that of a Swallow is structurally more nearly like that of such a typical Tanager as *Piranga erythromelas*; but in the characters of the palate, *Procnias* departs so widely not only from the Tanagers but from the large majority of Passerine birds, as to warrant the establishment of a separate family for the members of the genus." The pterylographical notes have been contributed by Mr. Hurbert L. Clark, who says that while the pterylosis of *Procnias* is evidently passerine, it "shows no particular leaning to any group." Figures are given of the palatal region of the skull, and of the dorsal feather tracts, the former in comparison with a Swallow and a Tanager, and the latter with those of several species of Tanagers.—J. A. A.

Montgomery on Migration as a Check upon Geographical Variation¹.—The evidence is so clearly in favor of Mr. Montgomery's proposition that few doubtless will question the correctness of his main conclusions. While we do not recall having seen the matter formally stated, doubtless the coincidences here stated have not failed of recognition on the part of many students of geographical variation. The author calls attention to the fact that birds which are non-migratory, or which migrate only to a limited extent, in case they have also a wide geographical distribution, are apt to become differentiated into more or less well-marked subspecies under the varying conditions of environment of the widely separated parts of their range, while birds that migrate extensively, say through 30° or more of latitude, even if widely dispersed during the breeding season, seldom show a tendency to become differentiated into subspecies. This he believes is due to the fact that "the influence of the winter environment acts as a check upon the acquisition of adaptations suited alone to the summer environment."—J. A. A.

Contributions to Economic Ornithology.—The 'Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1895', recently issued, contains two noteworthy contributions to economic ornithology. Mr. Sylvester D. Judd reports on the food and general habits of the Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, and House Wren, each species being illustrated with an excellent full-length cut by Mr. J. L. Ridgway. The verdict is favorable to all, as they subsist largely upon injurious insects. The House Wren is "exclusively insectivorous"; the others live partly on fruits, some of which are cultivated.

¹ Extensive Migration in Birds as a Check upon the Production of Geographical Varieties. By Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr., *American Naturalist*, June, 1896, pp. 458-464.

² Four Common Birds of the Farm and Garden. By Sylvester D. Judd, Assistant Ornithologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1895, pp. 405-418, with 4 cuts.