

interested so long as I would tell them about how birds live. . . . It has, therefore, seemed to me that what is needed at first is not the science of ornithology, — however diluted, — but some account of the life and habits, to arouse sympathy and interest in the living bird, neither as a target nor as a producer of eggs, but as a fellow-creature whose acquaintance it would be pleasant to make.”

The book, it is needless to say, is couched in terms easily understood, and written in an attractive and sympathetic vein. It consists of thirty short chapters, grouped under the following four major headings — ‘The Nestling’; ‘The Bird grown up’; ‘How he is made’; ‘His Relations with us.’ Under the first is treated not only the nest and the young bird, but its various changes of plumage, and how it learns to take care of itself, while under the third are given some elementary lessons on the structure of birds, etc. The twelve halftone and eight colored plates are very creditable reproductions of photographs of mounted birds and must add much to the interest and attractiveness of the book. Our only criticism is that they are copied from rather badly stuffed specimens with cheap artificial accessories, the excellence of the reproduction thus only heightening the defects of the tell-tale taxidermy. They hence lack artistic effect, which fact, perhaps, does not seriously detract from their utility as illustrations. — J. A. A.

Stone on Birds from Bogota.¹ — The small collection of birds forming the basis of this paper was made by the late Dr. J. W. Detwiler, in the vicinity of Bogota, in 1888–89. It contained 76 species, and as the exact localities of the specimens are indicated, it is of some importance in throwing light upon the distribution of the species. One, *Speotyto cunicularia tolimæ*, is described as new. Incidentally the South American forms of *Speotyto* and *Troglodytes* are reviewed, Mr. Stone recognizing five of the former and ten of the latter, of which eight belong to the *Troglodytes musculus* group. Mr. Stone has also described a new Cuckoo,² from the island of St. Andrews, West Indies, as *Coccyzus abotti*, nearly allied to *C. minor*, of which species it is apparently an insular form. — J. A. A.

Chapman on New Birds from Venezuela.³ — A small collection of birds received recently at the American Museum of Natural History

¹ On a Collection of Birds from the Vicinity of Bogota, with a Review of the South American species of *Speotyto* and *Troglodytes*. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1899, pp. 302–313.

² A New Species of *Coccyzus* from St. Andrews. By Witmer Stone. *Ibid.*, p. 301.

³ Descriptions of Five Apparently New Birds from Venezuela. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XII, 1899, pp. 153–156. August 5, 1899.

from Mr. F. W. Urich, and by him gathered in the mountains of Venezuela, near San Antonio, proved to contain a number of new forms, which Mr. Chapman has described, as follows: (1) *Setophaga verticalis pallidiventris*, (2) *Chlorospingus (Hemispingus) canifileus*, (3) *Mecocerculus nigripes*, (4) *Mecocerculus urichi*, (5) *Synallaxis striatipectus*. Several of these are very distinct from any species previously known. The *Synallaxis* belongs to the *S. terrestris* group, and is perhaps mostly nearly related to *S. carri* Chapm. from Trinidad.—J. A. A.

Oberholser on Untenable Names in Ornithology.¹—Mr. Oberholser's paper treats of 36 generic names, and a few additional specific names, which he shows to be untenable through prior use in other connections. For 12 of these he is able to substitute other names already in existence for the groups in question, but for 24 of the genera entirely new names are here proposed. Fortunately only one of the challenged names relates to North American birds, namely, *Micruria* Grant, recently proposed for two species of Murrelets, previously currently referred to *Brachyrhamphus*. For *Micruria* Grant (type, *Brachyrhamphus hypoleucus* (Xantus) Mr. Oberholser proposes *Eudomychura*, the species thus standing as *E. hypoleucus* (Xantus) and *E. craveri* (Salvad.).

Lists of the species considered referable, respectively, to these 36 genera are given under the new generic designations. According to all recent codes of nomenclature, these preoccupied names are strictly untenable, and Mr. Oberholser has done good service in showing up their real status and providing for them proper substitutes.—J. A. A.

Farrington on a Fossil Egg from South Dakota.²—The specimen here described was discovered in the Bad Lands, near Dakota City, South Dakota, and is believed by the author to be "a petrified egg of an Anatine bird of Early Miocene age." Three photographic views of the egg, natural size, are given on pl. xx, showing its form and structure. The egg measures 2.03×1.49 in., and is very well preserved, distinctly showing the shell structure. The author has heard "of the finding of at least two other petrified eggs at different times in the same region," but has been unable to verify the reports or to see the specimens.—J. A. A.

Gurney and Gill on the Age to which Birds Live.³—In 'The Ibis'

¹ Some Untenable Names in Ornithology. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1899, pp. 201-216. June, 1899.

² A Fossil Egg from South Dakota. By Oliver Cummings Farrington, Ph.D., Curator, Department of Geology. Field Columbian Museum, Geology, Vol. I, No. 5, pp. 193-200, pll. xx, xxi. April, 1899.

³ On the Comparative Ages to which Birds Live. By J. H. Gurney, F. Z. S. 'The Ibis,' Jan., 1899, pp. 19-42. Republished, with some revision, in 'The Osprey,' June, 1899, pp. 145-155.