

*Diatryma* is to be regarded as a primitive Carinate form most nearly related to *Cariama* among existing birds, although it was probably only an early offshoot from the line of which *Cariama* is the sole survivor, and not intimately related to it. It had an enormous skull measuring seventeen inches in length consisting mainly of a huge compressed beak. In this character it resembles the extinct *Phororhachos* of the South American Miocene but there the resemblance apparently stops.

Fossil birds as we know are extremely rare and the authors regard the discovery of the skeleton of *Diatryma* as a fifth landmark in the history of fossil ornithology, the earlier ones being the discoveries respectively of *Archæopteryx*, of the Jurassic; the Toothed Birds of the Cretaceous — *Hesperornis* and *Ichthyornis*; the Moas of New Zealand; and *Phororhachos* of the South American Miocene. *Diatryma* lived during the Lower Eocene near the beginning of the Age of Mammals and was a contemporary of the Four-toed Horse, *Eohippus*.

The corresponding bones of the complete skeleton seem to differ from those described by Cope as *Diatryma gigantea* as well as from Mr. Granger's specimens named *D. ajax* by Dr. Shufeldt, so it is described as a distinct species, *D. steini*, in honor of the discoverer. In their concluding pages the authors make some very pertinent remarks regarding fossil birds. They commend the revision of the fossil birds of North America and the figuring of the types, but call attention to the provisional nature of all the identifications, and the fragmentary and inadequate character of the material. "The identifications should not be changed but they should always be understood as comparisons and not as positive references." "They afford no ground for concluding that the antiquity of modern groups of birds is greater than that of modern groups of mammals. Nor, on the other hand, does it appear that they were notably less ancient."— W. S.

**Dabbene on New Species of Geositta and Cinclodes.**<sup>1</sup>— In this paper Mr. Dabbene states that his researches have enabled him to recognize no less than 30 species of these two genera of which seventeen are residents of Argentina. The following are described as new: *Geositta punensis* (p. 54), La Guiaca, Province of Jujuy; *G. rufipennis Burmeisteri* (p. 55), El Volcon, Province of Jujuy; *Cinclodes Oustaleti hornensis* (p. 58), and *C. antarcticus maculirostris* (p. 59), Isla Hermite, Cape Horn.— W. S.

**Chapman on Santo Domingo Birds.**<sup>2</sup>— In spite of the many explorations in Santo Domingo the avifauna, even at this late date, does not seem

<sup>1</sup> Especies y Subespecies Aparentemente Nuevas de Geositta y Cinclodes de la Republica Argentina y del Sur de Chile. Por Roberto Dabbene. Physis III, pp. 52-59. March 17, 1917.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of New Birds from Santo Domingo and Remarks on Others in the Brewster-Sanford Collection. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXVII, Art. XII, pp. 327-334. May 14, 1917.

to be thoroughly known. Following on Dr. Wm. L. Abbott's remarkable discoveries, noticed recently in these columns, come the results of Mr. R. H. Beck's explorations on the island, carried on in the interests of Mr. F. F. Brewster and Dr. L. C. Sanford, during the early part of the present year. Mr. Beck visited Mt. Tina and other points in the province of Azua and secured numerous specimens of the crossbill and finch discovered by Dr. Abbott, and also a new species of ground dove, a new goatsucker and a new warbler. These Dr. Chapman has described in the paper before us as: *Oreopeleia leucometopius* (p. 327), Mt. Tina; *Microsiphonorhis* (gen. nov.) *brewsteri* (p. 329), Tubano, allied to *Siphonorhis* and *Microligea montana* (p. 330), Mt. Tina.— W. S.

**Sclater on the Birds of Yemen.**<sup>1</sup>— Mr. G. Wyman Bury who spent a year in the province of Yemen in southern Arabia making zoölogical collections for the British Museum in 1912 and 1913, secured a series of over 400 bird skins. Eight of these represented undescribed forms which have been duly published by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant while Mr. Sclater in the present paper lists the entire collection adding the field notes of the collector and other comments. In all 111 forms are listed, 27 of which besides the new forms had not previously been recorded from southern Arabia. An interesting historical note describes the various explorations of southern Arabia the earliest of which were those of Forskål (1761-63), Hemprich and Ehrenberg (1825) and Rüppell a little later. Both Forskål and Hemprich "sacrificed their lives to their enthusiasm," the one dying at Yerim and the other at Massowah. A map and a colored plate of *Pseudacanthis yemenensis* and *Accentor fagini* complete Mr. Sclater's interesting paper.— W. S.

**Henninger on the Ornithological Work of Dr. E. I. Shores.**<sup>2</sup>— The collection and manuscript diary of Dr. Shores having recently come into the possession of Mr. Henninger he has prepared a very appreciative notice of Dr. Shores, who was apparently born in the late 50's and who died in Schenectady, N. Y., May 6, 1906, and has added the more important records contained among his notes. These refer in the main to Suffield, Conn. and West Bridgewater, Mass., but there are also records for other parts of New England and for Florida. Some of these have already been published but those compiling New England lists will do well to consult Mr. Henninger's paper. It is unfortunate that so many collectors who have extensive ornithological knowledge have published nothing and too often have left not even a manuscript record. When the latter does exist it is most commendable for those who may have access to it to make it public as Mr. Henninger has done in the present case.— W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Yemen, south-western Arabia, with an account of his journey thither, by the collector, Mr. G. Wyman Bury. By W. L. Sclater. *The Ibis*, April, 1917, pp. 129-186.

<sup>2</sup> The Diary of a New England Ornithologist. An Appreciation. *Wilson Bulletin*, March, 1917, pp. 1-17.