

Part I describes the itinerary which followed the coast of Quintana Roo and British Honduras visiting Cozumel Island and the mainland opposite. A list of the 347 species known from Yucatan is given, divided into several groups according to character of occurrence, the endemic forms numbering 44. Mr. Griscom explains that the peninsula of Yucatan is similar to a more or less arid island cut off on the southwest by a heavy rain forest and that its avifauna is largely composed of species or genera of relatively wide range in Mexico and northern Central America but absent from the rain forest, and many of the endemic forms are the result of this isolation.

Next there is an annotated list of 167 birds observed in eastern Quintana Roo of which *Dichromanassa rufescens colorata* (p. 9) and *Phoenicotrampus salvini roensis* (p. 17) are described as new as well as *Cochlearius zeledoni panamensis* (p. 11) from Corozal, Panama and *Icterus cucullatus masoni* (p. 18) from Manatee, British Honduras.

The Osprey of the region is identified as *Pandion h. ridgwayi* previously supposed to be restricted to the Bahamas.

In Part II, there are two annotated lists. The first, covering 34 species, found on Chinchorro Bank, twenty-five miles off the coast, and hitherto unvisited by any ornithologist. An *Elaeena* obtained here allied to *E. martinica* is described as *E. chinchorrensis* (p. 3).

The second list covers the birds of Cozumel Island with remarks on the more interesting species.—W. S.

Friedmann on Testicular Asymmetry in Birds.¹—It has long been known that the left testis in birds is often (Newton says, generally) larger than the right and Oscar Riddle has found that in hybrid Pigeons the discrepancy increases in proportion to the difference in relationship in the species involved, being greater in crosses between birds of different genera than between congeneric species. Furthermore the excess of males has been found to be correlated with the amount of discrepancy in the size of the testes.

Dr. Friedmann has examined many breeding birds both in America and in South Africa and finds that in 104 species there was no discrepancy while 60 showed the left testis to be the larger. In most cases it was obviously impossible to determine from field observations whether there was an excess of males, since male birds, being more active and conspicuous than females, are more frequently seen and collected.

In the case of the Cowbirds, however, he found that the parasitic species were usually polyandrous with a very evident excess of males and this was always correlated with a decidedly larger left testis as well as with sexual dimorphism in plumage. In the two monogamous Cowbirds, *Ageloides badius* and *Molothrus rufo-axillaris* there is no excess of males and no dimorphism in plumage, while the testes are of equal size. The former

¹ Testicular Asymmetry and Sex Ratio in Birds. By Herbert Friedmann. Biological Bulletin, Vol. LII, No. 3, March, 1927. pp. 197-207.

species moreover is not parasitic while in the latter, parasitism is of the simplest type.

This paper is another of the results of Dr. Friedmann's study of parasitism in birds which has taken him to all countries where parasitic birds are to be found and where he has gathered valuable material and observations which will undoubtedly throw much light upon this interesting problem.

A list of the species observed grouped according to the development of the testes concludes the paper.—W. S.

Balsac's Ornithology of Central Sahara and Southern Algeria.—

The present report¹ is based on an expedition conducted by the author through the lower Atlas Mountains and southward across the Sahara to Fort Miribel and eastward to Sedjera-Touila, with a side trip from Ghardaia to Guerrera.

The list of birds is very fully annotated and the relation of the forms to allied species is discussed, forming a very valuable addition to our knowledge of the avifauna of the region. One new subspecies was obtained which has been described elsewhere—*Ammomanes deserti intermedia*. *Comatibis eremita* supposed to be extinct in Algeria was found and a colored plate of the adult and young is presented, another bird *Apus affinis gabilejensis* was found breeding for the first time in Algeria while 18 others were found breeding for the first time in the district under consideration.

The report is well printed with a good sketch map and several photographs of nests and eggs.—W. S.

Richmond's List of Generic Names of Birds.—This is Dr. Richmond's fourth list² of Avian generic names supplementary to Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium.' He lists 378 names proposed during the period 1916-1922 and 57 others hitherto overlooked, making a total of 435. One of the most interesting genera listed in *Fontinalis* proposed by Leo Lesquereux for what he supposed was a fossil plant but which proves to be the impression of a bird feather!

These "supplements" of Dr. Richmond's are of the greatest importance to the systematist furnishing him at once with all the desired information regarding each name, data which it has often taken years to discover. We trust that he will continue the compilation.

Dr. Richmond calls our attention to two errors, which it may be desirable to mention here: *Glaucomorpha* should be *Glauconympha* and *Smitsornis* should be *Smutsornis*.—W. S.

¹ Contributions a l'Ornithologie du Sahara central et du Sud-Algérien. Heim de Balsac. Mém. de la Société d'Histoire Naturelle de l'Afrique du Nord. Alger, 1926. pp. 1-127 pl. 1-7.

² Generic Names Applied to Birds, during the Years 1916-1922, inclusive, with Additions to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium" By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol. 70, Art. 5, pp. 1-44. 1927.