

but apparently tenable here and conflicting with *Somateria* of even date. This paper and a long one on Thomas Watling, Artist, are by Mathews and Iredale. Seven Watling plates are reproduced in colors. Volume IV, No. 8 of the 'Record' consists wholly of Index.

#### Ornithological Articles in Other Journals.<sup>1</sup>

**Patch, Clyde A.** A Biological Reconnaissance on Graham Island of the Queen Charlotte Group. (Canadian Field Naturalist, September, 1922.)—With annotated list of the mammals and birds. (Concluded in the October issue.)

**Munro, J. A.** An Invasion of Coots. (Ibid.)—Large numbers failed to go south on the advent of cold weather in February 1922, and perished on several British Columbian lakes in spite of efforts to feed them.

**Lewis, Harrison F.** Occurrences of the Meadowlark in Nova Scotia (Ibid.)—Fourteen records.

**Evans, William.** Notes on the Breeding of the Goosender and the Red-breasted Merganser in the Forth Area: A Retrospect. (Scottish Naturalist, July–August, 1922.)

**Rintoul, Leonora J. and Baxter, Evelyn V.** Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1921. (Concluded from May–June issue.) (Ibid.)

**Ritchie, James.** The Great Waxwing Invasion of 1921. (Ibid, September–October, 1922.)—The greatest invasion on record. Flights of this species to Scotland and England have occurred about every ten years since 1834–5 which is the first record available.

**Gross, A. O.** A Visit to Great Duck Island. (Maine Naturalist. II, no. 3–4. Nov. 25, 1922.)—On the coast of Maine.

**Kilburn, Frank.** Some Additional Birds Records for Aroostook and Washington Counties [Me] (Ibid.)—A number of other notes on Maine ornithology are to be found in this publication.

**Allen, F. H.** Some Little Known Songs of Common Birds. (Natural History, May–June, 1922. XXII, No. 3.)—Unusual songs of many species that of the Blue Jay being probably similar to one recorded in the Auk (1919, p. 111). Mr. Allen pays especial attention to the utterances of the Tyrant Flycatchers and the Swallows, groups which are usually neglected in considerations of song.

**Cahn, Alvin R.** The Brown Pelicans at Home. (Ibid. September–October, 1922, No. 5.)—On the Bird Islands on the Texas coast, with admirable illustrations from photographs.

**Wood, Norman A.** Observations on the Birds of Berrien County, Michigan. (Occasional Papers of the Museum of Zoology, Univ. of Michigan, No. 119, July 6, 1922.)—An excellent annotated list.

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<sup>1</sup>Some of these journals are received in exchange, others are examined in the library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The Editor is under obligations to Mr. J. A. G. Rehn for a list of ornithological articles contained in the accessions to the library from week to week.

**Shufeldt, R. W.** The Little Saw-Whet Owl. (The Classmate, Cincinnati, Ohio. July 15, 1922.)—With illustrations from photographs.

**Shufeldt, R. W.** Our Great Rovers of the Seas High. The Albatrosses. (The Scientific Monthly, November, 1922.)

**Forbush, E. H.** Corvus the Crow. (American Forestry, October, 1922.)—An illustrated account of this familiar species.

**Shufeldt, R. W.** Wild Pigeons and Doves. (Ibid.)

**Shufeldt, R. W.** The Woodpeckers: Bird Friends of Our Forest. (Ibid. November, 1922.)—With many illustrations mainly from mounted specimens.

**Bangs, Outram and Penard, Thos. E.** The Identity of *Attila flammulatus* Lafrenaye. (Prod. Biol. Soc. Washington, October 17, 1922.)

**Schlupp, W. F.** The Graminivorous Bird Problem. (Jour. Dept. Agric., Union of South Africa, IV, No. 5. pp. 432-446.)

**Forbush, Edw. H.** Bird Guardians of the Trees. (American Forestry, XXVIII, pp. 159-164, 1922.)—Beautiful illustrations from photographs by Miss Stanwood.

