

## RECENT LITERATURE

**Catalogue of Birds of the Americas and the Adjacent Islands.**—HELLMAYR, CHARLES E. and BOARDMAN CONOVER. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ., Zool. Ser., vol. 13, pt. 1, no. 4: vi + 358 pp., August 19, 1949.—The last part of this indispensable catalogue is devoted to the Falconiformes; it follows the plan which has been pursued throughout the series since Hellmayr took over after Cory's death and which is by now so familiar that further comment is superfluous. There are no innovations in classification over current use except that the ospreys have been awarded family rank; there are a few changes in nomenclature, perhaps the most important being the replacing of *Polyborus* by *Caracara*, it having been shown that the former genus is a synonym of *Circus*. *Geranoaetus* and *Asturina* are merged with *Buteo*; *Urubitornis* is swallowed up in *Harpyhaliaetus*; *Urubitinga* is restored at the expense of *Hypomorphnus*. One new name is proposed, *Buteo nitidus blakei*.

The importance of the final part of the Birds of the Americas is overshadowed by the fact that it is the final part. This ambitious work was conceived by the late Charles B. Cory, Curator of the Department of Zoology at the Field Museum of Natural History. The first part (really pt. II, no. 1) appeared in March, 1918, the second (pt. II, no. 2) on December 31, 1919. In November, 1920, Cory was stricken with partial paralysis and was unable to continue work at the Museum but worked at his home for a short time daily so that, at his death in July, 1921, a third part was ready for the printer and the manuscript of the fourth part was under way.

The choice of the Field Museum to continue the series fell upon C. E. Hellmayr who arrived in Chicago in 1922 as Associate Curator of Birds, bringing with him his encyclopedic knowledge of South American birds. Hellmayr plunged into his new assignment with characteristic energy; he completely rewrote the manuscript for the third and fourth parts as Cory had left them; even so they were little delayed, part 3 appearing on November 20, 1924, and part 4 a year later. Hellmayr remained in Chicago until 1931; various personal reasons compelled his return to Europe, but he continued work on the catalogue and actually lived to complete the final part in 1939. Thus, Hellmayr lived to complete his task although he did not live to see the last part published; the preparation of these last four parts was in conjunction with Boardman Conover as junior author. Due to the fact that Cory began *in medias res*, the series is somewhat complicated bibliographically. It forms volume XIII of the Field Museum of Natural History Publications, Zoological Series, and contains 15 separately paged and indexed numbers (except that part 2, no. 2 continues the pagination of part 2, no. 1 and contains the index for both parts). The whole occupies just under 24 inches of shelf space. Of the 15 numbers, Cory is the sole author of two parts; Hellmayr is the sole author of nine; Hellmayr and Conover of four.

Since this is the first attempt at a complete list of the birds of the Americas, some statistics may be of interest, though it must be borne in mind that the series has been appearing over a period of 31 years and that there have been many additions to the known forms of American birds since the appearance of the earlier volumes.

It must be remembered that this array includes pelagic birds, accidental visitors and introduced species.

The Americas, as far as the scope of the work is concerned, "includes all species and subspecies known to occur in North America, Mexico, Central America, South America, the West Indies and islands of the Caribbean Sea, the Galapagos Archipelago and other islands which may be included on account of their faunal affinities."

## PART 1, No. 1, April 30, 1942

Family	Genera	Species	Forms
Rheidae	2	2	6
Tinamidae	9	42	126
Cracidae	11	47	92
Tetraonidae	7	12	46
Phasianidae	12	33	106
Numididae	1	1	1
Meleagrididae	2	2	7
Opisthocomidae	1	1	1
Gruidae	1	2	5
Aramidae	1	1	4
Psophidae	1	3	8
Rallidae	16	52	119
Heliornithidae	1	1	1
Eurypygidae	1	1	3
Cariamidae	2	2	2
Columbidae	22	67	187
	90	269	714

## PART 1, No. 2, August 18, 1948

Spheniscidae	4	10	10
Gaviidae	1	4	6
Colymbidae	4	12	20
Diomedidae	2	12	14
Procellariidae	13	38	48
Hydrobatidae	7	18	25
Pelecanoididae	1	4	5
Phaethontidae	1	3	4
Pelecanidae	1	2	5
Sulidae	2	6	12
Phalacrocoracidae	2	11	19
Anhingidae	1	1	2
Fregatidae	1	3	4
Ardeidae	17	25	60
Cochleariidae	1	1	3
Ciconiidae	3	3	3
Threskiornithidae	9	11	17
Phoenicopteridae	2	3	4
Anhimidae	2	3	3
Anatidae	44	103	134
	118	273	398

## PART 1, No. 3, Dec. 16, 1948

Jacaniidae	1	1	8
Rostratulidae	1	1	1
Haematopodidae	1	3	10
Charadriidae	13	22	32
Scolopacidae	23	59	73
Recurvirostridae	2	3	4
Phalaropodidae	3	3	3
Burhinidae	1	2	5
Thinocoridae	2	4	9
Chionidae	1	1	1
Stercorariidae	2	4	8
Laridae	17	54	78
Rynchopidae	1	1	5
Alcidae	13	20	30
	81	178	267

