

C. vauxi, two distinct species of *Chatura* are recognized, *C. cinereiventris phæopygos* and *C. spinicauda fumosa*.—W. DEW. M.

'**Cassinia.**'—'Cassinia, A Bird Annual,'¹ "devoted to the ornithology of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware," comprises seven papers, followed by an 'Abstract of Proceedings,' a bibliography (including (1) ornithological papers for 1907 by members of the Club, and (2) additional papers relating to the birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware), a list of the members of the Club, and an index. The place of honor is accorded to Witmer Stone's interesting biographical sketch of Adolphus L. Heermann, M. D., who was born, it is supposed, in South Carolina in 1818, and who died at San Antonio, Texas, September 2, 1865. Dr. Heermann is well known as one of the naturalists of the Pacific Railroad Surveys, he having been surgeon and naturalist to Lieutenant R. S. Williamson's expedition, in 1853-54. Previously Heermann had made a large collection of birds in California, and is further known to bird students through the names of two species of California birds, a gull and a sparrow, dedicated to him by Cassin. Mr. Stone has been unable to present a very detailed or connected history of his life, but the facts here brought together are most welcome. The accompanying portrait of Heermann is from a daguerreotype and represents him as attired on one of his western expeditions. The titles of the other papers are: 'Some Birds of Brown's Mills, N. J.,' by Cornelius Weygant; 'Type Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' by Spencer Trotter,—an interesting list, with comment, of species first made known from birds obtained in this region; 'Bird Life of the Indian River Country of Delaware,' by Charles J. Pennock; 'A Pensauken Diary,' by Chreswell J. Hunt (with two half-tone plates); 'Report on the Spring Migration of 1907,' compiled by Witmer Stone (pp. 54-79). The average attendance at the sixteen meetings of the Club held during the year was 24, with a maximum attendance on one or more occasions of 51.—J. A. A.

Beebe on the Seasonal Changes of Color in Birds.²—The investigations here reported relate to the Scarlet Tanager and the Bobolink. Birds of each species in full nuptial plumage and still in the height of vocal and physical conditions were placed in small cages in a quiet room, and the supply of light gradually cut off and the amount of food increased. When the time for the autumnal moult arrived not a single feather was shed. "In brief, the birds skipped the fall moult entirely and appeared to suffer no inconvenience whatever as a result." They showed only the symptoms of inactivity produced by excessive fatness; early in the experiment they

¹ Cassinia, A Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia, 1907. Issued March, 1908. 8vo, pp. 98, and 3 half-tone plates. Price, 50 cents.

² Preliminary Report on an Investigation of the Seasonal Changes of Color in Birds. By C. William Beebe. American Naturalist, Vol. XLII, Jan. 1908, pp. 34-38.

ceased to sing, and after a good layer of fat had been acquired they seldom uttered even a chirp. Early in the following spring the birds were placed under normal conditions, and they soon moulted into the condition appropriate to the season; in other words, they moulted immediately into the nuptial plumage, the autumn moult and the dull plumage of winter having been completely omitted. "I think we thus have proof," says Mr. Beebe, "that the sequence of plumage in these birds is not in any way predestined through inheritance bringing about an unchangeable succession, in the case of the Tanager, of scarlet — green, scarlet — green, year after year, but that it may be interrupted by certain external factors in the environmental complex." These interesting results could not have been foreseen, and we await with interest the result of Mr. Beebe's further experiments along these lines.— J. A. A.

Contributions to Philippine Ornithology.—No. 5 of Vol. II (October, 1907) of the 'Philippine Journal of Science' contains 14 papers on Philippine birds, of which 9 are by Richard C. McGregor, 2 by Dean C. Worcester, 2 by Dr. Edgar A. Mearns, and 1 by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt (noticed *antea*, p. 245). These vary in length from a note on a single species to a list of the species of an entire island, as follows: 'On a Nesting Specimen of *Caprimulgus griseatus* Walden,' by D. C. Worcester, pp. 271-273, with 2 half-tone plates; 'On a Nesting Place [Didikas Rocks] of *Sula sula* (Linn.) and *Sterna anaetheta* Scopoli,' by D. C. Worcester, p. 175, and 1 half-tone plate; 'Notes on a Collection of Birds from the Island of Basilan, with Descriptions of three new Species,' pp. 279-291, by R. C. McGregor — 151 species, 29 here for the first time recorded; 'Descriptions of four new Philippine Birds,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 292-294; 'The Occurrence of Blythe's Wattled Lapwing and Scaup Duck in the Philippines,' by R. C. McGregor, p. 295; 'Notes on a Bird unrecorded from Mindanao,' by R. C. McGregor, p. 296 — *Rhaldornis inornata* Grant; 'Notes on [three] Specimens of Monkey-eating Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferi* Grant) from Mindanao and Luzon,' by R. C. McGregor, p. 297; 'Notes on Birds collected in Cebu,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 298-309 — 149 species, 24 previously unrecorded; 'Birds observed in Bantayau Island, Province of Cebu,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 310-314 — 66 species; 'The Birds of Bohol' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 315-333, and a half-tone plate of *Circus melanoleucus* — 145 species, 91 here first recorded, 2 new; 'The Birds of Batan, Camiguin, Y'Ami, and Babuyan Claro, Islands north of Luzon,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 337-349 and 5 half-tone plates — 78 species, 1 genus and 7 species described as new; 'Two Additions to the Avifauna of the Philippines,' by E. A. Mearns, p. 353 — *Butorides spodiogaster* (Sharpe) and *Spodiop-sar cineraceus* (Temm.); 'Description of a new Genus [*Malindangia*] and nine new Species of Philippine Birds,' by E. A. Mearns, pp. 355-360 — with a key to the Philippine species of *Merula*.

As indicated by the titles and comment, these papers form an important contribution to Philippine ornithology.— J. A. A.