

fused to find *Quiscalus quiscula quiscula* which is the Purple Grackle of the 'Check-List' applied to the Florida Grackle and the Florida Red-wing called *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*. Some departures from current nomenclature have the 'Check-List' equivalents in the foot notes but by no means all of them, and even then the misleading expression "formerly known as," is used, while as a matter of fact they *are still* the current names so far as any standard exists. If everyone is going to exercise his own preference in the matter of names why should we have a check list or strive for uniformity? It is discouraging to find the Biological Survey, which has done so much to advance American Ornithology, so easily led into this mad rush to be "up to the minute" in nomenclatural technicalities without waiting to see whether the proposals are going to receive general acceptance, and thereby rendering their publications ambiguous to the general reader.

For this, however, Mr. Howell is probably not responsible. He has furnished us with an authoritative and much needed treatise on the distribution of life in a much neglected State, while his report on the mammals is so admirable that we look forward with impatience for the appearance of that on the birds.—W. S.

Holt on the Avery Bird Collection.¹—This little brochure consists of a catalogue of the specimens contained in the collection of birds formed by the late Dr. Wm. Cushman Avery and now in the Alabama Museum of Natural History. To these data Mr. Holt has added excerpts from Dr. Avery's field notes and from publications of his which appeared in the 'American Field' and the 'Ornithologist and Oologist,' the whole forming quite a complete catalogue of the bird life of Greensboro and vicinity where his investigations were carried on. No less than 216 species are listed.

There is a biographical sketch of Dr. Avery by his sister Miss Mary E. Avery and a portrait.—W. S.

Chapin on Congo Birds.²—In studying his Congo collection Mr. Chapin has come upon a number of interesting things which are here placed on record in advance of his main report.

A new species of *Buphagus* is described from Zambi, Lower Congo as *B. langi* (p. 4), and the subgeneric term *Buphagoides* is proposed for *B. erythrorhynchus*. *Nectarinia congoensis* he considers to be restricted to the region above Irebu on the forested banks of the Congo where he rediscovered it. *Neolestes* he regards as a Pycnonotid confirming Gadow's view and considers *Nicator* "as near to the Pycnonotidae as to any member

¹ Annotated List of the Avery Bird Collection in the Alabama Museum of Natural History. By Ernest G. Holt. Museum Paper No. 4. Alabama Mus. Nat. Hist., 1921. pp. 1-142.

² Notes on a New Ox-pecker and other Little-Known Birds of the Congo. By James P. Chapin. Amer. Mus. Novit. No. 17. Sept. 16. 1920. pp. 1-16.