## PART 1, No. 4, Aug. 19, 1949

Family	Genera	Species	Forms
Cathartidae	5	6	10
Accipitridae	26	69	146
Pandionidae	1	1	2
Falconidae	9	24	71
	41	100	229

  

PART 2, No. 1, Mar. 1918			
Bubonidae	18	63	150
Tytonidae	1	5	12
Psittacidae	37	189	245
Steatornithidae	1	1	2
Alcedinidae	2	6	15
Todidae	1	6	7
Momotidae	7	18	39
Nyctibiidae	1	7	13
Caprimulgidae	22	46	85
Apodidae	9	27	47
Trochilidae	133	487	650
	232	855	1265

## PART 2, No. 2, Dec. 31, 1919

Trogonidae	8	32	45
Cuculidae	14	37	68
Capitonidae	4	19	29
Ramphastidae	7	54	72
Galbulidae	7	19	27
Bucconidae	13	40	63
Picidae	37	170	323
	90	371	627

## PART 3, Nov. 20, 1924

Pteroptochidae	10	28	37
Conopophagidae	2	12	20
Formicariidae	55	232	504
	67	272	561

## PART 4, Dec. 29, 1925

Furnariidae	55	211	431
Dendrocolaptidae	14	60	180
	69	271	611

## PART 5, April 11, 1927

Tyrannidae	114	360	763
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## PART 6, Nov. 14, 1929

Oxyruncidae	1	1	4
Pipridae	21	55	122
Cotingidae	31	90	167
Rupicolidae	1	2	5
Phytotomidae	1	3	4
	55	151	302

## PART 7, Nov. 15, 1934

Corvidae	14	41	118
Paridae	3	13	46

PART 7, Nov. 15, 1934—Cont.

Family	Genera	Species	Form
Sittidae	1	4	17
Certhiidae	1	1	9
Chamaeidae	1	1	5
Cinclidae	1	3	8
Troglodytidae	16	69	299
Prunellidae	1	1	1
Mimidae	13	34	81
Turdidae	16	65	194
Zeledoniidae	1	1	1
Sylviidae	4	12	40
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	72	245	819

PART 8, Sept. 16, 1935

Alaudidae	2	2	24
Hirundinidae	17	26	56
Motacillidae	2	13	27
Bombycillidae	1	2	2
Ptilognatidae	3	4	7
Dulidae	1	1	2
Vireonidae	5	37	107
Vireolaniidae	2	3	11
Cyclarhidae	1	2	17
Laniidae	1	2	12

PART 8, Sept. 16, 1935—Cont.

Family	Genera	Species	Form
Sturnidae	2	2	2
Coerebidae	12	38	136
Compsothlypidae	25	114	274
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	74	246	677

PART 9, Oct. 6, 1936

Tersinidae	1	1	3
Thraupidae	62	211	527
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	63	212	530

PART 10, April 12, 1937

Icteridae	35	96	238
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PART 11, Dec. 31, 1938

Ploceidae	4	5	5
Catamblyrhynchidae	1	1	2
Fringillidae	105	322	888
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	110	328	895

GRAND TOTALS

114	1311	4227	8896
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The latter class includes Greenland, Bermuda, islands off the west coast of México, islands off Brazil (Fernando Noronha, South Trinidad, Martin Vas), Falkland Islands, South Shetland Ids, South Orkney Ids, South Sandwich Ids, and the opposite shore of Antarctica.

The total number (4227) listed as full species is surprisingly large in proportion to the number of subspecies (8896) but consideration must be given to the fact that Cory was no advocate of the "Formenkreis theory" and, while Hellmayr certainly was, many birds regarded by him as specifically distinct have since been shown, in the light of additional material, to be only of subspecific rank. As few new species have been described in the area covered by the work, but many new subspecies, should the entire work be brought up to date, the number of species would be somewhat less and the number of subspecies greatly increased.—J. L. PETERS.

W. E. Saunders—Naturalist.—Edited by R. J. Rutter. (Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Toronto), pp. vi + 66, 5 photos, May, 1949.—This volume, with chapters by R. J. Rutter, John Dearness, P. A. Taverner, J. R. Dymond, J. L. Baillie, R. G. Dingman, and by Saunders himself, is a memorial volume to Dr. William Edwin Saunders of London, Ontario, Canada.

These essays by some of his close associates provide interesting and informal sidelights on the activities and the character of Saunders. From them one can perhaps understand how it was possible for Dr. Saunders to carry on a full business career and still have time and energy to publish the some 277 papers listed in this book. He belonged to a "school" of broad interests which, unfortunately, is fast disappearing in these days of superspecialization.—H. I. FISHER.

Maine Birds.—Palmer, Ralph S. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 102: 1-656, 3 figs., 2 tables, July, 1949. Price, \$5.00—This is the first book on the birds of this state that has appeared since Ora Knight's 'The Birds of Maine' (1908). The two works are hardly comparable, for 'Maine Birds' is primarily a compilation of records or,

as the author states, "an historical review," based largely on data gathered by the late Arthur Norton, Curator of the Portland Society of Natural History. The report brings up to date the available information on the avifauna of Maine.

