

**Mearns on New African Birds.**<sup>1</sup>— In this, his thirteenth paper on new African birds, Dr. Mearns first considers the subspecies of *Turacus hartlaubi* of which he recognizes four, *T. h. medius* (p. 3) Mt. Kenia, *T. h. crissalis* (p. 3), Mt. Mbololo and *T. h. caerulescens* (p. 4), Mt. Gargues, being described as new. He also describes the following new forms, *Corythaola cristata yalensis* (p. 5), Yala River; *Cursorius gallicus meruensis* (p. 5), Meru River; *C. temminckii jebelensis* (p. 6), Lado Enclave; *Rhinoptilus africanus raffertyi* (p. 7), Iron Bridge, Hawash River, Abyssinia, and *Sarothrura loringi* (p. 8), Mt. Kenia.— W. S.

**Beal on the Food Habits of Thrushes.**<sup>2</sup>— This report is supplementary to Bulletin No. 171, which treated of the Robin and Bluebirds, and is devoted to Townsend's Solitaire and the speckled breasted thrushes of the genus *Hylocichla*. Increased material and further investigation have led to much more detailed analyses of the food of these birds than those which have appeared in other publications of the Biological Survey, but the general conclusions remain the same. The thrushes are largely insectivorous, while the vegetable portion of their food (40.72 per cent) consists mainly of wild berries, their destruction of domestic fruits being negligible.— W. S.

**Miller on Three New Genera of Birds.**<sup>3</sup>— Mr. Miller is doing excellent work in carefully examining the structural characters of various birds with regard to their generic position, as many species when first described were hastily referred to genera to which they have no close affinity and a certain number have never been removed. A case in point is the large owl *Bubo blakistoni* Seebohm and its ally *B. dærriesi*. These Mr. Miller finds are not referable to *Bubo* at all being evidently northern representatives of the Fish Owls (*Ketupa*), and he establishes for them a new genus *Stringonax* (p. 515) with *B. blakistoni* as the type.

For *Hydropsalis lyra* Bp. he proposes the genus *Uropsalis* (p. 516) and for *Picus striatus* Müll. the genus *Chryserpes* (p. 517) on account of differences in relative length of quills and toes, and details of bill structure, from the genera *Hydropsalis* and *Centurus* to which they have been respectively referred. *Chryserpes* also exhibits striking peculiarities in coloration.

Mr. Miller besides erecting these new genera considers the status of allied groups already separated which is perhaps of even greater impor-

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<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of Seven New Subspecies and One New Species of African Birds (Plantain-Eater, Courser, and Rail). By Edgar A. Mearns. Smithsonian Misc. Colls., Vol. 65, No. 13, November 26, 1915.

<sup>2</sup> Food Habits of the Thrushes of the United States. By F. E. L. Beal. Bulletin No. 280, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, September 27, 1915, pp. 1-23. (For sale by Supt. of Documents, Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 5 cents.)

<sup>3</sup> Three New Genera of Birds. By W. DeWitt Miller. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXIV, Art. XVII, pp. 515-520, New York, October 20, 1915.

tance, for even if we ultimately adopt broader genera than we do today, we must know more of the interrelations of the groups of species which are included within them, and which for taxonomic purposes must be distinguished by group names of some kind, even though not recognized nomenclaturally.— W. S.

**Chapin on New Birds from the Belgian Congo.**<sup>1</sup>— Mr. Chapin who accompanied Mr. Herbert Lang on an expedition to the Belgian Congo in the interests of the American Museum of Natural History is now engaged in working up the ornithological collections which they secured during their six years' sojourn (1909 to 1915). These comprise some 6200 skins representing about 600 species, and the present paper is the first publication based upon this material. Mr. Chapin's new species are *Chætura melanopygia* (p. 509), *Apaloderma minus* (p. 510) and *Cerioleptes* (gen. nov.) *xenurus* (p. 512) all from Avakubi, Ituri District, Belgian Congo. Further publications upon this rich collection will be awaited with interest.— W. S.

**Riley on New Birds from China and Japan.**<sup>2</sup>— From material received by the U. S. National Museum from China and Japan, Mr. Riley has described three new forms as follows: *Tetrastes bonasia vicinitas* (p. 16), and *Dryocopus martius silvifragus* (p. 162) from Hakodate, Japan, and *Eophona melanura sowerbyi* (p. 163) from Chang Kow Hsien, Hupeh China.— W. S.

**Recent Ornithological Papers by Dabbene.**<sup>3</sup>— In the 'Anales of the Buenos Aires Mus., XXVII,' Mr. Dabbene proposes (p. 76) a new genus *Neophlæotomus* for the woodpecker, known as *Phlæotomus schulzi* Cab. and also describes an allied new species *N. shiptoni* (p. 79) from the province of Cordoba, with a colored plate of the male and female.

In two other short papers he reports *Manacus m. guttuerosus*, *Harpiprion cayennensis*, *Dendrocygna discolor* and *Sporophila pileata* from Argentina, all of them being new to the fauna.— W. S.

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of Three New Birds from the Belgian Congo. By James P. Chapin. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXIV, Art. XVI, pp. 509-513. New York, October 20, 1915.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of Three New Birds from China and Japan. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XXVIII, pp. 161-164, September 21, 1915.

<sup>3</sup> Description d'un Nouveau Genre et d'une Nouvelle Espèce de Pic Provenant du Nord-Ouest de la République Argentine. por Roberto Dabbene. An. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires, XXVII, pp. 74-81, July 8, 1915.

Una ave nueva para la Argentina. por Roberto Dabbene. Bol. Soc. Physic. I, No. 7, pp. 435-436, Dec. 1914.

Otras especies de aves nuevas. por Roberto Dabbene. *do.* pp. 532-533, June 10, 1915.