RECENT LITERATURE.

Baldwin's 'Bird-Banding by Means of Systematic Trapping.'[1]— One of the most important contributions to bird-banding activities and the study of bird migration, of recent years, is Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin's report of his operations at Thomasville, Georgia, and Cleveland, Ohio, during the years 1914–1918, which constitutes the principal article in the thirty-first 'Abstract of the Proceedings' of the Linnaean Society of New York, for the year ending March 11, 1919.

Mr. Baldwin found that a far greater number of "return" records could be obtained from the systematic trapping of birds in connection with banding them than by limiting one's operations to the banding of young birds in the nest and trusting to their possible discovery elsewhere. His paper is so full of valuable information and suggestions that everyone interested in the matter should read it in its entirety and we shall here quote only some of his more important results.

The work at Thomasville was carried on for from four to six weeks during three winters. Government sparrow traps were used, two the first two years and five the third. The birds seemed to regard the traps as feeding stations and were not frightened by being caught and handled, in fact the problem was rather to keep some individuals out of the traps than to entice them to enter. Some birds were in the trap every day, and out of 654 individuals taken 441 were records of birds that were taken more than once.

Two White-throated Sparrows banded at the Thomasville trap in 1915 were retaken in 1916 and another one in 1917, while four of those banded in 1916 were taken at the same place in 1917. No less than 25 of the birds banded in 1916 and six in 1915 were trapped again in 1917. Mr. Baldwin has thus demonstrated that migrants come back to the same place to winter year after year, and others have proven that they come back to the same spot to nest. He has also shown however that they do not always do so and he states that the average observer is all too prone to regard a pair of birds occupying a certain box or hole as the same pair that occupied it the year before. The chance he considers is about one in five that one of the pair will return and perhaps one in twenty-five that they both return.

In the case of House Wrens he shows that a pair reared a brood on his farm near Cleveland while a second brood in the same box was found to be the offspring of one of the original pair and a new mate, the other parent of the first brood, having also secured a new mate, was caring for a brood in another box. These facts as well as the return of birds to the

[1] Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York. For the year ending March 11, 1919. No. 31, 1918–1919. Issued December 23, 1919.

same nest site have important bearing upon the question of whether birds mate for life, recently agitated in 'The Condor.'

As Mr. Baldwin points out, much valuable data on the age to which birds live, the length of time that migrants remain at a given spot on their line of flight, the return of young birds to the spot where they were raised, etc., may be secured by this method.

The practice of trapping renders bird-banding a much more attractive study with more definite returns, and we trust that Mr. Baldwin's success will lead others to follow his example. In this connection attention might be called to similar work that has been carried on in England, especially with reference to the movements of Starlings, where many records of individual birds have been obtained.—W. S.

Chapman on New South American Birds.[1]—Studies of various collections of South American birds received at the American Museum of Natural History have led Dr. Chapman to propose seventeen new species and subspecies and one new genus as follows: *Micropus peruvianus* (p. 253), Ollantaytambo, Peru; *Grallaria watkinsi* (p. 256), Prov. Piura, Peru; *G. boliviana* (p. 257), Cochabamba, Bolivia; *Synallaxis stictothorax piurae* (p. 257), Piura, Peru; *Phacelodomus striaticeps griseipectus* (p. 258), Cuzco, Peru; *Hylocryptus* (p. 258), new genus, *H. erythrocephalus* (p. 259), Alamor, Peru-Ecuador boundary; *Xenops rutilus connectens* (p. 259), Cochabamba, Bolivia; *Xiphorhynchus triangularis bangsi* (p. 260), Cochabamba, Bolivia; *Thripobrotus layardi madeirae* (p. 261), Rio Madeira, Brazil; *T. warscewiczi bolivianus* (p. 262), Incachaca, Bolivia; *Mecocerculus subtropicalis* (p. 262), Urubamba Canyon, Peru; *Anaeretes agraphia* (p. 263), Sta. Anna, Peru; *Mionectes striaticollis columbianus* (p. 264), Sta. Elena, Colombia; *Myioborus bolivianus* (p. 265), Incachaca, Bolivia; *Basileuterus luteoviridis superciliaris* (p. 265), Urubamba Canyon, Peru; *Pheucticus uropygialis terminalis* (p. 266), Urubamba Canyon, Peru; *Catamenia analoides griseiventris* (p. 267), Cuzco, Peru.

As is customary in Dr. Chapman's papers, the descriptions are full and there are numerous critical remarks upon allied forms, while all of the material examined is listed.—W. S.

Cory's 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas.'—The second volume of Mr. Cory's comprehensive work,[2] constituting the second half of the second part, appeared on the last day of 1919. It covers the families, Trogonidae, Cuculidae, Capitonidae, Ramphastidae, Galbulidae, Buc-

[1] Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, and Colombia. By Frank M. Chapman. Proc. Biological Society of Washington, Vol. 32, pp. 253–268. December 31, 1919.

[2] Catalogue of Birds of the Americas. By Charles B. Cory, Field Museum of Natural History Publication 203, Zoological Series, Vol. XIII. Part II, No. 2, pp. 315–607. Chicago, December 31, 1919.