**Rothschild, Lord.** On the Names of Certain Parrots of the Genus *Lorius* Bodd. (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. series, IX, pp. 411-412, April 1922.)—*Lorius* has priority over *Eclectus* and should not be emended to "*Lorius*," while the specific name *roratus* Müll. belongs to the bird of Amboina not the race to which it is usually applied.

**Bingham, Harold C.** Visual Perception in the Chick. (Behaviour Monographs, IV, No. 4, pp. 1-104.)—A long discussion on experiments on chicks which the author interprets as indicating a power for discrimination of size far greater than of form, while the birds exhibited a noticeable acuity for moving stimuli.

**Swarth, Harry S.** The Bohemian Waxwing: A Cosmopolite. (The Univ. of Calif. Chronicle, October, 1922. pp. 450-455.)—A popular and historical account of this species largely from the information presented in his account of the birds of the Stikine River District.

**Hornbeck, J. W.** Spring and Summer Birds of Northfield, Minn. (The American Midland Naturalist, VIII, No. 3. May, 1922.)—126 species listed with dates of arrival, etc., for the spring of 1921. In the issue for May 1921 is a similar paper on the previous season.

**Stevens, O. A.** The Geography of Bird Study (Ibid. No. 2.)—A discussion of the distribution of Audubon Societies and Bird Clubs. As the author is unfamiliar with the local conditions and activities of the organizations the discussion has little foundation to rest upon.

**Froggatt, Walter W.** The Wedge-tailed Eagle (Australian Zoologist, I. Part 8, pp. 251-254.)

**LeSouef, A. S.** Notes on the breeding of the Scrub Turkey. (Ibid, Part 8, p. 251.)

**Hermann, G. P.** Color Changes in Birds' Feathers. (Ibid. Part 4, pp. 151-153.)—A reliable discussion on the effect of food on the loss of crimson and red colors at the time of moult. Incidentally the writer con-

firms the views of practically all present day writers that change in pigment is impossible in the mature feather.

**Harrison, Atholes.** The Bird Life of Dublin City. (The Irish Naturalist, XXXI, No. 4, pp. 37-41.)—Eighty species recorded from the city proper.

**Burkett, J. P.** Birds' Song. (Ibid. No. 11, November, 1922.)—Concludes from his observations that mating checks song; that there is a decline in song after the first nesting and brooding, but that song is carried on during this period by other unmated birds; that there is a recrudescence in song after the first brood and that the longer the breeding continues the longer the song period.

**Moulton, J. C.** A Rail New to the Malay Peninsula. (Notes of the Straits Branch Royal Asiatic Society, 1922, pp. 213-214.)—*Porzana bicolor*.

**Hartert, Ernst.** Types of Birds in the Tring Museum: General Collection. (Novitates Zoologicae, XXIX, No. 2, October 1922.)—Numbers 879-1182. *Andropadus gracilis extremus* (p. 369) Sierra Leone, is described as new.

**Salvadori, T. and Festa, E.** Birds of Dr. Festa's Expedition in Cirenaica. (Boll. Mus. Zool ed Anat. Comp. Univ. Torino. No. 738. Vol. XXXVI. September 30, 1922.)—A briefly annotated list of 41 species. [In Italian.]

