

of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. This collection numbering 349 skins represented no less than 150 species and subspecies some of which have been described as new by Dr. Wetmore in earlier papers. The present report<sup>1</sup> contains a descriptive list of localities in the reparation of which Mr. Pemberton gave his assistance and a number of illustrations of the scenery, and following this an annotated list of the species with detailed discussion of the specimens and numerous notes on relationship and nomenclature. There are illustrations in half-tone from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuytes, of three birds characteristic of the region—the Bronze-winged Duck, White-throated Caracara and Patagonian Flicker. Dr. Wetmore has performed an excellent service in working up this rich collection from a region only too little known ornithologically.—W. S.

**Hartert on the Birds of Feni and Nissan Islands.**<sup>2</sup>—Apparently no collections of birds have heretofore been made on these islands situated east of south New Ireland, so that the collections here reported upon and made by A. F. Eichorn, for the Tring Museum, are of much interest. Dr. Hartert finds the avifauna of the former island related to that of New Ireland with some Solomon Islands influx, while that of the latter is entirely related to that of the Solomons. Thirty-seven species are listed from Feni and twenty-three from Nissan; *Accipiter eichorni* (p. 36) and races of *Monarcha cinerascens* and *Cinnyris sericeus* are described from the former and a new form of *Ptilinopus solomonensis* from the latter while incidentally a race of *Accipiter eichorni* is described from Choiseul Island. The question is raised in this paper whether the name *Lorius cardinalis* Gray, 849—an *Eos* is preoccupied by the combination *Lorius cardinalis* (Bodd) previously mentioned by Gray but originally described as *Psittacus cardinalis*. Such names were considered in the Revised Code of the A. O. U. and it was ruled that a mere combination such as this did not affect a newly proposed name or identical form unless both species belong to the same genus.—W. S.

**Grinnell and Swarth on the Pacific Brown Towhees.**<sup>3</sup>—In the light of more adequate series of specimens the authors find that *Pipilo fuscus senicula* does not range north of Lower California, the birds from the boundary north to Monterey being referable to *P. f. crissalis* while those from Monterey northward belong to a different race, which they describe as *P. f. petulans* (p. 430). The interior valley form is *P. f. carolae* but the birds from the valleys of Josephine and Jackson Counties, Oregon, again represent an undescribed race which is here named *P. f. bul-*

<sup>1</sup> Report on a Collection of Birds made by J. R. Pemberton in Patagonia. By Alexander Wetmore. Univ. of Calif. Publ. in Zoology, Vol. 24, No. 4, pp. 395-474, pls. 12-14, 11 figs. in text. Berkeley, Calif. 1926.

<sup>2</sup> On the Birds of Feni and Nissan Islands, east of South New Ireland. By Ernst Hartert. Novit. Zool., XXXIII, pp. 33-48. March 1926.

<sup>3</sup> Systematic Review of the Pacific Coast Brown Towhees. By Joseph Grinnell and Harry S. Swarth. Univ. of Calif. Publications in Zool., Vol. 21, No. 18, pp. 427-433. Berkeley, Calif. 1926.

*latus* (p. 431). These together with the three Lower California forms, *senicula*, *aripolius* and *albigula*, give us seven races of *P. fuscus* from California and Lower California.—W. S.

In another paper<sup>1</sup> Dr. Grinnell describes a new White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis alexandrae* (p. 405), from the San Pedro Martir region of Lower California.—W. S.

**Laing on Birds of the North Pacific.**—This paper<sup>2</sup> consists of a list of the birds observed and collected on the cruise of H. M. C. S. *Thiepsal* along the coasts of the north Pacific, in 1924, from Vancouver to Bering Island and along the Asiatic coast to Japan. One hundred and twenty-five species are mentioned with critical notes by P. A. Taverner.—W. S.

**Sushkin on Birds of the Russian Altai and N. W. Mongolia.**—The main part of this paper<sup>3</sup> consists of tables showing the distribution of 371 species and subspecies of birds in 22 regions which are represented in vertical columns while the bird names run horizontally. There are also descriptions of twenty-two new forms including a new race of the Herring Gull and one of the Common Tern.

While the text is mainly in Russian the names of the localities in the table are repeated in English and the same thing is done in the case of the diagnoses of new forms. The paper forms a valuable contribution to the ornithology of a little known region.—W. S.

**Mathews 'The Birds of Australia.'**—Part 6, of Vol. XII,<sup>4</sup> completes the accounts of the Weaver Finches and begins those of the Orioles. The species here treated are some of the most brilliantly colored of the Australian birds, including the Gouldian, Crimson and Red-faced Finches.—W. S.

**Wetmore on Fossil Birds from Nebraska.**—Several years ago Dr. Wetmore published an account of some fossil birds obtained by the American Museum of Natural History in the Snake Creek quarries of Nebraska and in the present paper<sup>5</sup> he considers some additional material obtained in 1923. These comprise the metatarsus of a Courlan upon

<sup>1</sup> A New Race of the White-breasted Nuthatch from Lower California. By Joseph Grinnell. Univ. of Calif. Publications in Zool., Vol. 21, No. 15, pp. 405-410. 1926.

<sup>2</sup> Birds Collected and Observed during the Cruise of the *Thiepsal* in the North Pacific, 1924. By Hamilton M. Laing. Museum Bull. No. 40, Victoria Memorial Museum, November, 1925. Price 15cts.

<sup>3</sup> List and distribution of Birds of the Russian Altai and nearest parts of N. W. Mongolia with a Description of New or Imperfectly Known Forms. By Peter P. Sushkin.

<sup>4</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. XII, Part 6, pp. 225-264, pls. 717-723. March 24, 1926.

<sup>5</sup> Descriptions of Additional Fossil Birds from the Miocene of Nebraska. By Alexander Wetmore. Amer. Museum Novitates. No. 211, March 11, 1926. Pp. 1-5.