

Among other interesting nomenclatural points to which attention is called in this valuable paper is the fact that by Gray's designation the type of the genus *Picolaptes* is a species of *Xiphorhynchus* and the name falls into the synonymy of the latter genus while *Thripobrotus* a substitute name takes the same course leaving *Lepidocolaptes* Reich. as the proper name for this group. In this paper Dr. Hellmayr has made another valuable contribution to systematic Neotropical ornithology.—W. S.

Kuroda on New Japanese Birds.—In the last volume of the 'Dobutsugaku Zasshi' (XXXII, pp. 243-248 (1920)), Mr. Nagamichi Kuroda describes three new forms of Japanese birds as follows: *Milvus lineatus formosanus* (p. 243) Central Formosa; *Nyroca ferina ferinoides* (p. 243) Naneda, near Tokyo; *Campephaga lugubris asakurai* (p. 244) Central Formosa. The descriptions are given in both Japanese and English.—W. S.

Gurney on Norfolk Ornithology.—Mr. John Henry Gurney has recently published a bibliography¹ of his ornithological writings covering the period from 1866 to 1918 and dealing mainly with the birds of Norfolk, and also a list of references to the annual 'Ornithological Reports for the County of Norfolk' which he has prepared for the years 1879 to 1918. There are few local records of this kind covering so long a period of years. In this country the record of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club appearing each year in 'Cassinia' has now covered twenty years and is perhaps the longest record of the sort in America. As president of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society Mr. Gurney has recently delivered as his annual address² on the ornithologists of Norfolk and their work which has been published in the 'Transactions' of the society.—W. S.

Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club.—Another of the excellent publications³ of this active organization is before us which fully maintains the high standard of its predecessor. Besides the many local notes and the account of the annual Ipswich River trip there are several articles of general interest. Mr. R. A. Nichols has an account of variation on the song of the Whip-poor-will. He presents much original observation and comment on the observations of others, and speaks of the difficulty of making a syllabic representation of bird song that will be satisfactory to another person. This has often occurred to us and we are inclined to think that the trouble is that, in many of the common syllabic representations, the attempt has been made to use actual words of the

¹ Articles on Ornithology and Ornithological Reports for the County of Norfolk. By J. H. G., 1918, pp. 1-8.

² Presidential Address. By J. H. Gurney, F. Z. S. Reprinted from the Proc. Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, 1919-1920, Vol. XI, Part 1, pp. 1-22.

³ Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club. December, 1920, pp. 1-54. Price, 50 cents.

English language instead of trying to represent the sound by letters without any reference to the words they may or may not form. Thus "whip-poor-will" is less satisfactory than "whip-poo-weel" as Mr. Nichols says, while his "whip-oor-eel" as the song of a particular bird that he studied exactly denotes the call of one to which we have listened. Mr. C. J. Maynard has a paper on his original discovery of the Ipswich Sparrow which has much historic value and in this connection we might call attention to Alexander Wilson's figure of the bird as the "male" of the Savannah Sparrow long before Mr. Maynard took his specimen (cf. *Osprey* II. p. 117.).

A paper on the nesting, song and play of the Tree and Barn Swallows by Dr. C. W. Townsend contains a mass of interesting observations on the habits of birds that have been far too much neglected. Mr. A. P. Stubbs has an instructive discussion of the white gulls of Swampscott. Five perfectly distinguishable gulls of pure white or nearly white plumage were recognizable among the Herring and Black-backed Gulls, and after fourteen seasons' study of them it was finally decided that they represented different plumages of only two species—the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. Just such studies as this are needed to aid in the identification of gulls in the field, as the several plumages of a single species are quite as different to the observer as those of several different species, and they must all be learned before accurate identifications can be made.

Mr. A. B. Fowler takes exception to part of the comment on the sight record of the Connecticut Warbler on the Ipswich River trip of 1919, which appeared in the review in 'The Auk', considering that Mr. Brewster's remarks on the rarity of the species made thirteen years ago have little weight today. The point was that *alleged* occurrences of the bird were as numerous at that time as today, while actually proven cases of its occurrences in spring in the east are just as rare now as then. The main intent of the criticism, however, was that there was no clear evidence that the observers realized that they were making a most unusual record for all of eastern North America as well as for the Ipswich River. It is of course entirely a matter of opinion as to the desirability of publishing such records which are of the greatest importance if correct but which can never be proven and hence are useless for any generalizations.—W. S.

Bulletin of the Illinois Audubon Society.—This attractively gotten up publication¹ contains much of interest concerning the conservation of nature in general and the activities of the society. Much space is devoted to the problem of the preservation of our National Parks and we are reminded again of the action of the last Congress in granting to a Federal Water Power Commission the authority to lease all public waters including those in National Parks and Monuments and of appli-

¹ The Audubon Bulletin. Fall, 1920. Published by The Illinois Audubon Society, pp. 1-48.