

dealing with the mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians and the life zones of the Yosemite. The last explains very clearly the zonal distribution of life and lists the more conspicuous species of vertebrates found in each zone from the Lower Sonoran in the San Joaquin Valley, near Merced, to the Arctic Alpine of the highest Sierran peaks.

The chapter on birds<sup>1</sup> tells us that the "Yosemite section," about the size of the State of Rhode Island, contains 226 different kinds of birds, about 50 of which are briefly described and their characteristic habits mentioned. The selection is very well made and gives a satisfactory picture of Yosemite bird-life. Several half-tone illustrations and a bibliography complete the sketch.—W. S.

**Cherrie and Reichenberger on New Birds from Southern South America.**<sup>2</sup>—The forms here described are mainly from the Roosevelt collection made by Mr. Cherrie in 1913-1916. They are *Strix chacoensis* (p. 1), Ft. Wheeler, Paraguay; *Ortalis canicollis pantanalensis* (p. 2), Matto Grosso, Brazil; *O. c. grisea* (p. 2), Santiago del Estero, Argentina; *Nystactes tamatia interior* (p. 3); *Nonnula ruficapilla pallida* (p. 4); *Chloronerpes flavigula magnus* (p. 4), all from Matto Grosso, Brazil; and *Furnarius rufus paraguayae* (p. 5), Puerto Pinasco, Paraguay.

The descriptions are commendably full with discussions of related forms.—W. S.

**Murphy and Harper on the Diving Petrels.**<sup>3</sup>—In this very carefully prepared monograph the authors reach the conclusion that the Diving Petrels represent but one genus *Pelecanoides* divisible into four subgenera *Puffinuria*, *Porthmornis* (p. 503), *Pelagodytes* (p. 503)—these two here described as new, and *Pelecanoides* proper. The first three contain but a single species each with no subspecies, but the last contains two species *urinatrix* and *exsul*, the former divisible into five geographic races. The authors are to be congratulated upon their conservatism in the systematic treatment. The habits of these interesting antarctic birds are discussed as well as their probable evolution. Following the principles laid down by Dr. W. D. Matthew for the distribution of mammals, the authors think it likely that the original center of dispersal of these birds was the vicinity of Cape Horn, where we find today the most distinctive species, *P. magellani*. Those on the extremes of the range of the group have many points of resemblance, which would be interpreted by the authors to be due to the retention of primitive nonadaptive characters rather than to close re-

<sup>1</sup> Some Birds of Yosemite National Park. Ibid, pp. 133-152.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. By George K. Cherrie and (Mrs.) Elsie M. B. Reichenberger. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 27. December 28, 1921, pp. 1-6.

<sup>3</sup> A Revision of the Diving Petrels. By Robert Cushman Murphy and Francis Harper. Bull. Amer. Nat. Hist., Vol. XLIV, Art. XVII. pp. 495-554. New York, December 23, 1921.

lationship. There are a number of half-tone illustrations of skins of adults and downy young, nests and eggs, but on the paper used the plates do not show to advantage, though they may be considered more permanent.—W. S.

### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XXIV, No. 1. January-February, 1922.

Courtenay Brandreth's Bird Paintings.—By F. M. Chapman.—Besides paying a high tribute to the artist Dr. Chapman takes the opportunity to state some of the requirements of a bird artist, calling attention to the importance of a thorough knowledge of the live bird and concluding with the statement that "no one has ever reached or ever will reach the first rank of bird artists who is not possessed of that keen interest in birds which marks the born ornithologist." Half-tone reproductions of several of Mr. Brandreth's paintings are used as illustrations.

The twenty-second Christmas Census takes up the bulk of the number. The general occurrence of the Northern Shrike in the New England and Middle States is commented upon as well as the large number of species reported from East Goose Creek, Fla., by Ludlow Griscom and M. S. Crosby—109 species, a greater number than from any California locality. The desirability of seeking for numerical records in field list has however been discussed in another connection on page 282 (*antea*).

The educational leaflet by Mr. Pearson treats of the Maryland Yellowthroat, the plate being drawn by Allan Brooks.

**The Condor.** XXIV, No. 1. January-February, 1922.

The Reddish Egrets of Cameron County, Texas. By J. R. Pemberton. An excellent account with admirable photographs.

Magpies versus Livestock: An Unfortunate New Chapter in Avian Depredations. By S. Stillman Berry.—A valuable account of the attack by Magpies upon sheep and hogs. The author very wisely advises caution in declaring all Magpies to be "vermin" and ordering their extinction, which is far too often the method of procedure in these days. He suggests that the habit is quite possibly acquired by only a few birds and that the killing of those caught in the act may be all sufficient, and again he says that the habit which is now sporadic may die out again without becoming a character of the species.

Notes on the Dipper in Yellowstone National Park. By M. P. Skinner.

Some Birds of Roosevelt Lake, Arizona, By H. H. T. Jackson. Notes on thirteen species.

Among the general notes we find one by Dr. Grinnell stating that no less than 205 new species and subspecies of birds have been described from California of which 160 are now regarded as valid.

**The Wilson Bulletin.** XXXIII, No. 4. December, 1921.

The Nesting of the Duck Hawk in South-Central Wisconsin. By H. L. Stoddard.