

Papers on Neotropical Birds by Zimmer.—In a recent paper Mr. John T. Zimmer describes as new two birds¹ obtained on the Peruvian Expedition of the Field Museum of 1922. One of these is *Synallaxis azarae infumata* (p. 103), from the province of Huanuco, and the other *Cyclarhis gujanensis saturatus* (p. 107), from the Marañon River. Lists of all material examined are appended and the descriptions and discussion are full and satisfactory. In another paper he shows that the name *Pipra opalizans* Pelzeln² must give way to *P. iris* Schinz, which has three years priority and suggests that both names were based on the same specimen.—W. S.

Papers on Bird Protection.—Mr. George Miksch Sutton, now ornithologist and chief of the educational service to the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners, has issued an attractive 'Year's Program³ for Bird Protection,' illustrated by numerous pictures of common birds from photographs and from the author's attractive drawings. The text contains all that the reader will want to know about the value of birds and methods of attracting and protecting them and the author makes a very happy plea, in these days of warring about which birds ought to be destroyed and which preserved, when he says: "Are we never to realize and admit that our most sincere reason for protecting birds is simply that we want them as they are about us, whether they are each saving our State so many cents apiece annually or not?"

The New Jersey Audubon Society,⁴ is deservedly jubilant at the final success for its efforts to place the Bobolink on the list of protected birds, the last Legislature having passed the bill protecting this species. The "Reedbird" shooters will however probably not allow the matter to rest and the Society will have to be on guard against probable efforts to undo the good work. The Pennsylvania Egret law came perilously near being emasculated in an apparently harmless codification of the game laws when everyone supposed that the milliners had given up the fight for good. Bird legislation requires eternal vigilance.

Miss May T. Cooke in a Department Circular⁵ prepared under the direction of the U. S. Biological Survey brings up to date our knowledge of the distribution of the Starling. It has now reached Ohio and North Carolina with stragglers pushing still farther. The suggestion that the immense flocks which eat up everything in sight will prove a "potentiality

¹ Two New Birds from Peru. By John T. Zimmer. Field Museum Natural History, Publication 228. Zool. Series, XII, No. 8, May 20, 1925.

² An earlier name for *Pipra opalizans* Pelzeln. Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, p. 87, May 2-26, 1925.

³ A Year's Program for Bird Protection. By George Miksch Sutton. Bull. 7, Board of Game Commissioners, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pp. 1-47, no date.

⁴ New Jersey Audubon Bulletin No. 33, April 1, 1925.

⁵ Spread of the European Starling in North America. By May Thatcher Cooke. U. S. Dept. Agriculture, Dept. Circular 336, March, 1925, pp. 1-7.

for harm" is well founded and it would seem the part of wisdom to take measures at once to reduce the hordes of this introduction from the Old World before it is too late.—W. S.

Economic Ornithology. A GOOD WORD FOR THE STARLING.—In New Zealand where introduced birds have not made themselves entirely welcome, good work by any of them is worthy of comment. In an exhaustive article¹ on the cattle-tick (*Haemaphysalis bispinosa*), a serious pest in that country, Mr. J. G. Myers names four species of wild and two of domesticated birds among the natural enemies, and says: "The chief natural enemies are birds, and of these the most important is the English Starling." On one farm with good nesting facilities for Starlings the infestation by cattle-ticks was practically negligible. Proposals for introducing to New Zealand other birds that might feed on the cattle-ticks are deprecated.

BIRDS DESTROYING CORN-BORERS IN WINTER.—The European corn-borer is a very serious pest that has recently been extending its range in this country. Its larvae hibernate within the stalks of corn and various other plants, where they are attacked by various birds. Of these the Downy Woodpecker seems most important but Chickadees, Grackles, and Starlings join in the work. In recent experimental studies it was found² that birds destroyed from 12 to 88 per cent of the larvae in various lots of infested cornstalks exposed to them. The investigator refers to birds as "becoming a really important factor in the reduction of the numbers of the corn-borer," and says, "there is ample evidence to indicate that their industry may help to hold the insect partially in check, or even so to reduce its numbers in some localities during the winter and spring that damage by the species may not be extensive enough to cause heavy loss to crops in such localities the following summer."

BIRDS AS ENEMIES OF RICE.—In a very comprehensive book on rice³ Professor E. B. Copeland makes the statement that "Birds are everywhere pests of rice, and are its most destructive foes in many places." Not many details are given but *Munia* in the Orient, *Dolichonyx* in the United States and English Sparrows are mentioned. Interesting descriptions are given of frightening devices used by the Igorotes who, the writer says, "have become specialists in the use of scarecrows."

BIRD INTRODUCTION IN HAWAII.—Notice has recently been published⁴ of the continued introduction and observed nesting in Hawaii of the Australian Magpie Lark (*Grallina picata*). Other birds being considered

¹ Bul. 116, New Zealand Dept. Agr., 105 pp., 17 figs., Dec. 1924.

² Barber, Geo. W., The efficiency of birds in destroying over-wintering larvae of the European corn-borer in New England, *Psyche*, Vol. 32, No. 1, Feb. 1925, pp. 30-46, Figs. 1-2, Pl. 1.

³ Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1924, pp. 352.

⁴ Rept. Board Commrs. Agr. Forestry Hawaii, (Bienn. 1923-1924) 1925, pp. 42-43.