

on collections made for the author by Mr. C. F. Underwood from December, 1907, to June, 1908.— J. A. A.

**Ridgway on New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Tropical American Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—Of the 16 new genera here described, 9 belong to the family Formicariidæ and 7 to the family Furnariidæ; the 3 new species and 8 new subspecies, belong to the families Furnariidæ and Dendrocolaptidæ. In a foot-note (p. 74) the genus *Myrmelastes* is considered as inseparable from *Myrmeciza*, and *Myrmelastes lawrencii* Salv. and Godm. is stated to be the immature male of *Gymnocichla cheiroleuca*, and *M. corvinus* Lawr. (= *M. ceterus* Bangs) to be the same as *G. nudipes*.— J. A. A.

**New North American Birds.**—Mr. E. W. Nelson<sup>2</sup> has described a new thrush from Tamaulipas, Mexico, as *Catharus mexicanus smithi*, it differing from *mexicanus* in having shorter wings and tail and longer tarsi, and also slightly in coloration.

Messrs. Thayer and Bangs have recently described<sup>3</sup> a new form of the Snowy Egret from San José Island, Gulf of California, about sixty miles north of La Paz, as *Egretta candidissima brewsteri*, on the basis of its large size, especially evident in "the enormously heavy legs."

Mr. Joseph Grinnell has proposed the addition of "three new Song Sparrows"<sup>4</sup> from California. One of them is from "the extensive marshes at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers," and while resembling *Melospiza melodia gouldi* Baird (= *M. m. samuelis* Baird) in coloration, it is larger with a heavier bill, which is markedly more swollen at the base, and is hence named *M. m. maxilaris*. The second is the *M. m. gouldii* Baird, revived, which has of late been referred to *M. m. samuelis* as a synonym. A recent reëxamination of a large amount of material by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature, including specimens furnished by Mr. Grinnell, has failed to convince the Committee of the propriety of its recognition (see *antea*, p. 301). The third is from the vicinity of the Salton Sea and suitable localities along the Lower Colorado River, and is named *M. m. saltonis*. This form is considered by the same Committee (see *antea*, p. 301) as not separable from *M. m. fallax*, as commonly recognized — in other words, that *saltonis* is the Desert Song Sparrow of the arid Southwest. The type of *fallax*, unfortunately, proves not to be quite typical as to locality, being a winter specimen and a migrant, but *fallax*

<sup>1</sup> New Genera, Species and Subspecies of Formicariidæ, Furnariidæ, and Dendrocolaptidæ. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXII, pp. 69-74, April 17, 1909.

<sup>2</sup> A New Thrush from Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXII, pp. 49, 50. April 17, 1909.

<sup>3</sup> Description of a New Subspecies of the Snowy Heron. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, Vol. IV, pp. 39-41. April 29, 1909.

<sup>4</sup> Three New Song Sparrows from California. By Joseph Grinnell. University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 265-269. April 9, 1909.