

graphs. Similarity of structure in several important features is found to be common to the Owls and Caprimulgi which are not met with in any other groups. Whether or not the author's investigation will aid those interested in aerial navigation, it forms an important contribution to our knowledge of the structure of the flight feathers in birds.—J. A. A.

Jacobs's West Virginia Bird Notes.—Number IV of Mr. Jacobs's 'Gleanings'¹ consists of a briefly annotated list of the summer birds of Monongalia County, West Virginia. As the list, numbering 51 species, is based on observations made June 1, 1895, it is a good record for a single day's work. The list is followed by a few supplementary notes made on June 19 of the same year, and on August 21–23, 1897, which include a number of species not given in the formal list.—J. A. A.

Howe's 'Fifty Common Birds of Vermont.'—This brochure of 92 pages² "has been written for the purpose of creating among teachers and school children of our State a greater and a deeper love for Vermont birds." It is evidently well adapted to this end. Brief descriptions are given of fifty of the more common species met with in Vermont, with such further comment as should render them easily recognizable, aided by a text figure of each species, usually from photographs of mounted birds. Unfortunately some of them were taken from rather unsightly specimens. An appropriate introduction precedes the general text, which is followed by lists of birds noted by different observers at several localities, the species being given under their common English names. A line to each is sufficient, by use of abbreviations, to indicate the season, relative abundance, and date of earliest arrival. These lists are: Birds of Brattleboro and vicinity, by Mrs. Elizabeth B. Davenport; birds about St. Johnsbury, compiled by Miss Isabel M. Paddock; birds of Bennington and vicinity, by Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Ross; birds of Rutland County, by G. H. Ross; migration list of birds for Bristol County and vicinity, by A. C. Dike; also a nominal list of the birds of Vermont, based on

¹ Gleanings IV. | Some notes | on the Summer Birds | of | Monongalia County, | West Virginia. | — | Observations made near | Blacksville and Morgantown and along | the Monongahela River | — | By | J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburg, Pa. | — | 1905 | Independent Printing Co.—8vo, pp. 11 and frontispiece. 15 cents.

² Fifty Common Birds of Vermont. By Carlton Dexter Howe, Principal of the Essex Junction High School, President of the Aududon Society of Vermont.= Circulars of Educational Information, No. XVIII. Prepared for Teachers and School Officers. Issued by the Department of Education, State of Vermont. Montpelier, 1905. 8vo, pp. 92, with 50 text figures.

the list of Perkins and Howe, published in 1901. A few pages of further useful and pertinent information conclude this useful little manual.—J. A. A.

Oberholser on the Nomenclature of Certain Genera of Birds.¹—Seventeen generic names and a few specific names are here held to require change, the specific names belonging to genera here treated. The first name considered is *Bellona* Mulsant & Verreaux (1866), which, as Mr. Riley (Auk, 1904, p. 75) recently pointed out, is preoccupied by *Bellona* Reichenbach, 1852. Instead, however, of requiring a new name, as claimed by Riley, it may be replaced by *Orthorhynchus* Lacépède, 1799, for which the type was fixed by Gray in 1840 as *Trochilus cristatus* Linn. We agree with Mr. Oberholser that *Orthorhynchus* is the proper name for this genus of West Indian hummingbirds, for which it was formerly for many years in current use. Consequently Riley's substitution of *Orthorhynchus* for *Chrysolampis*, and of *Chrysolampis* for *Eulampis* are uncalled for and the hitherto current names of these genera remain unchanged. Mr. Riley's effort is cited by Mr. Oberholser as a "forcible illustration of the difficulty and unsatisfactory nature of generic type determinations by elimination." As we have said elsewhere (Science, N. S., XXI, p. 431, March 17, 1905): "The results will vary somewhat with the experience and qualifications of the user of the method, if the conditions of the question are especially complicated and perplexing. . . .", while "experts in such cases rarely reach different conclusions. . . ."

"*Dromæus* Vieillot" is shown to be properly *Dromiceius*, the form first used by Vieillot, who did not use *Dromæus*; *Hydrornis* Milne-Edwards, being preoccupied, is replaced by *Dyspetornis*, nom. nov.; *Nænia* Boie, being preoccupied, a substitute is found in *Inca* Jardine; *Gnathosittaca* Cabanis, being preoccupied, is replaced by *Ognorhynchus* Gray; an earlier name for *Dasyptilus* Wagler is found in *Psittichas* Lesson; *Nanodes* Vig. & Horsf., being preoccupied, a substitute is found in *Euphema* Wagler; *Sharpia* Bocage being preoccupied, and there being no available substitute, it is replaced by *Notiospiza*, nom. nov.; similarly, *Malacopteron* Eyton is replaced by *Horizillas*, nom. nov.; *Hedymela* Sundevall is antedated by *Ficedula* Brisson; *Chenorhamphus* Oustalet, being preoccupied, is replaced by *Conopotheras*, nom. nov.; *Charitospiza* is a new name for the South American genus formerly known as *Tiaris*, containing the *Fringilla ornata* Wied; this specific name being preoccupied is changed to *eucosma*, nom. nov.

The status of four other names — *Xiphorhynchus*, *Vermivora*, *Cotur-*

¹Notes on the Nomenclature of Certain Genera of Birds. By Harry C. Oberholser. Smithsonian Misc. Coll., Quarterly Issue, Vol. III, pp, 59-68. May 13, 1905.