**van Someren, V. G. L.** Notes on the Birds of East Africa. (Novitates Zoologicae, XXIX pp. 1-248, pl. 1-VII.)—An annotated list of 1377 species and subspecies based on a collection of 15000 specimens of which 6490 are now in the Tring Museum. We are largely indebted to Dr. Hartert for preparing this voluminous paper for publication, a matter of the greatest difficulty on account of the condition in which Dr. van Someren was forced to leave it. Many new forms are indicated but not named, while others are not determined subspecifically for lack of adequate material. In spite of this however no less than 27 new forms are proposed in this paper as follows: *Centropus superciliosus intermedius* (p. 50) Mombasa; *Chrysococcyx auratus sharpei* (p. 53) South Africa; *Gymnobucco bonapartei intermedius* (p. 57) Moanga Forest; *Campothera caroli budongoensis* (p. 64) Bugoma Forest; *Halcyon leucocephala ugandae* (p. 77) Kisumu; *Tiparia cincta suahelica* (p. 90) Escarpment; *Melaenornis lugubris ugandae* (p. 93) Uganda; *Pedilornis epulatus sethsmithi* (p. 96) Budongo Forest; *Smithornis rufolateralis budongoensis* (p. 99) Bugoma and Budonga Forests; *Oriolus larvatus kikuyuensis* (p. 127) Nairobi; *Hyphantornis heuglini sukensis* (p. 142) Kerio River; *Uraginthus bengalus littoralis* (p. 160) Mombasa; *Poliospiza reichenowi* (p. 169) southwest of Lake Rudolf; *Eurillas virens olochlorus* (p. 189) Sezibwa; *Pycnonotus dodsoni teitensis* (p. 190) *Zosterops yalensis* (p. 191) Kaimosi; *Z. elgonensis* (p. 191) Bukedi; *Z. massaica* (p. 192) Sagala; *Cinnyris bifasciatus tsavoensis* (p. 196) Tsavo; *Cisticola terrestris nakuruensis* (p. 207) Nakuru Plains; *C. t. mauensis* (p. 207) Mau; *C. carruthersi kavirondensis* (p. 214) Kisumu Swamp; *C.*

*tiniens oreophila* (p. 214) Kenia; *C. hunteri immaculata* (p. 216) *C. lateralis ugandensis* (p. 216) Uganda; *C. teitensis* (p. 217) Sagala; *Heliolais erythroptera kavirondensis* (p. 218) Kavironda. The author states that at the beginning of his studies he was very skeptical of many of the races described by the late Dr. Mearns but he later was able to corroborate his findings in almost every case.

**Evans, A. H.** Notes on the Life History of *Cuculus canorus*. With exhibition of eggs. (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1922, Part 1, pp. 197-199, April 1922.)—Shows pretty conclusively that Cuckoos do not as a rule lay in the nests of definite foster parents though they "not uncommonly" do so. He considers that the female Cuckoo does not range far from the same spot in successive seasons and is generally forced to take what she can get in the way of nests in which to lay. The eggs in the experience of the author may or may not resemble those of the foster parent. In the case of the Meadow Pipit the eggs are very similar any way to typical eggs of the Cuckoo.

**Praeger, W. E.** A Note on the Ecology of Herons (Ecology, I, No. 1. January 1922.)—Cutting a deep channel with perpendicular banks where formerly a shallow winding river flowed, drove away the heron population.

**Miller, Robert C.** The Significance of the Gregarious Habit. (Ibid. No. 2, April, 1922)—This is a study of the Bush-Tit of California. The author's conclusions are that a flock formation is advantageous to a species by affording a multitude of eyes for the perception of an enemy's approach while uniform behaviour on the part of the individuals tends to confuse an attacking foe. In feeding too the flock forms the most economical method of covering a forage range. The Bush-Tit with a strong flocking tendency is one of the most "successful" species in its range.

**Taylor, Walter P.** A Distributional and Ecological Study of Mount Rainier, Washington. (Ibid. III No. 3, July 1922)—Frequent mention of birds in the faunae of different zones and habitats.

**Lebedinsky, N. G.** A Contribution to the Morphology and Development of the Under Mandible in Birds. (Verh. Naturforsch. Gesellschaft in Basel XXXI 1920. pp. 39-112.)—An important paper contrasting the various details of structure in the several groups of birds. Profusely illustrated with text figures.

**Baker, E. C. Stuart.** The Game Birds of India, Burma, and Ceylon. XXXI, Genus *Alectoris*. (Jour. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. XXVIII No. 2. March 25, 1922.)—Genus *Perdix* is covered in the next issue June 30, 1922.

