

of the group as a whole and began a compilation of data from published papers and manuscript notes of others who had visited the islands, which has resulted in the brochure before us. The author covers the whole series of islands generally known as the Santa Barbaras, from San Miguel on the north to San Clemente on the south as well as Los Coronados lying off the northern part of Lower California, which so far as their fauna is concerned belong to the same group.

Altogether 195 species are considered, with 13 others in a hypothetical list. A full synonymy under each species gives all references to papers dealing with its occurrence on the islands. The text consists of a summary of these and other original data as well as a consideration of the relation of the island birds to those of the mainland in the case of resident species where there is any reason to suspect subspecific differences. Nineteen island forms have been named, some of which have not been considered by the A. O. U. Committee as sufficiently differentiated to warrant recognition. Mr. Howell follows the views of the Committee in such cases so far as nomenclature is concerned though the differences are fully discussed in his text. In one or two cases he points out slight differences between island and mainland representatives of other species but wisely refrains from burdening them with names. In a table appended to the list proper, the occurrence of each species on the various islands is graphically shown, and they are further listed according to time and character of occurrence. We find here that no less than 56 species are resident, while eight others occur at any time of year but do not breed on the islands and six additional species are summer visitants.

In the introductory pages Mr. Howell gives an interesting account of the physical features of the several islands and discusses the problems which their fauna presents. He considers the recognition of a Santa Barbara Island Faunal Area more a matter of geographical convenience than an indication of any peculiarity in the fauna. In the main he considers the island fauna San Diegan, though it contains Sierran elements and a suggestion of the San Francisco Bay Region. Changes in the habit of the resident birds and the earlier nesting dates and period of molt as compared with birds of the mainland are described and an excellent bibliography and index close the publication.

The plan of Mr. Howell's fauna is excellent and it has been admirably carried out. Both he and the Cooper Club are to be congratulated upon this addition to their series.—W. S.

Shufeldt on a Fossil Bird from the Florissant Shales.¹—This brief paper describes impressions of the foot and pelvis of a bird which Dr. Shufeldt regards as most closely resembling the Purple Grackle so far as measurements go and he is inclined to think that they represent a passerine

¹ Fossil Remains of What Appears to be a Passerine Bird from the Florissant Shales of Colorado. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 53, pp. 453-455, pls. 60-61. August 15, 1917.

bird of about the Grackle's size but adds "there is no certainty about it whatever" and so wisely refrains from naming it.—W. S.

Richmond's Third Supplement to Waterhouse's "Index Genera Avium."¹—This welcome publication follows the plan of its predecessors except that the types of the genera have been determined according to the rules of the International Code of Nomenclature and derivations of names have been omitted except when furnished by the original authors. Some 600 names are listed of which more than half have been published since 1905 and of these about 175 are credited to Mr. Gregory M. Mathews. Perhaps the most important feature of this supplement is the list of errors in Waterhouse's 'Index.' This consists of vernacular and other names which have no generic status at the citations given, errors in spelling and in statement, all of which are corrected by Dr. Richmond, and *nomina nuda*, for which the proper citations are given. Lists of Linnæan genera which are citable at earlier date than those given by Waterhouse (mainly due to his adoption of the 12th in place of the 10th edition of the *Systema*) are given, as well as original references to Bonaparte's genera which appeared originally in the 'Ateneo Italiano' and corrections to the two previous "Supplements."

With this pamphlet before them systematic ornithologists are for the first time in possession of accurate references to all the genera of birds so far as known. That a few still remain to be unearthed from obscure publications goes without saying, but they will not begin to approach the number included in the present list which latter represents the results of the painstaking researches of both Dr. Richmond and Mr. G. M. Mathews during the past ten years.

When one considers that much of Dr. Richmond's time has necessarily been taken up in searching out the true date of issue of many wrongly dated publications it seems like the irony of fate that his own paper should be antedated. It seems high time that someone in charge of the scientific publications at Washington takes steps to check this unfortunate practice.—W. S.

Aves in the Zoological Record for 1915.²—Mr. W. L. Sclater is again the author of that section of the *Zoological Record* devoted to birds, and has compiled a list of 934 titles for the year 1915, with the usual rearrangement of references under various subjects — geographic, economic, plumage,

¹ *Generic Names Applied to Birds During the Years 1906 to 1915, inclusive, with additions and corrections to Waterhouse's "Index Genera Avium."* By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of Birds, United States National Museum. *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, Vol. 53, pp. 565-636. August 16 (= 25), 1917.

² *Zoological Record*. Vol. LII, 1915.—Aves. By W. L. Sclater, M. A. May, 1916. Printed for the Zoological Society of London, sold at their House in Regents Park, London, N. W. Price six shillings. pp. 1-74.