

Ornithological Articles in Other Journals.<sup>1</sup>

**Kent**, D. E. Colony of Virginia and Sora Rails (at Bridport, Vt.). (Bull. No. 3, Vermont Botanical and Bird Clubs, April, 1917.)

**Howe**, Inez Addie. Nesting of the Connecticut Warbler [at St. Johnsbury, Vt.] (*Ibid.*).—This record, far away from the known breeding range of the species, is so remarkable, and the presence of Mourning Warblers so suggestive, that we cannot but wonder if the observer is familiar with the plumages of the two sexes of the latter.

**Morgan**, E. D. Goshawks Unusually Numerous. (*Ibid.*) [At Woodstock, Vt.]

**M(urphy)**, R. C. The Sooty Albatross Group [in the Brooklyn Museum]. (The Brooklyn Museum Quarterly, IV, No. 2, April, 1917.)

**Berry**, Wm. A Chair of Economic Ornithology. (Scottish Naturalist, No. 66, June, 1917.)—An interesting discussion of the problem of bird preservation.

**Rintoul**, L. J. and **Baxter**, E. V. Report on Scottish Ornithology in 1916 including Migration. (*Ibid.*, double number, 67 and 68, July–August, 1917.)—A valuable addition to this historic series which the Misses Rintoul and Baxter are so admirably continuing.

**Beaupre**, E. The American Golden Plover in Eastern Ontario. (Ottawa Naturalist, XXXI, No. 2, May, 1917.)

**Saunders**, W. E. Disappearance of the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher. (*Ibid.* No. 3–4, June–July, 1917.)

**Smith**, Bertram G. Peculiar Nesting Behavior of a Robin. (Seventeenth Rept. Mich. Acad. of Sci.)—The birds built five nests on successive steps of a fire escape. Two were completed and two eggs laid in one and one in the other. The bird incubated them alternately but soon deserted them both. The author considers that the similarity of the steps rendered the bird unable to recognize its nest site.

**Oberholser**, H. C. *Piranga rubra rubra* in Colorado. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXX, July 27, 1917, p. 122.) The record of *P. r. cooperi* proves to be based on a specimen of *rubra*.

**Oberholser**, H. C. Autumn Water-bird Records at Washington, D. C. (*Ibid.*, p. 122.)

**Oberholser**, H. C. Mutanda Ornithologica. II. (*Ibid.*, pp. 125–126.)—Five names, mainly of parrots, are changed on account of being preoccupied. *Nasiterna chloroxantha* (p. 126) is proposed in place of *N. pygmaea*.

**Hollister**, N. The Black Vulture in the District of Columbia and

<sup>1</sup> Some of these journals are received in exchange, others are examined in the library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The Editor is under obligations to Mr. J. A. G. Rehn for a list of ornithological articles contained in the accessions to the library from week to week.

Maryland. (*Ibid.*, p. 123.)—The two records are of especial interest in connection with that of Dr. Phillips (General Notes, *antea*).

**Todd**, W. E. C. New Genera and Species of South American Birds. (*Ibid.*, pp. 127-130.) *Idiospiza* (p. 127), type *Linaria inornata* Lafr.; *Myospiza humeralis meridanus* (p. 127), Guarico Lara Ven.; *Sporophila lineola restricta* (p. 128), Gamarra, Magdalena, Col.; *Sporathraupis cyanocephala hypophæa* (p. 128), Paramo de Rosas, Ven.; *Thlypopsis fulviceps intensa* (p. 128), La Palmeta, Santander, Col.; *Tachyphonus luctuosus panamensis* (p. 128), Gatun, Panama; *Diglossopsis cærulescens saturata* (p. 128), La Palmeta, Santander, Col.; *Myrmeciza læmosticta palliata* (p. 129), La Palmeta, Santander, Col.; *Hylophylax nævioides subsimilis* (p. 129), Jaraquil, Bolivar, Col.; *Pæcilurus* (p. 129), type *Synallaxis candæi*; *P. atrigularis* (p. 129), Gamarra, Magdalena, Col.; *Brotogeris jugularis exsul* (p. 129), Sierra de Carabobo, Ven.

**Bartsch**, Paul. Additions to the Haitian Avifauna. (*Ibid.*, pp. 131-132.)—*Porzana flaviventris hendersoni* (p. 131) subsp. nov.; *Dendroica petechia albicollis* (Gmel.), established as a distinct race and eleven other species added to the fauna of the country.

**Patten**, C. J. Western Black-eared Wheatear (*Enanthe hispanica hispanica*) on migration obtained on Tuskar Rock: A Bird new to Ireland. (Novit. Zool. XXIV, 1917, p. 1-16.)

