

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.**<sup>1</sup>—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.**<sup>2</sup>—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  $2.03 \times 1.49$  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.**<sup>3</sup>—In 'The Ibis'

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.