

hosts with keen powers of discrimination, have developed blue eggs so like those of the latter that they can hardly be distinguished.

Mr. Jourdain shows also that the young of certain Cuckoos have, apparently by selection, developed a plumage similar to that of the young of their hosts in order to save them from being ousted from the nest by the highly discriminating parents. In most species, however, the reaction to the young Cuckoo clamoring for food is stronger than any possible tendency to question its right to be in the nest.

Many other interesting points are discussed and some criticisms are made to theories advanced by Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker in a paper on the same subject in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society of London for 1923.

Excellent color plates show many interesting cases of resemblance and contrast between the eggs of parasitic species and their hosts.—W. S.

Miller and Griscom on Central American Birds.—This paper¹ contains the final results of the systematic study of the authors' Nicaraguan collections upon which several papers have already appeared. The new forms here proposed are *Cyanocompsa parellina dearborni* (p. 1), *Corvus corax richardsoni* (p. 5) and *Cyanocitta stelleri suavis* (p. 7), all from San Rafael del Norte; *Aimophila botterii vulcanica* (p. 2), Volcan Viejo, *Melzone leucotis nigrior* (p. 4) and *Cissilopha melanocyanea chavezii* (p. 8) from Matagalpa. Incidentally, *Icterus sclateri alticola* (p. 4) from Progreso, Guatemala, and *Cyanocitta stelleri ridgwayi* (p. 7) from Volcan de Fuego Guatemala, are described.

A review of the races of *Turdus assimilis* results in the establishment of three new subspecies, making seven in all, the three forms *assimilis*, *daguae* and *phaeopygos* being maintained as distinct species. The points raised in the paper are fully discussed and all new forms adequately described and compared with their nearest allies.—W. S.

Sushkin on Palaearctic Birds.—Prof. Peter P. Sushkin, during his recent tour of the United States, spent some time in examining the collections of the leading museums and presented for publication, by the Boston Society of Natural History, a number of notes² dealing with palaearctic birds gleaned from his studies of various Russian collections as well as those in England, Germany and this country. Species of the following genera are considered and their subspecies defined and ranges worked out, while in nearly every one, new forms are proposed—*Cannabina erythrina*, *Pyrrhula*, *Petronia*, *Pyrgilauda*, *Cynchramus*, *Emberiza*, *Budytes*, *Dumeticola*, *Locustella* and *Prunella*.

¹ Further Notes on Central American Birds, with Descriptions of New Forms. By W. DeW. Miller and Ludlow Griscom. American Museum Novitates. Number 184. September 24, 1925. pp. 1-16.

² Notes on Systematics and Distribution of Certain Palaearctic Birds. By Peter P. Sushkin, Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 1-55. August, 1925.

The result is a mass of detailed and important data on the birds of Russia, Siberia and north China, which will prove of great benefit to students of this part of the Palaearctic region.—W. S.

Wetmore on the Food of Phalaropes, Avocets, and Stilts.—This is one of the series of bulletins on the food habits of various water birds being issued by the U. S. Biological Survey.¹ Dr. Wetmore gives very full tables of the food of the groups under consideration and discusses their feeding habits and behaviour, much of this data being from his personal observations in the Salt Lake region of Utah. He finds all the species harmless or beneficial, so far as their economic relations are concerned, and well worthy of the protection now afforded them, while none of them are of value as game and should not be carelessly shot by so called sportsmen as has sometimes been done.

The Northern and Wilson's Phalaropes, he points out, devour large numbers of mosquito larvae and are therefore of special importance as a check against these pests. The pamphlet is a carefully prepared and important contribution to economic ornithology. There are full page illustrations of two species of Phalarope and the Stilt from paintings by E. L. Poole one of the most promising of our younger bird artists.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Hartert.—In the last part of the 'Novitates Zoologicae' are several important papers by Dr. Ernst Hartert. In a report² on a collection of birds from New Ireland made by A. F. Eichorn, seventy-one forms are listed, of which *Gallinocolumba beccarii nodifica* (p. 118), *Micropsitta bruijnii necopinata* (p. 124), *Halcyon tristrami navaehiberniae* (p. 125), are described as new, while incidentally the collection shows the distinctness of forms from neighboring islands of which *Ninox variegata superior* (p. 121) from New Hanover, and *Lalage karu falsa* (p. 131) from Duke of York Island, are here named. Collecting was carried on from sea level to the tops of the highest mountains which reach an altitude of 3000 feet. Two interesting Parrots of New Ireland are figured, *Domicella albidinucha* and *Micropsitta meeki*.

Dr. Hartert also has a description³ of a new Chukar Partridge, *Alectoris graeca kleini* (p. 137).

In continuing his list of types⁴ in the Tring Museum, he covers the "Picarian" families, Woodpeckers, etc., and describes as new *Ramphastos monilis aurantiistrostris* (p. 143) from British Guiana.

He also presents a review⁵ of the genus *Cacomantis* in which four races of

¹ Food of American Phalaropes, Avocets and Stilts. By Alexander Wetmore. Department Bulletin No. 1359 U. S. Department of Agriculture, October, 1925, pp. 1-20.

² A Collection of Birds from New Ireland (Neu Mecklenburg.) By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. XXXII, No. 2, October, 1925, pp. 115-136.

³ A New Form of Chukar Partridge. By Ernst Hartert. *ibid.* p. 137.

⁴ Types of Birds in the Tring Museum. By Ernst Hartert. *ibid.* pp. 138-157.

⁵ Review of the Genus *Cacomantis*. By Ernst Hartert. *ibid.* pp. 164-174.