**Hartert**, Ernst. Notes on Gamebirds. (*Ibid.*, pp. 275-292.)—*Caccabis* gives way to *Alectoris* on grounds of priority.

*C. petrosus* becomes *A. barbara*, Gmelin's *Tetrao petrosus* being *Ptilomachus fuscus* which therefore must be called *P. petrosus*.

The Greek Partridge should be *A. græca* Meisner, while two new races are described: *A. g. cypriotis* (p. 278) and *A. g. falki* (p. 280), from Cyprus and Russian Turkestan respectively.

*A. heyi intermedia* (p. 282), South Arabia; *Perdix p. italica* (p. 283), Chianti, Italy; and *P. p. armoricana* (p. 284), Rialle, France, are described as new.

*Tetrao orientalis* Linn. is fixed on the Sand Grouse which thus becomes *Pterocles orientalis* in place of *arenaria*.

*Francolinus pondicerianus interpositus* (p. 288), Oudh, India; and *F. bicalcaratus ayesha* (p. 291), Rabat, Morocco, are described as new.

**Hartert**, Ernst. Some Further Notes on *Anthreptes malaccensis*. (*Ibid.*, p. 323.)

**Platt**, Chas. On Color in Animals. (Wild Life, June, 1917.)—Both June and July issues also contain excellent photographs of birds—Bittern, Black-backed Gull and Swallow.

**U[prich]**, F. W. A Bird Injurious to Rice. The Yellow Headed Cacicue (*Agelaius icterocephalus* L.) (Bull. Dept. of Agr. Trinidad and Tobago, XVI, pt. I, 1917.)

**Ingram**, Geoffroy. Some Field Notes on the Nightjar. (Trans. Cardiff Nat. Soc. XLVIII, 1916.)

**Clodius**, G. Ornithological Report for Mecklenberg and Lubeck for

1912-1913. (Archiv. de Verein der Freunde der Naturgeschichte in Mecklenburg, Vol. 68, 1914.) [In German.]

**Alvarado**, Rodolfo. Catalogue of the Common and Scientific Names of the Birds of the Mexican Republic. (Bolet. de la Direc. de Estudios Biologicos, Mex., I, No. 5, pp. 471-559.)—A list of the technical and of the vernacular names each arranged alphabetically, the former following the nomenclature of the 'Biologia Centrali Americana'; and a systematic list of the technical names with their derivation. [In Spanish.]

**Oberholser**, H. C. Notes on the Fringilline Genus *Passerherbulus* and its Nearest Allies. (The Ohio Journal of Science, XVII, No. 8, pp. 332-336, 1917.)—This genus is claimed to be composite according to the standard adopted in separating it from *Ammodramus* and *Centronyx*, and either the three should be merged, when the name *Ammodramus* will prevail for the group, or *Passerherbulus* must be divided in three. In the latter case, *Ammospiza* is available for the Sharp-tailed Sparrow and a new name, *Thryospiza* is proposed (p. 332) for the Seaside Sparrow.

The worst feature of the whole situation is that the horrible name "*Passer herbulus*" proves to be a nomen nudum as originally proposed by Maynard and would have sunk into oblivion had not an innocent cataloguer of supposedly necessary changes in the A. O. U. Check-List, who abhorred the name, inadvertently added the two words necessary to give it status, and so not only perpetuated it but gained the opprobrium of being its author!

**Thornton**, R. W., J. E. Duerden and F. C. Smith. Report on the North African Ostriches (Report 2, Dept. Agric. of S. Afr., 1916) imported into South Africa in 1912.

The northern plumes are much superior to those of the southern species. The two birds were successfully crossed and there is every prospect of producing a much higher grade of plumes. It is difficult to keep the pure northern bird alive in South Africa.

**Baker**, E. C. Stuart. Game Birds of India, Burma and Ceylon. (Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., XXV, No. 1, March 20, 1917.)

**Hopwood**, J. C. and Mackenzie, J. M. D. A List of Birds from the Chin Hills. (*Ibid.*)—219 species.

**Publications Received.**—**Bancroft**, W. F. Directory of Officials and Organizations Concerned with the Protection of Birds and Game, 1917. Biol. Survey, U. S. Dept. Agr., August 2, 1917.

**Bergtold**, W. H., M. D. A Study of the Incubation Periods of Birds. Kendrick-Bellamy Co., Denver, Colo., 1917, 8vo., pp. 1-109. Price, cloth bound, \$1.50 postpaid.

**Brooks**, W. Sprague. Notes on Some Falkland Island Birds. (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. LXI, No. 7, June, 1917.) pp. 136-160, pls. 3.

**Howell**, Alfred Brazier. Birds of the islands off the Coast of Southern California. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 12, Cooper Ornithological Club, pp. 1-127. Price \$1.50.

