

Mr. Taverner has made a valuable contribution to the ornithology of this part of Alberta. He continues to adhere to his practice of using only specific names, but, inasmuch as he frequently determines the subspecies in the body of the text, we cannot see why it should not be given in the heading. It seems, moreover, to savour of ultra conservatism to call the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* as there is no more danger of the individuals seen being the European subspecies than of the Brown Creepers being the European *C. brachydactyla* and yet, in the latter case, he does not hesitate to use the specific name *familiaris*. While we respect Mr. Taverner's desire to take nothing for granted we do not feel that he gains anything by his method, nor that it can be made thoroughly consistent.—W. S.

Annotationes Ornithologiae Orientalis.—This publication¹ published and edited by Toku T. Momiyama contains many papers of importance on Japanese birds nearly all of which are by himself.

No. 3 contains: A Catalogue of Bird Skins from southern Sakhalin (six new subspecies); A list of the birds from Prefecture Miyagi by S. Kumagai (one new form); notes on birds of the same region with description of a new Woodpecker by S. Kumagai; Descriptions of three new genera and one new species from eastern Asia and a list of birds from Formosa. The first two articles and all of the descriptions are in English. The new genera are *Microphona* (used on pages 244 and 284 by Kumagai and formally proposed on p. 319 by Momiyama) for *Eophona migratoria*; *Cristemberiza* (p. 319) for *Emberiza elegans* and *Sieboldornis* (p. 319) for *Bombycilla japonica*.

No. 4 contains: A continuation of the Formosa list; On Discriminative Points in Field Observation of some allied Birds in Japan; The Birds of Province Inaba, western Hondo (in conjunction with Y. Ikoma) and Twelve Forms of Japanese birds. There is a colored plate of *Cyanoptila caeluleiceps* Mom. and several uncolored plates.—W. S.

Neunzig's 'Zum Brutparasitismus der Viduinen.'—In the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for January, 1929, Rudolf Neunzig has produced a paper purporting to be a summary of what is known concerning the parasitic habit in the African Weaverbirds. The chief characteristics of this paper are lack of knowledge, lack of thought, and lack of judgment. The present reviewer has been deeply interested in the parasitic birds of the African continent for some years and, having had considerable first hand experience with them in life, feels that so obvious and misleading a piece of romancing should not be passed by without comment. As far as is definitely known only three Weavers are proven to be parasitic in their breeding habits,—*Vidua macroura*, *Tetraevura regia*, and *Anomalospiza imberbis*, but this does not deter Herr Neunzig from forming definite conclusions not only as to the parasitic habit, but even as to the victims

¹ Annotationes Ornithologiae Orientalis Vol. I, No. 3, December 21, 1928 pp. 201-388. No. 4, December 31, 1928, pp. 339-456.

of the additional species *Linura fischeri*, *Vidua hypocherina*, *Steganura paradisea*, and *Hypochera chalybeata*. It must be admitted that it is quite likely that the first three of these will eventually be found to be parasitic, but there are no data available at present to prove it. Neunzig himself admits this, but has the assurance to pick out deliberately species of Weavers whose juvenal plumages present some similarity to those of the supposed parasites and definitely call them the victims of the latter. Not content with this piece of pure fiction he at once proceeds to dilate on the remarkable mimicry existing between parasite and host-species! He appears to feel that each parasite restricts its attentions to a single species of victim. Yet *Vidua macroura* (*V. serena* of Neunzig's paper) is definitely known to parasitize at least ten species of Weavers. The whole paper is so full of similar notions that it seems unnecessary to elaborate further, but the following example may suffice to convey the appalling lack of familiarity of the author with his subject. Neunzig has apparently had no field experience in Africa and may therefore be excused if he makes a few mistakes with regard to habits, but there is no pardon for his ignorance of the literature. The classification that he follows is the most antiquated and least natural of all the schemes proposed within the last fifty years. He actually goes back to Shelley's arrangement which is admitted by all students of African birds to be far worse than that used by Reichenow. He completely ignores the more recent papers of Chapin and Suschkin, and his phylogenetic arguments are apparently the result of a desire to bolster up a pet theory. He argues that if *Vidua* and *Hypochera* agree with the Estrildinae in having gape wattles when young and in laying pure white eggs, this is not a sign of relationship, but rather of mimicry of hosts! To be really consistent one ought to change the plumages of the metallic Cuckoos (*Lampromorpha* and *Chrysococcyx*) to yellow with black heads because of the birds they victimize. Or else claim that the nonparasitic Cowbirds belong to the Icteridae and the parasitic ones to the Cuculidae!—HERBERT FRIEDMANN.

Bangs, Outram.¹—A New Vanga from Southern Madagascar (Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, X, p. 107. December 31, 1928).—*V. curvirostris cetera*.

Bangs, O. and Peters, J. L.—A Collection of Birds from Oaxaca (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., LXVIII, No. 8, pp. 385-404.)—An annotated list; *Colinus virginianus thayeri* (p. 386) Chivela; *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster tardus* (p. 393) Chihuahua; *Sittasomus griseicapillus gracilicus* (p. 392) Chichen Itza, are described as new.

Bédé, P.—Notes d' Ornithologie (Jardin Zoologique de Sfax, Fasc. I. 1928.)—Popular accounts of many Tunisian birds. [in French]

¹ So many short papers have appeared recently that lack of space compels us to notice them in this brief manner.