

J. P. Chapin as to the relation of certain of the Weavers, in his paper on the same subject (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXVII, p. 252).

He pays especial attention to the genus *Passer* and its allies which he still contends are not Finches but Weaver-Birds, and he would group *Passer*, *Petronia*, *Chionospina* (= *Montifringilla*) and *Pyrgilauda*, as a well defined subfamily of the Ploceidae, "Passerinae," with the probability that *Gymnoris*, *Onychostruthus* and *Sorella* belong with them. They have, so far as examined, a very characteristic relief of the palatal surface of the horny bill, a complete post-juvenal molt, and a domed nest with entrance on the side.

Dr. Sushkin's classification would arrange the subfamilies as follows, beginning with the lowest: Bubalornithinae, Ploceipasserinae, Passerinae, Sporopipinae, Ploceinae and Estrildinae.

The author also discusses the curious phalloid organ located near the vent in *Bubalornis* which he regards as in some way an auxiliary to copulation.—W. S.

Murphy on Puffinus assimilis. Dr. Murphy presents a careful study¹ of some 300 specimens of Petrels of the *Puffinus assimilis-herminieri* group. He confirms Mathews' opinion that these two forms are specifically distinct and recognizes five subspecies of the former and eight of the latter. *P. a. kermadecensis* (p. 3) from Herald Island, Kermadec Group, N. Z., and *P. l. polynesiae* (p. 8) from Tahiti, Society Islands, are described as new.—W. S.

Friedmann on Argentine and African Birds. Dr. Friedmann spent some six months from August 11, 1923, to March 17, 1924, in Argentina primarily to study the parasitic habits of the Cowbirds (*Molothrus*), but incidentally a number of other species were observed and collected and the present paper² is a report on his collection, now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and upon his field observations.

Notes are presented on 169 species relating mainly to habits and distribution, with a list of specimens secured and occasional descriptions of color and measurements. The pamphlet is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Argentine birds giving us intimate pictures of many of the species in their favorite haunts. In this paper and those by Dr. Wetmore and Mr. Peters, American ornithologists have contributed not a little to Argentine ornithology.

Dr. Friedmann has also recently published descriptions of some new birds secured by him in Africa. In one paper³ he names *Turdoides melan-*

¹ On Certain Forms of *Puffinus assimilis* and its Allies. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Amer. Museum Novitates, No. 276, September 8, 1927, pp. 1-15.

² Notes on Some Argentine Birds. By Herbert Friedmann. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. LXVIII, No. 4, September, 1927, pp. 139-236.

³ A New Babbler from the Belgian Congo. By Herbert Friedmann. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. X, p. 11, October 20, 1927.