**Kuser**, John Dryden. *The Way to Study Birds*. G. W. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1917, 12mo., pp. 1-85, with 9 colored plates. Price, \$1.25 net.

**Peters**, James L. *The Porto Rican Grasshopper Sparrow*. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 30, pp. 95-96, May 23, 1917.)

**Richmond**, Chas. W. (1) Descriptions of two New Birds from Haiti. (Smithson. Misc. Coll., Vol. 68, No. 7, July 12, 1917.) (2) Generic Names Applied to Birds During the Years 1906 to 1915, inclusive, with Additions and Corrections to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 53, pp. 565-636, August 16, [=25], 1917.)

**Mathews**, Gregory M. *The Birds of Australia*. Vol. VI, Part IV, pp. 297-372, June 27, 1917.

**Mullen**, W. H. and Swann, H. Kirke. *A Bibliography of British Ornithology*. Part V. Macmillan and Co., London, 1917. Price 6/-net.

**Murphy**, R. C. *The Sooty Albatross Group*. (The Brooklyn Museum Quarterly, April, 1917, pp. 97-101.)

**Sclater**, W. L. *Aves*. (Zoological Record for 1915, May, 1917, pp. 1-74). Price 6/.

**Shufeldt**, R. W. *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, August 15, 1917.)

**Trotter**, Spencer. *The Life Features of the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont*. (Trans. Wagner Free Inst. of Science, Phila., Vol. III, 1917, pp. 33-44.)

**American Museum Journal**, The, XVII, No. 5, May, 1917.

**Austral Avian Record**, The, III, No. 4, July 21, 1917.

**Avicultural Magazine** (3), VIII, Nos. 8, 9, and 10, June-August, 1917.

**Bird-Lore**, XIX, No. 4, July-August, 1917.

**Bird Notes and News**, VII, No. 6, Summer, 1917.

**British Birds**, XI, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, June-August, 1917.

**Bulletin** British Ornithologists' Club, Nos. CCXXV and CCXXVI, May 25 and June 26, 1917.

**Bulletin** of the Charleston Museum, XIII, No. 5, May, 1917.

**Bulletin** of the Vermont Botanical and Bird Clubs, No. 3, April, 1917.

**California** Fish and Game, 3, No. 3, July, 1917.

**Canadian** Geological Survey, Summary Report for 1916, 1917.

**Condor**, The, XIX, Nos. 3 and 4, May-August, 1917.

**Emu**, The, XVII, Part I, July, 1917.

**Fins**, Feathers, and Fur, No. 10, June, 1917.

**Forest and Stream**, LXXXVII, Nos. 7, 8, and 9, July-September, 1917.

**Ibis**, The, (10) V, No. 3, July, 1917.

**New Jersey** Audubon Bulletin, Nos. 20 and 21, June and September, 1917.

**Oölogist**, The, XXXIV, Nos. 6, 7, and 8, June-August, 1917.

**Ornithologische** Monatsschrift, 40, Nos. 4 and 7 to 11, April and July to November, 1915.

**Ottawa Naturalist**, The, XXXI, Nos. 2 and 3-4, May, and June-July, 1917.

**Records** of the Australian Museum, XI, Nos. 9 and 10, May 28, and July 12, 1917.

**Revue Française d'Ornithologie**, Nos. 98 and 99, June and July, 1917.

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**, 26th Annual Report.

**Science**, N. S., XLV and XLVI, Nos. 1173-1185.

**Scottish Naturalist**, The, Nos. 66 and 67-68, June and July-August, 1917.

**South Australian Ornithologist**, The, III, Part 3, July, 1917.

**Wilson Bulletin**, The, XXIX, No. 2, June, 1917.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Definite Localities.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

In modern zoological work a knowledge of the geographic distribution of the various forms of animal life has become increasingly important. It is at least highly desirable, not to say essential, in systematic work, in the investigation of economic problems, in the enactment of protective legislation, and in practically every other phase of zoological activity. And the more exact this knowledge is, the greater its usefulness.

It is perhaps only those who make a special study of geographic distribution that realize to what extent ornithological literature is filled with *indefinite* data on the subject. A great many published records of occurrence are so inexplicit as to localities and dates as to be all but worthless. In the preparation of distributional maps and in the study of migratory movements the futility of indefinite records becomes particularly apparent. A case in point is a paper by Messrs. Philipp and Bowdish in the July issue of 'The Auk,' wherein the authors, for some unexplained reason, have failed to state any definite localities for a large number of breeding records, which would have been of real value if accompanied by proper geographical data. It is to be hoped that the authors will supply the desired data in full in a later issue of 'The Auk.'

Cases like the one just quoted suggest the urgent need for authors of ornithological papers to become impressed with the importance of supplying exact and detailed information as to localities and dates of occurrence.