**Baker, E. C. Stuart.** Birds of the Indian Empire. Part V. (Ibid. No. 2.) Part VI, (Ibid. N. B.)

**Ticehurst, C. B.** The Birds of Mesopotamia. Part II (Ibid. No. 2); Part III, (Ibid. No. 3.).

**Omaston, B. B.** Birds of Pachmarhi (Ibid.)—An annotated list.

**Prater, S. H.** Nest Boxes for Birds. (Ibid.)—In India. With illustrations mainly from publications of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

**Field, F.** Rough List and Notes on the Birds found Breeding in the Gonda District (Ibid. Part 3.)

**Berlioz, M. J.** Study of a Collection of Birds. Obtained at Du Bourgade-Bozas, in Tropical Africa. (Bull. Mus. Nat. de Hist. Nat., Paris. 1922, pp. 259-266.)—A briefly annotated list. To be continued. [In French.]

**Navas, P. R. Longiurs.** The Birds of Spain. (Revista de la Academia de Ciencias Exactas Fisico-quimicas y Naturales Zaragoza, V. pp. 83-84, 1921.)—This installment covers the genera *Acrocephalus* and *Hippolais*. The paper was begun in Vol. III p. 7. [In Spanish.]

**Foley, Dr. H. A.** A Contribution to the Study of the Saharan Fauna. (Bull. Soc. Hist. Nat. Afrique du Nord, III, pp. 70-76. 1922.)—Birds at pp. 71-74. [In French.]

**Coopman, L.** Nests of the Water-hen *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*. (La Nature, 1922. No. 2509. pp. 279-283.) [In French.]

**Lane, A. A.** Notes on the Charadriidae. (South African Journal of Nat. Hist., II., No. 3, March, 1920.)

**Godfrey, Robert.** The Birds of Buffalo Basin, Cape Province. (Ibid.) continued in II, No. 2.

**Finch-Davies, Lt. C. G.** Corrections and Additions to the List of the Birds of the South-western Protectorate. (Ibid.)

**Hewitt, John.** Notes on the Fauna of St. Croix Island. (Ibid.)

**Symons, R. E.** Bird Life in Drakenberg. The Black Eagle. (Ibid, No. 2.)

**James, H. W.** Notes on Birds of the Cradoek and Tarkastad Districts, Cape. Province, with Nesting Dates. (Ibid. III, No. 1.)

**Millar, A. G.** Nesting Habits of the Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes buccinator*. (Ibid.)

**H. G. Eaton.** Some Nesting Habits of the Cape Robin, (Ibid. No. 2.)

**A. H. Hamer.** Territorialism and Sexual Selection. (Ibid.) The writer calls attention to the habit of the male bird of many species, which he terms "territorials," of establishing itself as master over a certain territory in which it nests. In aviaries, where it is impossible for several males to establish territories, fighting ensues until the weaker bird is killed, while in nature it would retire and establish its territory elsewhere. Fighting for fight's sake he considers very rare in nature and he regards song as a means of warning other birds that the territory is occupied and they, taking the warning, pass on rather than contest the rights of the tenant, on the ground. Going further he contends that conspicuous coloration serves the same purpose, as do also plumes and other conspicuous ornaments, in attracting the attention of other birds to the fact that an occupant is already there. In other words that these characters are developed by natural selection for this very purpose and not by the operation of "sexual selection." Non-territorials or birds breeding in close association are not brilliantly colored nor do they usually have noticeable song powers.

There hardly seems to be sufficient evidence submitted to convince one of the correctness of the latter part of the author's theory. All of this paper, the author informs us in a postscript, was written before he had seen Howard's work on 'Territory in Bird Life,' just as Mr. Mousley's paper (Auk 1921, p. 321) was entirely independent of that latter work. Thus we have three writers advancing much the same theory at almost the same moment.

**Steiner, Hans.** The Ontogenetic and Phylogenetic Development of the Wing Skeleton of Birds. (Acta Zoologica Stockholm, 1922, 2-3, pp. 307-360.)—A detailed discussion with illustrations and a full bibliography of the subject. [In German.]

**Schouteden, H.** Note on the Geographical Distribution of two Congo birds. (Revue Zool. Africa, X. fasc. I. pp. 72-76.)—*Nectarinia congensis* and *Brachycope anomala*. [In French.]

**Lafond, E. J.** Ornithological Observations in 1920 in the environs of Geneva. (Bull. Soc. Zool. Geneva, III, pp. 16-18.) [In French.]

