GENERAL NOTES

The name of the Mexican Tiger Heron.—The name of *Heterocnus cabanisi* Heine (1859) has long been in use for the Mexican Tiger Heron. Unfortunately, it must be discarded because of the prior *Tigrisoma mexicana* Swainson (1834). In Murray's 'Encyclopaedia of Geography,' the zoological portions of which are by Swainson, there appears the above name, accompanied by the unmistakable description of an immature *Heterocnus,* together with an identifiable woodcut. Sherborn cites this name from the London (original) edition which I have not seen and which appeared in July, 1834. This was apparently issued in a single volume, while the two available American editions (Lea and Blanchard, Philadelphia, 1839 and 1841) are in three volumes, each paged separately. The two races of the Mexican Tiger Heron should therefore stand as:

Heterocnus mexicanus mexicanus (Swainson)

Tigrisoma mexicana Swainson, in Murray's Encl. Geog.: 1383, 1834 [Am. ed., 3: 315, fig. 1034, 1839]—Real del Monte (Hidalgo), Mexico.

Heterocnus mexicanus fremitus van Rossem and Hachisuka

Heterocnus cabanist [sic] *fremitus* van Rossem and Hachisuka, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 50: 161, Sept. 30, 1937—Guirocoba, Sonora, Mexico.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *University of California, Los Angeles, California.*

Note on *Corvus ultramarinus* Bonaparte.—In May, 1825, in the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia [4 (2): 387], Bonaparte named as *Corvus ultramarinus* the species of jay described two years later by Swainson as *Garrulus sordidus* and by Wagler as *Pica sieberii.* That Bonaparte's name applies to a large race of this species ("tail seven inches") has never been questioned and only the circumstance that the describer endowed his new bird with a "perfectly even" tail-tip led to its abandonment by recent authors in favor of one of the 1827 names. I believe that the earliest name should be revived for reasons presented below.

Bonaparte's original employment of the term "even tail" must be taken in a comparative, rather than a literal sense for he compared his bird with *"Corvus floridanus,"* a species of excessive tail graduation. Concrete evidence of what he considered to be an even tail is provided in a much later publication, his 'Conspectus Genera Avium.' In that work (Pt. 1: 378, 1850) his treatment of *Cyanocitta ultramarinus* and *Cyanocitta sieberi* is a badly scrambled combination of references and descriptions. Under *"[Cyanocitta] Garrulus ultramarinus Bp. Pl. col. 439. ex Mexico"* there is no reference to his original description. The individual described in the 'Conspectus' is, however, *not* the one figured by Temminck and Laugier (Nouv. Rec. de Planches Col.: 439, Sept. 22, 1827) but an example of the small race later named by Kaup as *Aphelocoma wollweberi.* This specimen, he states, has an "even tail." Actually, the lateral rectrices are 13 millimeters shorter than in the rest of the series. So much for the "even tail" of *ultramarinus.* The succeeding species, *sieberi,* he described as very similar to the preceding but larger and with tail rounded. But the specimen he used for this comparison is the identical one which is the basis of plate 439, and whose "rounded tail" consists of a lateral graduation of 20 millimeters!