

species the author had in mind when he proposed his genus but if some subsequent author has fixed a wholly different species as the type our hands are tied!

In any case the rejection of a well established name is not warranted unless the facts are absolutely proven, and should a straggling Greater Snow Goose occur on the Severn River, which seems quite possible, Mr. Kennard's argument would fall to pieces.

Nomenclature is the bane of ornithology, there is always difference of opinion regarding it, and others may not agree with our views. However, we are in hearty accord with the ornithology of Mr. Kennard's paper and congratulate him on a fine piece of work.—W. S.

Wood on the Nest of the Indian Tailor Bird.—In this interesting paper¹ Dr. Casey A. Wood describes several nests of the Tailor Bird, *Orthotomus sutorius sutorius*, which he studied in Ceylon. There are five plates from photographs of nests of the species which add greatly to our understanding of the building of these remarkable structures. Sometimes the nest is made of a single leaf, sometimes of several, and there are four distinct methods employed in binding the leaves together which Dr. Wood calls sewing, rivetting, lacing and matting.

The bird makes tiny holes in the leaf with its sharp bill and draws the strands of delicate fiber through those along the leaf margin, pulling the edges together and often lacing them much as a shoe is laced. Through the holes in the body of the leaf pieces of cotton fibre from the lining are drawn and the loose end forms a sort of button or rivet head on the outside. This has erroneously been considered a knot by some writers.—W. S.

Harper on a New Marsh Wren from Alberta.—A series of Marsh Wrens collected on the Athabaska Delta by the author, H. A. Laing and J. A. Loring are here² made the basis for a new race *Telmatodytes palustris laingi* (p. 221). The type is in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.—W. S.

Friedmann on Three New African Birds.—Dr. Herbert Friedmann describes³ from his African collection of 1924 *Parus albiventris curtus* (p. 217), *Amadina fasciata candida* (p. 218) both from Taveta, Kenya Colony and *Parisoma pulpum* (p. 219) Gunnal, Portuguese West Africa. The descriptions are full with ample comparison with allied forms.—W. S.

Bangs on a New Parrot from Madagascar.⁴—Specimens of the Lesser

¹ The Nest of the Indian Tailor Bird. By Casey A. Wood. Smithsonian Report for 1925, pp. 349-354, pls. 1-5.

² A New Marsh Wren from Alberta. By Francis Harper. Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. 5, pp. 221-222, December 10, 1926.

³ Three New African Birds. By Herbert Friedmann. Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. 5, pp. 217-289, December 10, 1926.

⁴ A New Form of the Lesser Vasa Parrot. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New England Zoological Club, Vol. IX, pp. 83-84, January 8, 1927.

Vasa Parrots recently received at the Museum of Comparative Zoology show that there are two forms of this bird, the black typical form occurring in the eastern part of the island while a gray form inhabits the western part. This is described as *Coracopsis nigra libs* (p. 83) Miandrivazo, Madagascar.—W. S.

Bangs and Peters on Birds of the Rain Forest of Vera Cruz.—The annotated list¹ here presented covers the collection made by W. W. Brown at Motzorongo and Presidio, Vera Cruz. He was sent out by Col. John E. Thayer especially to search for the great ornithological rarity, *Hylorchilus sumichrasti* (Lawrence), a species of Wren hitherto known from only three specimens. That his search was successful may be gathered from the fact that he secured no less than thirty-eight specimens together with the nest and eggs. Col. Thayer has presented all of the collection except the North American migrants to the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The new forms described in the paper by Messrs. Bangs and Peters are: *Crypturornis cinnamomeus praepe*s (p. 472) Costa Rica, *Synallaxis erythrothorax furtiva* (p. 476) Vera Cruz, and *Henicorhina prosthaleuca tropaea* (p. 480) Costa Rica. There are important comments on the relationship of the races of *Scardafella inca*, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* and *Pachystylia decurtata*.—W. S.

Report on the Ruffed Grouse Investigation.—Drs. A. A. Allen and A. O. Gross present a preliminary report² on investigations on the diseases of the Ruffed Grouse which they have been carrying on. Results so far seem to show that there is a great scarcity of Grouse at scattered points in Canada and the northern States. In spite of the prevalent idea that there is one disease responsible for the decrease in the birds, investigation shows that there are over twenty parasites or diseases any one of which may become important in a definite locality.

The symptoms and character of these affections are described and a call is made for additional material. Whole birds are better than viscera and many State Game Commissions have authorized their wardens to obtain material for the investigators or to allow hunters to secure it without counting it against their bag limit. Communications should be addressed to the Grouse Investigation Committee, 233 Broadway, N. Y., and details as to shipping will be forwarded. This is a very important piece of work and deserves the support of all sportsmen if this valuable game bird is to be saved.—W. S.

McAtee on the Role of Vertebrates in Insect Control.—In this interesting summary³ the author cites numerous instances where a con-

¹ Birds from the Rain Forest Region of Vera Cruz. By Outram Bangs and James L. Peters. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. LXVII, No. 15, January, 1927. pp. 471-487.

² Reprint from 'American Game' Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association, October, 1926.

³ The Smithsonian Report for 1925.