

that place. This theory of Mr. Brown's of rapid exhaustion from sudden withdrawal of food seems worthy of consideration and may seem, in part at least, to explain these rather mysterious occurrences.—THOMAS S. ROBERTS, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway's 'The Birds of North and Middle America,' Part IV,¹—Part IV of this great work, issued in July of the present year, marks the completion of the first half, carrying the subject through the Oscines and including the first four families of the Mesomyodi. The first four Parts contains, as stated in the Preface, "1,675 species and subspecies, or somewhat more than half the total number of North and Middle American Birds."²

The present volume includes ten families, as follows: Turdidæ, with 12 genera, 54 species and 43 additional subspecies; Zeledoniidæ, monotypic (included in the Turdidæ in the main text and raised to family rank in the addenda, p. 885); Mimidæ, 12 genera, 33 species and 17 additional subspecies; Sturnidæ, including the common Starling, introduced from Europe; Ploceidæ, 2 genera and 2 species, introduced into Porto Rica from Africa; Alaudidæ, 2 genera,—*Alauda*, of casual occurrence in Greenland and the Bermudas, and *Otocoris*, with one species and 25 subspecies; Oxyruncidæ, monotypic; Tyrannidæ, 47 genera, 133 species and 39 additional subspecies; Pipridæ, 7 genera, 15 species and 2 additional subspecies; Cotingidæ, 18 genera, 32 species and 18 additional subspecies. In addition to the 103 genera and 417 species and subspecies formally treated, nearly half as many more are included in the keys and footnotes, so that in many cases nearly all the extralimital South American species of the included genera are passed in review.

Most of the innovations in classification were first made in a special

¹ The Birds of North and Middle America: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Higher Groups, Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Birds known to occur in North America, from the Arctic Lands to the Isthmus of Panama, the West Indies and other Islands of the Caribbean Sea, and the Galapagos Archipelago. By Robert Ridgway, Curator, Division of Birds. — Part IV.

Family Turdidæ — Thrushes. Family Alaudidæ — Larks.
 Family Zeledoniidæ — Wren-Thrushes. Family Oxyruncidæ — Sharp-bills.
 Family Mimidæ — Mockingbirds. Family Tyrannidæ — Tyrant Flycatchers.
 Family Sturnidæ — Starlings. Family Pipridæ — Manakins.
 Family Ploceidæ — Weaver Birds. Family Cotingidæ — Cotingas. —
 Washington: Government Printing Office. 1907. = Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 50, Part IV. — 8vo, pp. i-xxii + 1-973, pll. i-xxxiv.

²For notices of previous Parts in this Journal, see Vol. XIX, Jan. 1902, pp. 97-102; Part II, Vol. XX, Jan. 1903, pp. 73-76; Part III, Vol. XXII, April, 1905, pp. 219-222.

paper published in January, 1906,¹ but a few further changes are here made, especially in nomenclature, where *Myiochanes* replaces *Contopus* and *Procnias* supplants the familiar name *Casmorinchos* (or *Chasmorhynchus*, as usually written), etc., and original spellings of many names replace the emended forms of purists. *Planesticus* takes the place of *Merula*, but *Galeoscoptes* remains. The departures from the A. O. U. Check-List names of North American birds are, however, few, and have mostly already been adopted by the A. O. U. Committee, though not yet announced.

The present volume is marked by the same painstaking bibliographic research and attention to details that so eminently characterize its predecessors in the series, and we welcome it with the same sense of gratitude to the author for his invaluable contribution to systematic and faunistic ornithology. The thirty-odd plates of structural details, drawn mostly by J. H. Hendley of Washington, are an important adjunct to the text.—
J. A. A.

Townsend and Allen's 'Birds of Labrador.'—This important summary² of present knowledge of the birds of Labrador is based, the authors inform us, on examinations of all the literature on the subject they have been able to find, and on a visit by them to the Labrador coast in the summer of 1906. The paper includes an account of the topography of Labrador, its faunal areas and bird migration; its ornithological history and the bird and egg destruction that have disgraced its coast and inland, followed by an annotated list of its birds, and a bibliography. The historical part begins with George Cartwright's 'Journal,' published in 1792, and mentions in more or less detail the visits of other naturalists down to the 'Neptune' expedition of 1903–1904, including the journeys of Audubon (1833), Storer (1849), Bryant (1860), Coues (1860), Verrill (1861), Packard (1860 and 1864), Stearns (1875, 1880, 1882), Turner (1882–1884), and others, some of whom barely touched its southern coast. After recounting the barbarous havoc of the 'egggers' and the wholesale slaughter of geese and other waterfowl for their flesh or feathers, it is asked "What will be the result of all this if nothing be done to stop the destruction?" The answer is obvious,—the entire depopulation of the water bird resorts of the Labrador coast and adjacent islands.

In the systematic list 259 species and subspecies are considered, of which two are extinct, and 44 are regarded as having been wrongly attributed to Labrador, leaving 213 as authenticated Labrador species. A tabular statement gives the approximate number of birds seen by the authors in

¹ Some Observations concerning the American Families of Oligomyodian Passeres. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XIX, pp. 7–16, Jan. 1906.

² Birds of Labrador. By Charles W. Townsend, M. D., and Glover M. Allen. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXIII, No. 7, pp. 277–428, pl. xxix (map). July, 1907.