

**Hellmayr on the Ornithology of Western Colombia.**<sup>1</sup>—While the bird life of northern Colombia is becoming fairly well known there is still much to be learned regarding that of other parts of this interesting country especially the southern and central portions. The present paper is a welcome contribution covering as it does portions of the province of Choco, including the tropical San Juan valley and the Pacific slope of the Western Cordillera near its headwaters.

The basis of Mr. Hellmayr's paper is a collection of about 700 specimens obtained by Mr. Mervyn G. Palmer during 1908 and 1909, representing 201 forms. There are valuable critical notes and discussions of the details of distribution of the various species as well as a chapter of 'Conclusions' in which it is shown that many species of this region are common to N. W. Ecuador while a smaller number are Central American. Twenty-seven are listed as peculiar to Western Colombia. *Calospiza gyroloides bangsi* from Chiriqui, *C. g. catharinae* from S. E. Peru, *Arremon aurantirostris occidentalis* from W. Colombia and *Myrmotherula surinamensis pacifica* from W. Colombia are described as new.—W. S.

**Berlepsch's Revision of the Tanagers.**<sup>2</sup>—This is a valuable work of reference for students of neotropical birds, especially since we have had no monographic review of the Tanagers since Dr. Sclater's volume XI of the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, published twenty-five years ago. Count von Berlepsch lists 555 forms using binomial names for 403 and trinomials for 152. The exact reference and type locality are given for all accepted names and synonyms, and a full list of localities is quoted under each species while type species are given for all generic names. Critical remarks on many of the species are given as an appendix to the main text, while matters of classification and nomenclature are dealt with in the introduction. The author disagrees with Ridgway's action in removing the Pitylinæ to the Fringillidæ and in placing *Hemispingus* with the Mnioiltidæ and prefers to keep them with the Tanagers, while *Iridophanes* he would exclude from the latter group keeping it with the Coerebidæ. *Calypophilus* he regards as a member of the Ampelidæ. In matters of nomenclature he finds himself unable to adopt such generally current forms as *Calospiza nigriviridis nigriviridis* preferring the binomial for the typical race, nor does he follow original misspellings of geographical names.—W. S.

**Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia.**<sup>3</sup>—Under this title appears the first

<sup>1</sup> A Contribution to the Ornithology of Western Colombia. By C. E. Hellmayr. Proceedings Zoological Society of London, 1911, pp. 1084-1213 (published December, 1911).

<sup>2</sup> Revision der Tanagrinen. Von Hans Graf von Berlepsch. Sonderabdruck aus: Bericht über den V. Internationalen Ornithologen-Kongress. Berlin, 1910, pp. 1001-1161.

<sup>3</sup> Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia. Edita da: Ethore Arrigoni degli Oddi, Filippo Cavazza, Francesco Chigi, Alessandro Chigi, Giacinto Marlorelli, Tomasso Salvadori. Anno 1. Num. 1-2, Luglio-Settembre, Ottobre-Dicembre, MCMXI. Bologna, Novembre, 1911.

number of a quarterly journal of Italian ornithology edited by Count Arrigoni Degli Oddi and five others. It is a 'double number' with a colored plate of a hybrid pheasant, *Diardigallus diardi* × *Gennæus*, and is a well printed and very creditable publication.

A paper by T. Salvadori treats of the relationship of *Saxicola aurita* and *S. stapanina*. The editor and Dr. G. Damiani describe a collection of birds from the Tuscan Archipelago. The reversion to ancestral characters in a specimen of *Falco vespertinus* is described by F. Chigi and other papers are by A. Chigi on the migration of the Common Gull from the Baltic to Italy, by E. Balducci on the capture of *Pelecanus crispus* in Italy and by G. Martorelli on the hybrid pheasant already mentioned. Numerous short notes and extended reviews complete the number.— W. S.

'Cassinia.'<sup>1</sup>— An epoch in the history of this publication is marked by the resignation from the editorship, of Mr. Witmer Stone, who had so admirably guided the course of the ten preceding volumes of the same name, as well as the four earlier volumes of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. All that Dr. J. A. Allen has been to the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and 'The Auk,' Mr. Stone was to Cassinia and its forerunner. Mr. Robert Thomas Moore, the new editor, fully recognizes the valuable services of his predecessor, and promises to maintain as nearly as possible the high standard set. So far as the present volume is concerned this promise has been amply redeemed. Mr. Moore urges the detailed study of the life-histories of birds, as the best work to which local students of ornithology can now turn their hand. The character of his paper on the nesting habits of the Least Sandpiper, presented at the Philadelphia meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, November, 1911, proved that he is fully qualified to lead such a movement.

The contents of the present volume of Cassinia are the following: Constantine S. Rafinesque as an Ornithologist, By Samuel N. Rhoads; The frontier of the Carolinian fauna in the lower Delaware valley, By Spencer Trotter; The Center Furnace swamp, By Richard C. Harlow; Recollections of the Passenger Pigeon, By Herman Behr; The summer of fire and bird adaptation, By Cornelius Weygautd; Down the Pocomoke, By George Spencer Morris; General notes; Report of the spring migration of 1911, Compiled by Witmer Stone; Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 1911; Club notes [Editorial]; Necrology; Bibliography of papers published in 1911, relating to the birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware; list of officers and members and index.

The report on migration shows that the accumulation of records by the Delaware valley club are beginning to tell. Generalizations are now possible, and as Mr. Stone remarks: "by the method of computing 'bulk arrival' we are now getting remarkably accurate results." — W. L. M.

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<sup>1</sup> Cassinia, A bird annual. Proc. of the Del. Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia, No. XV, 1911, 80 pp., 3 pll., Feb. 1912.