

SUMMARY

It is suggested that *Urubitornis* J. Verreaux be considered a synonym of *Harpyhaliaetus* Lafresnaye; the latter then will contain two species *coronatus* and *solitarius*. They appear to be closely related and to have complementary ranges, as far as known. The race *H. solitarius sheffleri* van Rossem from Sonora, México, requires confirmation. Another Mexican record for the species is given.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE PENARD BROTHERS

BY FR. HAVERSCHMIDT

NEARLY forty years ago the first volume of a comprehensive work on the birds of the Guianas was published at Paramaribo in the Dutch language under the title 'De Vogels van Guyana' by Frederik Paul Penard and Arthur Philip Penard. Both authors have long since passed away and almost nothing is known about them in the ornithological world, so that it now seems a task of honor to devote a short note to their life and work.

The Penard family was of French origin and almost certainly descended from 'refugiés,' French Protestants who fled, owing to religious intolerance, from France to Holland, and who, in the 17th century, settled in Surinam. There they started a great many plantations, such as 'La Liberté,' 'Ma Retraite,' 'La Simplicité,' and several others still existing, although nearly all of them have now been deserted. Frederik Paul Penard, Senior, a merchant of ample means at Paramaribo, and his wife, Philippina Salomons, had four sons, three of whom were interested in natural history—the eldest, Frederik Paul, born January 26, 1876; the second, Thomas Edward, born May 7, 1878; the third, Arthur Philip, born April 6, 1880—all at Paramaribo.

The interest in natural history of Frederik and Arthur started in their early boyhood, but at the same time the first symptoms of a terrible disease were manifested, and both boys had to leave school early—Frederik at the age of nine, Arthur at eleven—and were obliged to spend the rest of their lives in seclusion.

The perseverance and moral power of both boys under these conditions are expressed in a letter from their mother dated November 5, 1909, after the death of her eldest son, Frederik: "Without any help and with untiring energy Frederik not only developed himself but also

taught his younger brother (Arthur) thus enabling him to educate himself and to become his coöperator in his later scientific work."

In 1896 they started the formation of a collection of bird skins and eggs from Surinam on which their future work was to be based. Owing to their physical disability they could never do any field work or collecting, themselves, but had to rely exclusively on the material which was brought to them by hunters, fishermen, Indians, and such people. In about thirteen years the whole collection of skins and eggs was brought together and was stored at their home at the Waterkant in Paramaribo, which is now the guest house of the 'Surinaamsche Bauxite Maatschappij' on the second floor of the building of the Alcoa Steamship Company, in which, also, their book was written. It was Arthur who negotiated with their helpers and who supervised the preparation of the specimens, making notes about them which had to be worked out by his elder brother, Frederik, who, in turn, wrote the entire text of the book. As a consequence the reader will notice that the whole work, even the preface, is written in the first person. Stress must be laid also on the great help and encouragement they received from their mother, Mrs. Penard-Salomons, for whom they had a great veneration and to whom the first volume was dedicated. She died at Paramaribo on December 24, 1926, at the age of 76.

During their work they came in contact with other ornithologists such as Philip Lutley Sclater who named several birds for them, and the well-known German oologist, Adolph Nehrkorn (*Katalog der Eiersammlung*, 2e Aufl.: 167, 1910). I could not find, however, that they ever were in contact with that great expert on neotropical birds, Count Hans von Berlepsch. In 1902 a small number of birds was donated to the British Museum and in the following year a greater number of eggs. They also presented some bird skins to the museum at Georgetown in Demerara, which may have been lost in the fire which destroyed that institution some years ago.

When the manuscript of their book was completed, they sold their entire collection of bird skins to Lord Rothschild at Tring, England, getting in touch there with Ernst Hartert. From the money obtained in this way, Volume I of their bird book was printed and published, appearing in April, 1908.

In a letter dated April 21, 1908, their mother who apparently did all the correspondence wrote to Dr. F. A. Jentink, at that time director of the State Natural History Museum at Leiden, Holland, presenting to him a copy of Volume I: "As to Volume II, this is beyond our powers." She then asked him whether the Leiden Museum would not be able to publish the second volume. In a further letter dated

September 7, 1908, she donated the egg collection to that institution as well as the manuscript of Volume II even though the museum might not be able to publish it. It is a great credit to Jentink that he succeeded in collecting funds in Holland for printing and publishing the second and last volume. In his endeavours he was assisted by J. Büttikofer, the famous explorer of Liberia, at that time director of the Zoo at Rotterdam, who assembled a sum in that city for the desired purpose.

