

Interesting observations are given on the plumage of grouse and ptarmigan, and of the young of the Pipit.

The paper is a valuable contribution to the ornithology of an interesting region and will aid materially in ascertaining the exact range and relationship of the birds of the northern Rockies.— W. S.

Riley on New Neotropical Birds.— Through the courtesy of Mr. Chas. T. Ramsden, Mr. Riley was enabled to examine a series of the resident King Rail of Cuba which, as he had suspected,¹ proved to be separable and is consequently named, *Rallus elegans ramsdeni*.

Three Hummingbirds of the genus *Chlorostilbon* in the U. S. National Museum, obtained on the Purus River, Brazil, are found by Mr. Riley to be unlike any known species of the genus and are described² as *Chlorostilbon puruensis*.

Owing to the transfer of the name *Tanagra* from the Blue Tanagers to the Euphonias Mr. Riley considers that *Euphonia sclateri* Sundeval 1869, now *Tanagra sclateri*, renders *Tanagra sclateri* Berlepsch 1880 untenable for the Blue Tanager of Trinidad, and renames it *Thraupis episcopus nesophilus*.³ We cannot however see the necessity for such action. The two species were described under different generic names and are still in different genera.— W. S.

Todd on the Genus *Chæmepelia*.⁴— We seldom find a more elaborate or painstaking monograph than that which Mr. Todd here presents on the Ground Doves. Incidentally it illustrates how apt we are, in our haste to propose new names and straighten out matters of nomenclature, to overlook the work of our predecessors along the same lines. This genus has been a storm center in such matters. Some years ago diverse opinions were held as to whether the Linnæan name *passerina* should apply to the Jamaican Ground Dove or to that of the southeastern United States, one receiving one new name and the other two, in consequence. Then came a controversy as to whether *Columbina* or *Chæmepelia* was the proper name for the genus. This was referred to a national and international committee with the result that it was declared still an open case to be settled by the first person to definitely designate a type. An immediate designation followed.

Mr. Todd however, by a little bibliographic research now shows us that

¹ The King Rail of Cuba, By J. H. Riley, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, pp. 83-86, March 22, 1913.

² A New Hummingbird of the Genus *Chlorostilbon* from Brazil. By J. H. Riley, do. pp. 63-64, March 22, 1913.

³ A New Name for *Tanagra sclateri* Berlepsch. By J. H. Riley, do., XXV, pp. 185-188. December 24, 1912.

⁴ A Revision of the Genus *Chæmepelia*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Ann. Carnegie Mus. VIII, pp. 507-603, May 8, 1913.