

species of Raft-breasted birds are nearly as great as between any of the Ratitæ and Carinatæ." He summarizes the views of leading modern authorities on the relationships of the various extinct types of formerly supposed Ratite forms, and adds: "Strong enough arguments, we think, have been put forward to show that the theory of a common origin of the Ratitæ is untenable, and hence no single hypothesis of distribution is able to account for the facts of their distribution. We cannot imagine a race of Ostriches sprung from *Hesperornis* or anything of like nature in the Cretaceous, spreading over the whole earth in the Tertiary, and then as decay set in, leaving its fragments scattered in remote corners of the globe. . . . To seek the nearest Carinate affinities for the different sections separately; to develop the palæontological history of each more fully; and to inquire into the physical and biological conditions which led to their insulation, perpetuation, and differentiation in various provinces, — these are only a few of the points that invite an extended investigation." His review of the matter in the pages which follow is a suggestive and important contribution to the literature of the subject. — J. A. A.

Bangs on Birds from Colombia. — Mr. Bangs has recently published two papers¹ on birds received from Colombia, from his collector, Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr. The first relates to a collection of nearly 700 specimens gathered during the two months from the middle of December, 1897, to the middle of February, 1898, within fifteen miles of Santa Marta, at elevations ranging from 500 to nearly 6000 feet. The number of species and subspecies reported upon in this paper is 126, of which 10 are described as new, as follows: *Galbula ruficauda pallens*, *Melanerpes wagleri sanctæ-martæ*, *Dendrocincla olivacea anguina*, *Sycalis browni*, *Cyanocompsa concreta sanctæ-martæ*, *Arremonops conirostris canens*, *Piranga faceta*, *Cyclarhis flavipectus canticus*, *Dacnis nappæa*, *Merula incompta*.

The second paper relates to a later sending, by the same collector, of birds taken "at the little village of Pueblo Viejo, in the high Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia," at about 8000 feet altitude. This collection numbers 28 species, of which 4 are described as new, namely: *Elænia browni*, *Automolus rufipectus*, *Buarremon basilicus*, *Thryothorus lætus*. — J. A. A.

Nelson on New Birds from Mexico. — Further results of Mr. E. W. Nelson's ornithological work in Mexico have recently appeared. His

¹ On Some Birds from Santa Marta, Colombia. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. of Washington, Vol. XII, pp. 131-144. June 3, 1898.

On Some Birds from Pueblo Viejo, Colombia. By Outram Bangs. *Ibid.*, pp. 157-160. Aug. 10, 1898.

first paper¹ is based on his exploration, in company with Mr. E. A. Goldman, of the Tres Marias Islands. After summarizing the work of previous explorers in these islands, he describes the following 11 new subspecies, based on his own collections, made during May, 1897:—*Columba flavirostris madrensis*, *Leptotila capitalis*, *Buteo borealis fumosus*, *Polyborus cheriway pallidus*, *Trogon ambiguus goldmani*, *Nyctidromus albicollis insularis*, *Myiopagis placens minimus*, *Cardinalis cardinalis mariae*, *Vireo hypochryseus sordidus*, *Melanotis cærulescens longirostris*, *Thryothorus lawrencii magdalenæ*. The bird fauna as a whole will be treated later. In this connection he states that the study of his material in comparison with that from the mainland, shows "that most of the resident land birds of the islands. . . . differ in a more or less marked degree from their nearest mainland relatives. In most cases the island birds cannot be considered more than geographical races. . . . Not a single species has been found on the islands which has not a closely related form on the mainland."

In a second paper² Mr. Nelson describes a number of new birds from various parts of Mexico, from the collections made by Mr. Goldman and himself, for the U. S. Biological Survey. In reference to the diversified climatic areas of Mexico, Mr. Nelson states that in addition to the "two main divisions of highland or temperate, and lowland or tropical," "the highlands contain several definite faunal areas, and the same is true of the lower tropical lands." The new forms described are the following: *Heleodytes brunneicapillus obscurus*, from the Mexican tableland; *Vireo nanus*, southern border of the tableland in Michoacan; *Progne subis aloë*, Plomosas, Sinaloa; *Phænicothraupis rubicoides roseus*, Territory of Tepic; *Amphispiza bilineata grisea*, southern part of tableland; *Guiraca chiapensis*, Chiapas; *Grallaria ochraceiventris*, San Sebastian, Jalisco; *Amazilia cinnamomea saturata*, Chiapas; *Dactylortyx chiapensis*, San Christobal, Chiapas; *Dactylortyx devius*, San Sebastian, Jalisco. The paper also comprises a revision of the genus *Dactylortyx*, in which *D. thoracicus* (Gambel) and *D. thoracicus lineolatus* (Gould) are recognized in addition to the two species here described.—J. A. A.

Cooke's 'Birds of Colorado.'³—The publication in March, 1897, of

¹ Descriptions of new Birds from the Tres Marias Islands, Western Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XII, pp. 5-11. Jan. 27, 1898.

² Descriptions of new Birds from Mexico, with a revision of the genus *Dactylortyx*. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XII, pp. 57-68. March 24, 1898.

³ Further notes on the Birds of Colorado. Bulletin No. 44, Technical Series No. 4. An appendix to Bulletin No. 37. On the Birds of Colorado. By W. W. Cooke, Fort Collins, Colorado. March, 1898, 8vo. pp. 148-176.