

a consideration of the Goshawks (*Astur gentilis*) of which eleven Palaearctic races are recognized, *A. g. moscoviae* (p. 8) from Russia being described as new.

The author's studies indicate two fairly distinct groups of these birds a northern and southern with two races that are somewhat intermediate. He considers that the Goshawks originated in the western Palaearctic region and broke up into the two series of races as they spread eastward. He also points out that there is a white or whitish dimorphic form in two of the subspecies. Three excellent plates from photographs of skins show the differences between the various forms.—W. S.

Todd on New Formicariidae and Conopophagidae.¹—Having completed his study of the series of Gnateaters and Antbirds in the collection of the Carnegie Museum Mr. Todd in this paper describes a large number of hitherto unnamed forms.

The Formicariidae alone in the collection brought together at Pittsburgh comprises 9098 skins, representing 221 species and 124 additional subspecies referred to 53 genera so that the author is admirably equipped to speak with authority upon the group.

Thirty-nine new forms are described and three new genera proposed—*Schistocichla* (p. 165) for *Pernostola leucostigma* von Pelz., *Myrmedestes* (p. 172) for *Turdus ferrugineus* Müller and *Myrmophylax* (p. 172) for *Formicarius atrothorax* Bodd. There is also a useful review of the genus *Myrmeciza* and its allies (*Sclateria*, *Schistocichla*, *Myrmelastes*, *Myrmeciza*, *Myrmoderus*, *Myrmedestes* and *Myrmophylax*) which constitutes an entirely new arrangement from that proposed in Dr. Hellmayr's recent monograph. Only two forms of Gnateaters are described, *Conopophaga aurita australis* (p. 150) Brazil, and *Corythopsis torquata subtorquata* (p. 151) Bolivia.

Mr. Todd has performed a real service to ornithology by his careful studies of the Formicariidae and has straightened out many a puzzling problem. The two main obstacles to the study of the Antbirds seem to have been (1) an uncertainty as to which forms the names of the older writers pertained, which was largely settled by Dr. Hellmayr's studies of the types in the European museums, and (2) the attempts of later writers to refer many perfectly distinct forms to a comparatively small number of described species. With the painstaking work of Dr. Hellmayr and Mr. Todd we are now in a position to proceed intelligently with the study of this difficult family.—W. S.

Van Oordt on the Relation between Gonads and Plumage.²—Shorebirds which summer far south of their breeding grounds have always

¹ New Gnateaters and Antbirds from Tropical America, with a Revision of the Genus *Myrmeciza* and its Allies. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 40, pp. 149-173, December 2, 1927.

² Studies on the Gonads of Summering Birds. I and II. The Knot and the Turnstone. By G. J. Van Oordt. Tijdschrift der Ned. Dierkundige Vereeniging. Ser. 3, Deel 1, Afl. 1. 1928, pp. 25-30.