In May, 1910, Volume II was issued. Unhappily the senior author, Frederik Paul, did not live to see the completion of his task, as he died at Paramaribo on September 4, 1909, at the age of 33. The bird collection on which their work was based consisted of about 875 skins which are now in the American Museum of Natural History at New York, while the egg collection of about 15,000 specimens was received at the Leiden Museum in October, 1908 (Jentink, 'Verslag omtrent's Rijks Museum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden, loopende over het tijdvak van 1 September 1908 tot 1 September 1909,' Leiden: 10, 1909).

There exists a manuscript on the mammals of Surinam by the same authors, part of which was published in a series of articles in one of the daily papers at Paramaribo.

In 1907-1908, at Paramaribo, they published another book in three volumes, also in the Dutch language, under the title, 'De menschetende aanbidders der Zonneslang' (The man-eating adorers of the Snake of the Sun), which gives the psychology, folklore and customs of the Carib Indians of Surinam, a subject in which they became deeply interested through their frequent contact with Indians.

After the publication of the bird book, Arthur did not lose his interest in ornithology, although he ceased publishing about it. It was at his instigation and through his intermediacy and help that a collection of about 2000 bird skins was brought together in the years 1912-1914 for his elder brother, Thomas Edward at Arlington, Massachusetts, certainly the most comprehensive collection ever made of the lowland avifauna of Surinam.

Thomas Edward, the second son in the Penard family, went as a boy of thirteen to the United States where he later became an engineer with the Edison Company at Arlington, Massachusetts. He had the same interests as his brothers, ornithology and the folklore, language, and habits of the Carib Indians. He became an ornithologist of scientific prominence and published several important papers. The most valuable concerning the avifauna of Surinam were: 'Notes on a collection of Surinam birds (in co-authorship with Outram Bangs)

(Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 62 (2): 26-93, 1918). It is the report on the collection made in Surinam in 1912-1914; also a useful, 'A historical sketch of the ornithology of Surinam' (De West Indische Gids, 6: 146-168, 1924), and a paper in co-authorship with his brother Arthur (Arthur's last ornithological contribution), 'Bird catching in Surinam' (De West Indische Gids, 7: 545-566, 1926).

In 1930 he sold his bird collection to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and died in that city on October 27, 1936. His extensive library was dispersed after his death. A short biography of Thomas Edward, with bibliography, was published in 'The Auk,' 54: 232-234, 1937, while a short note with his portrait taken on the occasion of his 30th Edison anniversary on February 7, 1931 (extracted from 'Edison Life,' March, 1931) appeared in De West Indische Gids, 13: 1-2, 1931-1932.

As to Arthur, all the rest of his life he was engaged in collecting a tremendous quantity of facts about the language and habits of the Carib Indians, publishing on these topics from time to time or sending material and notes to specialists. Though blind and an invalid in the latter part of his life which he spent in a country seat outside Paramaribo he never lost courage nor ceased working, dictating his notes to an assistant.

As to the scientific merits of 'De Vogels van Guyana,' it would be unfair after forty years have elapsed to criticize its value. We can only remark that it is somewhat lacking in detail as to the distribution of the birds in the regions concerned, that there is often no clear distinction between birds which breed locally and those which do not, and that several species are accepted without sufficient evidence. The breeding seasons are somewhat vaguely mentioned, and since the authors were unable to do any field work themselves they had to rely for the breeding habits solely on what was told by their helpers; in most cases these people were not always aware of the scientific bearing of their words and not always sufficiently critical. The same holds true for the value of their egg collection; the identification of the specimens is solely dependent upon these coöperators. In two recent papers (W. Ph. J. Hellebrekers, 'Revision of the Penard oological collection from Surinam,' Zool. Meded., 24: 240-275, 1942; Hellebrekers, 'Further notes on the Penard oological collection from Surinam,' *op. cit.*, 25: 93-100, 1945) measurements, weights, and descriptions of the eggs are given with a summary of the breeding seasons, but we can only hope that some day the entire collection will be studied critically by somebody who has knowledge about neotropical birds.

These remarks do not in the least minimize the value of the Penards' book, in which a tremendous lot of knowledge is assembled and made accessible for the first (and for Surinam still the only) time, especially when we bear in mind the youth of the authors when writing their book, their isolation without the help of a library for reference, and the lack of material for comparison.

Arthur died at Paramaribo on September 12, 1932, at the age of 52. He is buried next his eldest brother, Frederik, and his parents in the old Protestant cemetery at the Gravenstraat in Paramaribo, near the south entrance. Owing to a mistake the date of Arthur's death is wrongly given on his gravestone as September 13.

Certainly the Penard brothers must be reckoned, on account of their many-sided scientific work, among Surinam's greatest sons and 'De Vogels van Guyana' still is and always will be the foundation upon which all future ornithological work in Surinam will be based.

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Paramaribo, Surinam.