

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.

ops ater (p. 11) Belgian Congo, and in another¹ *Turdinus spadix* (p. 3) *Opifex* (gen. nov.) *altus* (p. 4), *Molacoctus alius* (p. 5), *Hypargos nitidula virens* (p. 6), *Spermospiza ruficapilla cana* (p. 7) all from Tanganyika Territory, the first three from the Uluguru Mts. and the last two from the Usambara range.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Peters, Bangs and Kennard. Mr. James Lee Peters has recently described several new birds. In one paper² he names *Aratinga wagleri transilis* (p. 111), from northern Venezuela, *Coccyzus minor teres* (p. 112) from the Dominican Republic, *Penthestes sclateri eidos* (p. 113), from the Chiricauha Mts., Arizona, and in another³ *Manacus cerritus*, from Almirante, Panama.

In conjunction with Frederic H. Kennard he has also named⁴ *Lanio leucothorax ictus* (p. 1) and *Psilorhinus mexicanus captus* (p. 2) from north-western Panama.

Mr. Outram Bangs and Mr. Peters have published a list⁵ of birds from Maratua Island off the coast of Borneo, based on a collection made by Dr. Eric Mjoberg and presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoology by Dr. Thomas Barbour. Sixteen species are listed and seven described as new: *Megapodius cumingii tolutilis* (p. 235), *Tanygnathus lucionensis horrisonus* (p. 236), *Hypothymis aeria* (p. 237), *Microtarsus hodiernus* (p. 238), *Kittacincla barbouri*, *Anthreptes malacensis mjobergi* (p. 240), *Aplonis panayensis suggrandis* (p. 241).—W. S.

Wilder and Hubbard on Chinese Birds. We have received separates of a list⁶ of the birds of Chihli Province, China, (1924), with notes and a supplement⁷ published two years later by George D. Wilder and H. W. Hubbard.

They present a list of 473 species makes a valuable contribution to Chinese ornithology containing as it does references to all previous lists dealing with the birds of the province.—W. S.

Griscom on Panama Birds.—After Mr. Griscom's return from Panama in 1924, Mr. Rex R. Benson was left to carry on field work, visiting Santiago, the mountains back of Santa Fé, Cape Mala peninsula and Agua Dulce.

¹ New Birds from Tanganyika Territory. By Herbert Friedmann. Proc. N. E. Zool Club., Vol. XX, pp. 3-7, September 7, 1927.

² Descriptions of New Birds. By James Lee Peters. Proc. New England Zool. Club, IX, pp. 111-113, June 24, 1927.

³ A New Manakin from Panama. By James Lee Peters. Proc. New England Zool. Club, pp. 9-10, September 22, 1927.

⁴ New Birds from Panama. By Frederic Hedge Kennard and James Lee Peters. Proc. New England Zool. Club, X, pp. 1-2, August 25, 1927.

⁵ Birds from Maratua Island, off the East Coast of Borneo. By Outram Bangs and James Lee Peters. Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. 5, pp. 235-242. June 13, 1927.

⁶ Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. LV, 1924, pp. 156-239.

⁷ Ibid., Vol. LVII, 1926, pp. 184-194.