

The following are described as new: *Odontophorus melanotis verecundus* (p. 404); *Rhynchortyx cinctus pudibundus* (p. 405); and *Automolus ochrolaemus amusus* (p. 441), all from Lancetilla and *Glyphorhynchus spirurus sublestus* (p. 443) and *Tanagra gouldi praeternissa* (p. 470) from Panama.—W. S.

**Austin on Birds from British Honduras.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr. accompanied Mr. Gregory Mason on the Mason-Blogett Expedition to Central America in the spring of 1928 and secured a collection of the birds of the Cayo District of British Honduras for the Museum of Comparative Zoology, upon which he bases this report. Lists of characteristic species of each of the areas into which the region may be divided ecologically—the rain-forest, transition and pine-ridge areas, are given, and then follows a systematic list of the species, forty of which had not heretofore been reported from British Honduras. *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii decoloris* (p. 380) and *Turdus assimilis parcolor* (p. 386) are described as new.—W. S.

**Bullock on Birds of Angol, Chile.**—Mr. Bullock, Director of the Agricultural School at Angol, has prepared an excellent annotated list<sup>2</sup> of the birds found in the immediate vicinity of Angol illustrated by many half tones of nests and eggs. Another brief paper<sup>3</sup> gives an account of the birds observed on the Nahuelbuta Mountains, Chile.

Ninety-nine species are listed in the first paper and thirty-seven in the other.—W. S.

**Lönnerberg on the African Fauna.**—In this paper<sup>4</sup> Dr. Lönnerberg discusses the relationship and distribution of the vertebrate fauna of Africa in great detail, as well as the physical features of the continent in the present and past geological ages, and the effect of climatic change on the animal and plant life. His conclusions are that, during the early Tertiary, Africa was covered by a vast evergreen forest inhabited by an endemic forest fauna with many types common to southern Asia. In the Pliocene the climate became dry and most of the forest was destroyed, the forest animals taking refuge in the remaining forest "islands." At the same time a broad land-bridge connected Africa with Asia and there was a great invasion of animals of the Steppe fauna into Africa.

At the beginning of the Pleistocene a rainy period set in and much of the forest was renewed while the Steppe fauna was divided and isolated, as the forest fauna had previously been. The present forest fauna is

<sup>1</sup> Birds of the Cayo District, British Honduras. By Oliver L. Austin, Jr. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Vol. LXIX, No. 11, September, 1929, pp. 363-394.

<sup>2</sup> Aves Observadas en los Alrededores de Angol por Dillman S. Bullock, Revista Chilena de Hist. Nat., Año XXXIII (1929), pp. 171-211.

<sup>3</sup> Aves de los pinares de Nahuelbuta. Por Dillman S. Bullock. Ibid, pp. 121-127.

<sup>4</sup> The Development and Distribution of the African Fauna in Connection with and Depending upon Climatic Changes. By Einar Lönnerberg. Arkiv för Zoologi Band 21 A. No. 4. 1929. pp. 1-33.

therefore of double origin, partly descended from the endemic fauna and partly from Steppe forms which had adapted themselves to forest life, while the present Steppe fauna is similarly explained. The isolation in past times has resulted in the presence of closely related subspecies in widely separated regions.—W. S.

**Thomson on the Migration of the European Woodcock.**—This paper<sup>1</sup> deals mainly with the movements of the bird in Great Britain and Ireland and is based upon banding returns. It is found that a majority of the individuals are resident but that possibly one-third are more or less migratory. There is a well-marked autumn movement from Scotland and the north of England to Ireland, while some individuals pass on to the continent. Curiously enough, however, there is no evidence of a return to the place of origin.

It is admitted that various artificial factors enter into the record, especially the shooting on the home estate, so that the data cannot be treated statistically. Ninety-five per cent of the recoveries relate to the first four years of the birds' lives but certain individuals are found to live to eight, eleven, twelve and even twelve and a half years.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Austin Roberts.**—Several papers on African birds by Austin Roberts have appeared within the past few years. One<sup>2</sup> consists of corrections to his 'Synoptic Check-list,' with descriptions of several new forms and two new genera; *Criniferoides* (p. 218) for *Chizaerhis leucogaster* and *Caloardea* (p. 219) for *Ardea leuconotus*. A second paper<sup>3</sup> contains descriptions of eggs of a number of African species while a third<sup>4</sup> is a report on a collection of birds and mammals from southwestern Africa, obtained by M. R. D. Bradfield. In this a new genus, *Chapinortyx* (p. 291), is proposed for *Francolinus harlaubi* and seven new subspecies are proposed belonging to the genera: *Chapinortyx*, *Psammaoetus*, *Melignothes*, *Sabota*, *Fringillaria* and *Ortygornis*.

A fourth<sup>5</sup> paper contains new forms of *Pternistes*, *Chaetopus*, *Epicypselus* *Hyphantornis*, *Ortygospiza* and *Apalis*.—W. S.

**Tugarinow on the Birds of North Mongolia.**—This is an account<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Migrations of British and Irish Woodcock: Results of the Marking Method. By A. Landsborough Thomson. British Birds XXIII, No. 4. September 2, 1929, pp. 74-92.

<sup>2</sup> Some Changes in Nomenclature, New Records of Migrants and New Forms of South African Birds. By Austin Roberts. Ann. Transvaal Mus., XI, Part IV, 1926, pp. 217-226.

<sup>3</sup> Descriptions of Some S. African Birds' Eggs. By Austin Roberts. Ibid, pp. 226-244.

<sup>4</sup> Birds and Mammals from Southwest Africa. By Austin Roberts. Ibid, XII, Part IV, 1928, pp. 289-329.

<sup>5</sup> New Forms of African Birds. By Austin Roberts. Ibid, XIII, Part II, pp. 71-81. 1929.

<sup>6</sup> North Mongolia and its Birds. By A. J. Tugarinow. Acad. of Sciences of the Union of Soviet Republics. "Materiaux" Vol. 2 (?) 1929 (?) pp. 145-236. [In Russian with an English Resumé.]