

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.

In connection with studying the Panama collections which number upwards of 3000 skins and which have been presented to the American Museum of Natural History by Mr. Sanford Barnes and Mr. Griscom, 21 new forms have been found which are described by Mr. Griscom in a recent paper.¹ In another paper² he describes an ornithological reconnaissance in eastern Panama in 1927 accompanied by Mrs. Griscom, Maunsell S. Crosby and Rex R. Benson. The party visited the Pearl Islands and went up the Sambú River from the Gulf of San Miguel and through the country back of Cape Garachiné. A list of 41 species is presented of which *Saucerottia edwardi margaritarum* (p. 4) is described as new from the Pearl Islands and *S. e. crosbyi* (p. 5), *Pachysylvia minor darienensis* (p. 7), *Compsothlypis pitiayumi nana* (p. 8) and *Atelodacnis leucogenys panamensis* (p. 9) all from Cape Garachiné.—W. S.

Kalmbach on the Economic Value of the Magpie. In this exhaustive report³ Mr. Kalmbach sums up the economic status of the Magpie on the basis of stomach contents as well as upon data obtained from field studies of the bird in life.

Its food analysis discloses many alfalfa weevils, caterpillars, and grasshoppers which make up 36 per cent of the whole, as well as some rodents and much carrion. On the other hand the Magpies destroy some poultry, wild birds and their eggs, but based on stomach contents alone the verdict would be that the bird is one of the most beneficial of the Corvidae with its shortcomings similar to those of the Crow but its insectivorous habits more pronounced.

Unfortunately it is locally a serious menace to live stock attacking those with open sores or unhealed brands, and pecking at them until they die; sheep, pigs, cows and even horses, having been victims of the attacks. Once a ranchman witnesses one of these attacks it is hard to convince him that the Magpie has any good qualities, for, as in the case of Hawks, no one pays any attention to the birds when doing good.

The Magpies also interfere with the operations of poisoning Coyotes and other "predatory mammals" by eating the bait but they pay dearly for their "offence" since in one Coyote campaign in Washington 5000 Magpies were destroyed.

Mr. Kalmbach regards the Magpie's offences as local in character and considers that immediate and summary action by the ranchers will check their predatory habits, which may really be originally indulged in by only a few individuals. "Extermination of the species over large areas is not

¹ Undescribed or Little-known Birds from Panama. By Ludlow Griscom. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 280, September 10, 1927, pp. 1-19.

² An Ornithological Reconnaissance in Eastern Panama in 1927. By Ludlow Griscom. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 282, September 12, 1927, pp. 1-10.

³ The Magpie in Relation to Agriculture. By E. R. Kalmbach. Technical Bulletin, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, October, 1927, pp. 1-30. Price 10 cents (U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.).