

RECENT LITERATURE.

Hellmayr's 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas.'¹—The fourth part of this invaluable work prepared by Dr. C. E. Hellmayr, appeared on December 29, 1925, and covers the difficult families Furnariidae and Dendrocolaptidae, comprising the Ovenbirds and Woodhewers. The treatment follows exactly that of the third part with the same abundance of foot notes covering original or amplified descriptions of critical species, discussions of relationships, etc., etc., while in the recognition of genera the author is commendably conservative.

Since noticing Part III the reviewer has had occasion to use it extensively and is more than ever impressed with the thoroughness and excellence of Dr. Hellmayr's work. Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America' made intelligent systematic study of the Mesomyodian Passeres possible for those who are not specialists in the group, so far as the species north of Panama are concerned, but it was always exasperating to find only scattered mention of genera or species from farther south, although even that we were thankful for, as it was an extension of the task that Mr. Ridgway had set himself. Now, however, Dr. Hellmayr has continued the work from Panama to Cape Horn, and we have an exhaustive up-to-date treatment of these difficult families in their entirety.

Four new genera appear in the present volume: *Limnoctites* (p. 54) for *Limnornis rectirostris* Gould; *Dendrophylax* (p. 70) for *Synallaxis setaria* (Temm.); *Oreophylax* (p. 74) for *S. moreirae* and *Xenocistis* (p. 188) a new name for *Syndactyla* Reichenbach, preoccupied; and nine subspecies of the genera *Chilia*, *Leptasthenura*, *Asthenes*, *Phacellodomus*, *Xiphocolaptes* and *Dendroplex*.

We wish Dr. Hellmayr all speed with his work and congratulate ourselves that his first volumes covered families so vitally in need of revision and concerning which he is probably better informed than any other ornithologist.—W. S.

Dwight's 'Gulls of the World.'—Dr. Jonathan Dwight has been engaged for some years past in an exhaustive study of the Gulls of the world with especial reference to their plumages and molts and the results of his researches are presented in a recent bulletin² of some 300 pages issued by the American Museum of Natural History.

¹ Catalogue of Birds of the Americas. Initiated by Charles B. Cory, Late Curator of Zoology. Continued by Charles E. Hellmayr, Associate Curator of Birds. Part IV, Furnariidae—Dendrocolaptidae. Wilfred H. Osgood, Curator, Department of Zoology, Editor. Field Museum of Natural History Chicago, U. S. A. December 29, 1925, pp. 1-390 with one colored plate.

² The Gulls (Laridae) of the World; Their Plumages, Moults, Variations, Relationships and Distribution. By Jonathan Dwight, M.D. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. History. Vol. LII, Art. III, pp. 63-401, New York. December 31, 1925. [The distribution of the author's separates of this bulletin has been delayed pending the preparation of an index.]