

**Miller and Griscom on New Central American Birds.**—This paper<sup>1</sup> is a "by-product" of the author's study of their collections from Nicaragua, upon which a memoir is under preparation.

The forms described belong to the genera, *Dendrortyx*, *Catharus*, *Turdus*, *Myadestes*, *Cyclarhis*, *Certhia*, *Vermivora*, and *Peucedramus*.

There is a review of the subspecies of *Peucedramus olivaceus*, in which five races are recognized, three of them being described as new. The name *P. o. arizonae* (p. 10) is proposed for the form entering the United States, true *olivaceus* proving to belong to the one inhabiting Vera Cruz.

Another review deals with the races of *Attila brasiliensis* of which no less than eleven are recognized, none of them new, however.

The authors fail to find any generic differences between *Oreothlypis* and *Vermivora* although they regard both as quite distinct from *Compsothlypis*.—W. S.

**Todd on New Birds from Brazil and Guiana.**<sup>2</sup>—Sixteen new forms of the genera *Thryophilus*, *Turdus*, *Lophotriccus*, *Euscarthmus*, *Snethlagea*, *Taeniotriccus*, *Phylloscartes*, *Myiozetetes*, *Myiobius* and *Pipra*, are described. All are from the collections of Samuel M. Klages and all, with the exception of *Phylloscartes virescens*, from Brazil. The paper furnishes additional evidence of the almost inexhaustible stores of new "subspecies" still to be differentiated in the South American continent.

Mr. Todd has given adequate diagnoses in this paper with gratifying comparisons with related forms, the importance of which, as set forth in the "Correspondence" pages of the present number of 'The Auk' by Dr. F. M. Chapman, we cannot too strongly emphasize.—W. S.

**Mathews 'The Birds of Australia.'** Since our last notice of this work<sup>3</sup> Part 3 of Volume XII, has appeared completing the Honey-eaters (Melithreptidae) and describing the curious Friar-birds with their prominent helmets and naked cheeks. The few Australian species of Titlarks and Wag-tails are also considered leaving only about forty-five species to complete Mr. Mathews' great undertaking. The second part of the Bibliography<sup>4</sup> has also appeared completing this important supplement, which we are glad to see may be secured independently of the main work.—W. S.

**Recent Publications by Beebe.** Two recent numbers of 'Zoologica' published by the New York Zoological Society contain papers by William

<sup>1</sup> Notes on Central American Birds, with Descriptions of New Forms. By W. DeW. Miller and Ludlow Griscom. American Museum Novitates. No. 183. July 18, 1925. pp. 1-14.

<sup>2</sup> Sixteen New Birds from Brazil and Guiana. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biological Society of Washington, Vol. 38, pp. 91-100. July 15, 1925.

<sup>3</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. XII, Part 3, June 22, 1925.

<sup>4</sup> Bibliography of the Birds of Australia. Part 2, June 22, 1925. Supplement No. 5 to The Birds of Australia.

Beebe on the natural history of Kartabo, British Guiana. One of these<sup>1</sup> is virtually a monograph of the Variegated Tinamou, *Crypturus variegatus variegatus*, covering its life history, plumage and molts, nesting, food habits and anatomy, with colored plates of the female in courtship attitude and of the downy chick. The paper forms an important contribution to the life history of one of the most interesting groups of South American birds.

The other contribution<sup>2</sup> deals but little with ornithology being entitled a study of a quarter of a square mile of tropical jungle at Kartabo. There is a consideration of the climate, physiography, water and earth of the region and a list of all of the groups of animals and the more important trees found there. In the great array of insects and other invertebrates, birds, although abundant, cut a comparatively small figure. There is a "Christmas Day list" made on December 27, 1920, in which 116 species are listed, also a comparison of the avifauna of Kartabo, 464 species, with that of New York with 330 species. There is also a list of various insects eaten by birds at Kartabo with the names of the species which devour them, and a breeding record with dates for the nesting of various species. The work well deserves the title carried at the top of each page "Ecology at Kartabo" and there is contained in it a vast amount of valuable data which will prove of value to workers in many fields.—W. S.

**Grinnell on Introducing Alien Game Birds.** Dr. Joseph Grinnell has given a timely warning<sup>3</sup> against the possibilities of danger involved in the introduction of alien game birds into this country. His remarks were instigated by the proposed raising of Hungarian Partridges in captivity in California for the purpose of stocking the state with them. This plan he points out follows several unsuccessful attempts with this or other species, some 13,000 of which have been imported at a cost of \$50,000, with no permanent result. Should the proposed attempt prove successful, however, Dr. Grinnell points out that previous experience has shown conclusively that if two closely related species are forced to inhabit the same area one or the other will be crowded out and disappear and in this case it would be the native California Quail. Sportsmen cannot have them both and we agree with Dr. Grinnell that the native bird is infinitely preferable.

Furthermore, there is the constant danger of introducing some parasite which, while, perhaps, not particularly injurious to the introduced game bird may, play havoc with our native species, as has been the case with various introduced insects brought in on foreign plants. Finally, he voices a rather novel but perfectly logical argument that the wild life of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Variegated Tinamou, *Crypturus variegatus variegatus*. By William Beebe. *Zoologica*, Vol. VI, No. 2, March 18, 1925.

<sup>2</sup> *Studies of a Tropical Jungle. One Quarter of a Square Mile of Jungle at Kartabo, British Guiana.* By William Beebe. March 11, 1925, *ibid.* No. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Risks Incurred in the Introduction of Alien Game Birds. By Joseph Grinnell. *Science*, June 19, 1925, No. 1590, pp. 621-623. Reprint separately paged.