

*Mirafra javanica aliena* (p. 50), and *Anihus australis exiguus* (p. 53). The notes refer mainly to relationship and plumage but the stomach contents of a number of specimens are given, the insects identified by Dr. Philip Darlington. We note that eighteen Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds were obtained on the expedition.

Mr. Greenway has done a good piece of work in his study of this collection and has made a valuable contribution to the ornithology of New Guinea.—W. S.

**van Rossem on Birds of Middle America.**—As a result of his examination of types in various European museums and his study of Central American and Mexican collections in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Mr. van Rossem has published a composite paper<sup>1</sup> on Middle American birds which adds greatly to our systematic knowledge.

The first section relates to the birds of Guatemala and is supplementary to, and critical of, Griscom's admirable work on the birds of this country. Besides adding several species to the list and straightening out the nomenclature of others the following new forms are proposed: *Burhinus bistriatus vigilans* (p. 388), Costa Rica; *Coccyzus minor continentalis* (p. 389), El Salvador; *C. m. cozumelae* (p. 390), and *Xanthoura luxuosa cozumelae* (p. 397), Cozumel Isl.; *X. l. centralis* (p. 397), Guatemala; *Pheugopedius pleurostictus oblitus* (p. 399), El Salvador; *Mimus gilvus clarus* (p. 401), Quintana Roo, Mex.; and *Granatellus sallaiei griscomi* (p. 403) and *Zarhynchus wagleri ridgwayi* (p. 405), Costa Rica.

The second section of the paper deals with the types of Middle American birds in foreign museums and their identity. In this connection *Caprimulgus vociferus setosus* (p. 408) is proposed for *C. v. macromystax* Wagler, which proves to be a synonym of *C. v. vociferus*.

Mr. van Rossem's last section is an annotated list of William Brewster's Mexican collections now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy made by Abbott Fraser, Cahoon and McLeod. Itineraries of the three are presented and then a complete list of their material.

In this the following new forms are proposed: *Ortalis wagleri griseiceps* (p. 431), *Anthoscenus constantii surdus* (p. 439), *Trogon elegans canescens* (p. 441), *Turdus rufopalliatu grisor* (p. 461), *Vireo hypochryseus nitidus* (p. 465), *V. solitarius pini-colus* (p. 467), *Pheucticus chrysopeplus dilutus* (p. 479), *Pipilo masculatus griseipygius* (p. 482), *P. fuscus perpallidus* (p. 483), *Aimophila quinquestriata septentrionalis* (p. 485), and *A. bilineata confinis* (p. 487).

These collections were made from 1884 to 1888 and after describing a few novelties Mr. Brewster did no further work upon them. It will be a satisfaction to his friends that the material that he brought together has at last been studied and the results made available to all. Mr. van Rossem is to be congratulated upon a valuable contribution to the ornithology of a region upon which he is at present one of our leading authorities.—W. S.

**Mousley on the Woodcock.**—The entire January issue of the 'Canadian Field Naturalist' is devoted to a paper by Mr. Henry Mousley on the Woodcock—both the English and the American species, beginning with certain ancient drawings of the bird in the Emma Shearer Wood Library in McGill University and coming down to the most recent field observations of American and British ornithologists.

One will find in this paper a summary of the various theories and facts regarding the anatomy of the birds, the movement of the upper mandible, the source of the various noises made both in the air and on the ground, the carrying of the young and

<sup>1</sup> Critical Notes on Middle American Birds. By A. J. van Rossem. Bull. Museum Comp. Zoölogy, Vol. LXXVII, No. 7. December, 1934. Pp. 387-490.