

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.