

Ridgway on 'New Birds of the Families Tanagridæ and Icteridæ.'¹—This is the seventh of Mr. Ridgway's series of papers describing new forms of American birds, the preceding six having been published in 'The Auk,' Vols. XV–XVII (1898–1900). In the present paper Mr. Ridgway characterizes of the family Tanagridæ one new genus, *Iridophanes* (type, *Dacnis pulcherrima* Sclater), and one new species and five new subspecies belonging to other genera of the family. Of the family Icteridæ he characterizes two new genera, *Pseudagelaius* (type, *Agelaius imthurni* Sclater), and *Xanthopsar* (type, *Oriolus flavus* Gmelin), and one new species and eight new subspecies. Four of the subspecies occur in the United States, namely, (1) *Icterus cucullatus sennetti*, from the Lower Rio Grande Valley; (2) *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*, ranging during migrations from Montana and the Indian Territory to and including the Rocky Mountains and southward to Arizona and northern Chihuahua; (3) *Agelaius phœniceus neutralis*, ranging from the Great Basin Region of the United States northward to eastern British Columbia and southward to northern lower California; (4) *Agelaius phœniceus caurinus*, from the Northwest Coast District, ranging from British Columbia to northern California.

Unfortunately Mr. Ridgway has adopted the name *Scaphidurus* Swainson for the Boat-tailed Grackles, named *Megaquiscalus* by Cassin, Mr. Ridgway overlooking the fact that *Scaphidurus* is a pure synonym of *Quiscalus*, Swainson supposing *Quiscalus* to be untenable on account of its supposed prior use in botany.—J. A. A.

Buri on the Anatomy and Relations of the Swifts.¹—Dr. R. Buri, of Bern, has recently published a lengthy paper² giving the results of an extended study of the wings of *Cypselus melba* and others of the Coracornithes; special attention has been given to the nerves of the wings, this portion of the anatomy having been worked out in the most painstaking manner. Dr. Buri's observations all go to confirm the correctness of the view that the nearest allies of the Swifts are the Hummingbirds, but they also point to a somewhat closer alliance with the Colies than has been generally suspected and to a more distant alliance with the Caprimulgidæ. Unfortunately Dr. Buri had no specimen of *Macropteryx*, for it is quite probable that nervation of this generalized and interesting genus shows

¹ New Birds of the Families Tanagridæ and Icteridæ. Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., III, pp. 149–155. April 15, 1901.

² Zur Anatomie des Flügel von *Micropus melba* und einigen anderen Coracornithes; zugleich Beitrag zur Kenntniss der systematischen Stellung der Cypselidæ. Von Dr. Rud. O. Buri, Prosektor am veterinär-anatomischen Institut der Universität Bern. Mit 6 Tafeln. Abdruck aus der Jenaischen Zeitschrift für Naturwissenschaft. Bd. XXXIII, N. F. XXXI, 1900. Jena, Gustav Fischer, 1900.