**Virchow, Hans.** On the Occipital Juncture in *Rhea darwini*. (Setzungsab. Gesell. Natur. Freunde, Berlin. 1917, No. 3. pp. 230-232.) [In German.]

**Lilienthal, Gustav.** The Influence of Wing-form on the Character of Flight in Birds. (Ibid. No. 4. pp. 261-280.)—A full discussion of the subject well illustrated. [In German.]

**Virchow, Hans.** On the Cervical Vertebral Column in *Plotus anhinga*. (Ibid. No. 7, pp. 454-468.) [In German.]

**von Lucanus, Friedrich.** The Migration of European Birds from the evidence of Bird-banding. (Ibid. No. 5, pp. 167-185.) [In German.]

**von Lucanus, Friedrich.** The Migration of the Woodcock. (Ibid. o. 1-2, pp. 55-60.) [In German.]

**Boettger, Caesar R.** My Expedition to the Spanish Colony Rio de Oro in West Africa. (Bericht Seuchenb. Naturf. Gesell. 51, Heft I, pp. 18-31 and II, pp. 72-84.)—The first part consists of the itinerary while the second discusses bird life. 1921. [In German.]

**Lecaillon, M. A.** On the Characters of a Hybrid between *Cairina moschata* and *Chenalopez*. (Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris. 1922. 174, No. I, p. 68-69.) [In French.]

**Lecaillon, M. A.** On the Fecundity of a Cross between a male *Dafila acuta* and a female *Anas boschas*. (Ibid. pp. 1431-1433.) [In French.]—Another paper on the Characters of this hybrid will be found at page 885-887.

**Hilden, Ilmari.** On the Avifauna of Different Types of Woodland. (Acta Soc. pro Fauna et Flora Fennica, XLVIII, No. 5, pp. 3-7.)—The make-up of several types of forest is described and the birds listed which are characteristic of each. The reference is of course to north Europe. [In German.]

**Daguin, Fernandi.** The Ornithological Fauna of the Vicinity of Chatillon-sur-Seine. (Mem. Acad. Sci. Arts et Belles-letters de Dijon,

1922, pp. 341-410, May. 1922.)—A remarkably good list very fully annotated with accounts of habits, dates of occurrence etc. [In French.]

**van Someren, V. G. L.** On a collection of Birds from Turkanaland. (Jour. East African and Uganda Nat. Hist. Soc., No. 16, February, 1921, pp. 3-38.)—A list of 186 species, in English, with long English names coined for each form; as for instance, for *Linura fischeri*, "Fischer's Straw-tailed Whydah." It is not clear what benefit is derived from such cumbersome appellations which have no actual usage.

**Chappellier, Albert** A Contribution to the Study of Hybridism in Birds. (Suppl. Bull. Biol. France et Belg. IV. 1921.) [In French.]

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### Generic Subdivision.

Editor of 'THE AUK':

The following statement was circulated with the covering letter which precedes it, amongst the leading systematic research workers of the A. O. U, with the exception of the members of the Committee on Nomenclature for whose information the expression of opinion was solicited. The widespread desire for a generously appreciable value to the generic unit and of providing for finer classification by a liberal use of subgenera is very apparent.

While everyone whose name appears, has approved the principles proposed some have made minor reservations and suggested alteration of phraseology all of which are indicated so that the statement as it stands is an exact reflection of current opinion in this country.

P. A. TAVERNER.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 18th, 1922.

Dear Sir:—

Many view with alarm the present tendency towards minute division of the genus. It promises to complicate nomenclature and taxonomy until each group becomes the private preserve of individual specialists who alone have time to follow its intricacies within their narrowed field. It is making a large part of our literature obsolete in terminology and raising difficulties in the way of both present and future students, some of whom think that there is something more to do in zoology than the making or learning of names. It has had another effect, more subtle but perhaps of even greater danger to ornithology. It discourages the dilettante. This cuts off the supply of future ornithologists at its source and deprives the serious student of the sympathetic interest and assistance of the general public. Investigators cannot live long in the rarified atmosphere of pure science regardless of the temperament of the community below