

**Todd on Pachysylvia.**—Mr. Todd has undertaken a monographic study<sup>1</sup> of the birds of this genus based primarily upon the splendid series of six hundred skins in the collection of the Carnegie Museum. He recognizes no less than thirty-five forms referred to twenty-three species. The fact that only three new forms are described shows how carefully the group has been studied by previous authors. The new forms are: *P. semicinerea viridiceps* (p. 191) French Guiana; *P. ochraceiceps viridior* (p. 194) Rio Surutu, Bolivia; and *P. o. nelsoni* (p. 195) new name for *P. o. brevipennis* Nelson.

The descriptions are full, with helpful remarks and comparisons, and there is a useful key to the forms.—W. S.

**Burt on the Pterylography of Woodpeckers.**—This paper<sup>2</sup> is a detailed study of the feather arrangement in twenty-three species and subspecies of North American Woodpeckers with many text cuts. The results show that the pterylography of these forms is remarkably similar. There are abundant characters diagnostic of a family nature but with the single exception of *Sphyrapicus* none of generic value while specific differences are slight and somewhat variable.

Mr. Burt has made a valuable contribution to an important field in which but few Americans are working. We trust that he will continue this line of research to other groups.—W. S.

**Miss Howard on the Avifauna of a Shell Mound.**—One of the large Indian shell mounds on the shores of San Francisco Bay, having been condemned in order to make way for a factory, was leveled through the agency of a steam shovel. The University of California took advantage of the opportunity to collect and preserve all artifacts, human and other bones, etc., contained in the mound, and the present report<sup>3</sup> is based upon some 6700 bird bones of which 4155 were identifiable. Fifty species have been identified although no attempt was made to differentiate the Anatidae and Laridae which have been listed as one species each. There were thirty-three water birds, fourteen raptorial, one gallinaceous and two passerine. Four species present in the mound are not now found in the immediate vicinity and one, *Grus mexicana*, has never been recorded from the Bay region. On the other hand twenty species now present are not represented in the mound fauna. The presence of nestling Cormorants points to the existence of Cormorant rookeries on islands within the bay. The bones are usually in a much broken condition indicating perhaps attempts to use them in making whistles or other objects.

<sup>1</sup> A Review of the Vireonine Genus *Pachysylvia*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 42, pp. 181-206, July 16, 1929.

<sup>2</sup> Pterylography of Certain North American Woodpeckers. By William Henry Burt. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zoology. Vol. 30, No. 15, pp. 427-442. June 18, 1929.

<sup>3</sup> The Avifauna of Emeryville Shellmound. By Hildegard Howard. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool. Vol. 32, No. 2, pp. 301-394. July 19, 1929.