

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.