

metatarsal of *Picoides* is present, though concealed beneath the skin, as noted by Beddard.

The 'Osteology of the Striges' is not up to the standard of the paper on the Woodpeckers, for the descriptive matter is too long and too much scattered to be readily used; moreover we lack the summary of characters at the end, this not being compensated for by the fact that the main characters are given on two or three pages at the outset. — F. A. L.

Chapman on the Genus *Sturnella*.¹—With the aid of a much larger series of specimens than has been available to previous writers on the subject, Mr. Chapman has been able to furnish the most valuable contribution to the history of this perplexing genus that has yet appeared. After characterizing the various races of Meadowlarks hitherto described, and pointing out the striking differences between the arid (*neglecta*) and the humid (*mag. a*) groups, the author considers the question of inter-relationships between the two. His conclusions are that the two groups were originally evolved in Mexico, *neglecta* occupying the table land and *magna* the lower humid areas, their relationships here being simply that of well marked geographic races.

Subsequently the two spread northward, *neglecta* covering the western United States and *magna* the eastern region. Still later the two forms, which in the north were quite distinct, have converged and intermingled, thus accounting for the presence of typical *magna* and *neglecta*, as well as intermediates or 'hybrids', side by side in Minnesota and Texas, a fact which is well established.

Due credit is given throughout the paper to Mr. E. W. Nelson, whose careful collecting in Mexico has cleared up the obscurity which had previously prevailed as to the relationships of the two forms in the south.

In emphasizing the fact that the main difference between the *magna* and *neglecta* groups is one of depth of color Mr. Chapman points out that the form recently described as *S. magna hoopesi* should be associated with the latter in spite of the extent of yellow on the sides of the throat. Unless it is deemed advisable to consider the above groups as representing two distinct species, no change in nomenclature is necessary.

Several interesting half-tones from photographs of skins and feathers illustrate the paper, and show clearly the contrast between the light and dark birds. — W. S.

Eaton's 'Birds of Western New York.'²—Mr. Eaton's list relates to "the western portion of New York State, extending eastward through the 'Finger Lake' region," and consisting of three east and west belts,

¹A Study of the Genus *Sturnella*. By Frank M. Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, 1900, pp. 297-320.

²Birds of Western New York. By Elon Howard Eaton. Proc. Rochester Acad., Vol. IV, pp. 1-64. Feb. 15, 1901.

varying in elevation. The northern belt, "lying along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and about Oneida, Cayuga and Seneca Lakes," is the lowest. The middle belt is more elevated, consisting of high, rolling plains, "their lowest elevation of 1000 feet being along an irregular line from Buffalo to Syracuse." The southernmost consists of the northern extremity of the Alleghany Plateau, ranging in elevation from 1500 to 2000 feet, and draining southward. This southern belt is the coldest and faunally the most northern, while the northern belt is the warmest and faunally the most southern, "the influence of altitude, and the modifying effects of the Great Lakes, combining to transpose the normal positions of the life zones." There thus results a peculiar juxtaposition of species in many localities, Canadian and Carolinian species being found breeding side by side, as the Hooded Warbler and the Red-bellied Woodpecker in the same localities with the Junco and the Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Canadian, and Mourning Warblers.

Mr. Eaton's list numbers 297 "definitely recorded" species, 18 species "with indefinite" or doubtful records, 2 species now exterminated, and 2 introduced foreign species. The list has evidently been prepared with great care, and is briefly but quite satisfactorily annotated. The main list is followed by a very extended 'Hypothetical List' of 55 species. While, as the author states, "many of these birds are more liable to be found here than the accidental species which have actually been captured," it is rather stretching the function of such a list to include such accidental Old World 'waifs and strays' as the Corn Crake, Ruff, and other species of that category.

The 'Introductory' (pp. 1-15) gives a very clear account of the physical and faunal characteristics of the region, much explanatory matter relating to the general character and make-up of the lists, a summary, a bibliography, and 'Migration and Residence Tables,' by means of which the seasons of occurrence and relative abundance of all the species are shown graphically. This application of a well-known graphic method we have never before seen introduced into a faunal list; and now that its utility is so evident the wonder is that it has not been tried before.

While the use or non-use of capitals in certain connections, and matters of punctuation in general, are perhaps mere trifling matters of taste we trust that certain recent innovations in such matters, here followed, will not be often repeated; the saving of space, if that be an object, thus accomplished is certainly trifling, and hardly offsets the shock it gives one to see names of groups or of species printed with a lower case initial when used in headings and subtitles. — J. A. A.

Publications Received. — **Bangs**, Outram. A New Meadowlark from South America. (Proc. New Engl. Zoöl. Club, II, pp. 55, 56, Feb. 15, 1901.)

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