

were about in numbers but the Robin was conspicuous by its total absence.—CHRISWELL J. HUNT, 5847 W. Superior St., Chicago, Ill.

Early Bird Banding.—It may be of interest even at this late date to know that at Carberry, Man., in Dec., 1882, and Jan. and Feb., 1883, I marked a dozen or more Snowbirds with a black spot of printer's ink on the breast and let them go. Hoping to find out whether the species was continually migrant in the winter, or whether the same individuals stayed about our barnyard throughout the blizzard time. As I never saw any of them again I suppose they kept moving on.

On May 21, 1884, at Carberry, Manitoba, I caught a male Sparrow Hawk and let it go with a microscopic locket on its neck, in which was a note asking the finder to communicate with me. On July 8 I similarly tagged a young Robin. I wonder if any reader chanced to run across one of these.—ERNEST THOMPSON SETON, *Greenwich, Conn.*

RECENT LITERATURE

Chapman on Bird Life in the Urubamba Valley, Peru.¹—The basis of the present paper is a collection of birds made by Edmund Heller as naturalist of the expedition of Yale University and the National Geographic Society under the direction of Prof. Hiram Bingham, supplemented by a collection made by Dr. Chapman and Mr. Geo. K. Cherrie, July 1-24, 1916, and material obtained later for the American Museum by Harry Watkins.

Dr. Chapman's short visit to the region was made as a side trip on a more extended tour of South America, for the purpose of gaining a personal knowledge of the region visited by Heller, whose collection he had been asked to describe. His report, he states, is primarily a contribution to a biological survey of the Andean system, more especially a comparative study of the origin of the bird life of the Temperate and Puna Zones, being thus a continuation of the investigation so ably begun in his well known 'Distribution of Bird Life in Colombia.' His conclusions are that the Tropical, Subtropical and Temperate Zones of the Urubamba district are essentially the same as the corresponding zones in Colombia, and inhabited by much the same species, but that the Puna (Paramo) Zone

¹ The Distribution of Bird Life in the Urubamba Valley of Peru—A Report on the Birds Collected by the Yale University-National Geographic Society's Expeditions. By Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History. Bulletin 117, U. S. Nat. Museum. Washington, 1921, pp. 1-138; pll. 1-9.

of Peru being much more extensive and much closer to the Patagonian sea level fauna from which its fauna is derived presents a marked difference in character.

Interesting lists of species of the several zones have been prepared showing the distribution of both genera and species. From these we see that 57 per cent of the species of the Puna Zone are endemic as compared with 80 per cent of those of the Temperate Zone. The difference, as Dr. Chapman points out, is probably due to the greater differentiation in the life of the latter Zone, which was evidently derived from the Tropical Zone and has probably passed through a Subtropical stage, whereas the life of the Puna Zone is but slightly differentiated from the South Temperate of Patagonia.

The introductory pages contain also full descriptions of the various localities visited with excellent illustrations from photographs.

The list includes all species reported from the Urubamba Valley, 380 in number, with annotations on those represented in the collections studied by the author. Thirteen new species and subspecies obtained by the expeditions have already been described by Dr. Chapman and in the present paper he proposes three others *Aratinga mitrata alticola* (p. 62), *Siptornis modesta proxima* (p. 83), and *Ochthoeca lessoni tectricialis* (p. 88).

The paper forms another valuable contribution to Neotropical ornithology the problems of which are being rapidly elucidated by Dr. Chapman's researches. In closing our review we cannot refrain from quoting a paragraph which reflects so admirably upon the present day craze for new genera and the desire of many writers, who know nothing about the questions involved to be "up to the minute" in their nomenclature! Dr. Chapman says: "Generic subdivision in ornithology nowadays is so unstandardized and in many cases is so largely a matter of opinion, that it seems unwise to change long-established terms until opportunity has been afforded to weight the evidence on which the new or revived genera in question are recognized."—W. S.

Wollaston's 'Life of Alfred Newton.'¹—To the average ornithologist the name of Newton is at once associated with the 'Dictionary of Birds' and those who make use of this work as they should, cannot but be impressed not only by the profound knowledge of birds and their literature, which the author possessed, but by his mastery of the English language, which enabled him to embody such a wealth of information in such a relatively small space. Newton is also known through his 'Ootheca Wolleyana', another masterly piece of English composition and reservoir

¹ A Life of Alfred Newton, Professor of Comparative Anatomy, Cambridge University, 1866-1907. By A. F. R. Wollaston, with a Preface by Sir Archibald Geikie, O. M., with illustrations. London, John Murray, Albemarle Street, W. 1921, pp. i-xiv. +1-132. Price 18 shillings.