Palmer lists 339 species (apart from introductions) and 22 additional subspecies as definitely known to occur or to have occurred in Maine and emphasizes the ecological aspects and changes known to have taken place in the indigenous avifauna. In comparison with other New England States the most interesting feature is the presence of numerous northern forms, some of which are found nesting at sea-level, while the boreal American Pipit finds suitable summer habitat on the summit of Mt. Katahdin.

This reviewer disagrees with the statement that the Red-breasted Merganser breeds "rather commonly on islands westward into Penobscot Bay." He also does not regard the Bank Swallow as "uncommon throughout," or the Vesper Sparrow as uncommon in the potato country of northern Maine. But there is little to criticize and much to praise in 'Maine Birds.' One is impressed with the amount of data gathered by Palmer, with his skill in culling the records, and with the admirable conservatism of the entire work, which is bound to stimulate interest in the study of birds of his native state.—J. BOND.

**How to Know the Birds. An Introduction to Bird Recognition.**—Peterson, Roger Tory. (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston), pp. x + 9-144, more than 400 figs., 4 col. pls. 1949. Price, \$2.00.—This same book, in paper covers and without the four colored plates, is also available as A Mentor Book (New Amer. Lib. World Lit., Inc., New York, 1949) at a price of \$0.35.

Although not as complete as Peterson's 'Field Guides to Birds,' either in number of species discussed or in extent of discussion, the present book offers to the beginning ornithologist an enjoyable and efficient means of becoming acquainted with many birds. No scientific names are used, and the information is presented in simple, concise language. The book is adequately indexed.

As in his previous books, Peterson has used innumerable drawings to illustrate diagnostic field characteristics, and there is a section on typical silhouettes; these sketches are invaluable aids. The part on birds to be found in particular habitats will also be useful to the beginner.

The author and publishers are to be congratulated for bringing such a book within the means of all those interested.—H. I. FISHER.

**Atlas de los Colores.**—Villalobos-Domínguez, C. and Julio Villalobos. With English text by Aubrey Malyn Homer. (El Ateneo, Florida 340, Buenos Aires, Argentina), pp. xv + 74, append. pp. 12, 38 col. charts, 2 pls., September 30, 1947. \$25.00.—In view of the fact that Robert Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Nomenclature' (Washington, 1912) has long been out of print and difficult to obtain, this work is especially welcome. It contains 38 charts showing 7279 sample colors. The authors claim that the inks used in printing the charts have "the maximum fastness to light and chromatic purity possible . . . in the present state of technical knowledge." Moreover, they guarantee that the charts in each copy published "have been verified as identical to those of any other copy equally guaranteed."

The charts are so designed that colored subjects to be compared with them can be placed underneath and examined through perforations in the actual samples on the charts. This arrangement has additional advantages in that soiling or scratching of the charts is avoided and comparison with irregular surfaces is more easily allowed. The binding of the volume is loose-leaf in order to permit removal of the charts. A

unique feature is the lateral index to the charts, each one of which represents a distinct hue in the spectrum. Thus it is easy to find the particular degree of color desired.

The authors have derived their own system of symbolizing the color samples and have taken great pains to explain it at length. In spite of the large number of sample colors involved, the system is relatively simple, making it possible to designate quickly any given color.

Of great value is a table converting the symbols used in this work to the nomenclature (Roman numerals and color names) in Ridgway's work which was for many years the most widely used atlas of its kind. The presence of this table permits persons, who do not have a copy of Ridgway, to identify colors in the many descriptions which referred to the Ridgway system.—OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR.

**A Reconnaissance of the Game Birds in Hawaii.**—Charles W. and Elizabeth Reeder Schwartz. (Bd. Comm. Agr. and For., Honolulu, Hawaii), pp. 1-168, 17 text-figs., 10 maps (2 col.), many photographs, 21 tables, 1949—Based upon 18 months of intensive and continuous field work by both authors on all the major Hawaiian Islands except Kahoolawe and Niihau, this work is "a scientifically accurate but popular picture of the game birds . . ." Although designed as a popular presentation, the study is based upon a great mass of detailed data which will be published in a series of articles in periodicals; the work on the California Quail is in this present issue of 'The Auk.'

The first 25 pages are devoted to a short historical account, the climate, geology, soils and vegetation zones; a colored map summarizes the vegetation zones. General game management and predators are discussed in the last 25 pages, but it is in the species accounts that the authors make their major contributions.

The pheasant, California Quail, Lace-necked Dove, Barred Dove, Japanese Quail, Feral Pigeon and Jungle Fowl are the most important game birds. Each account includes data on distribution and populations (supported by censuses and illustrated by figures), breeding season and habits, sex and age ratios, parasites, predators, food types (discussed for each vegetation zone), food and water requirements and a rather detailed analysis of the various habitats (by zones) with recommendations for management.

Short accounts of other exotics, such as the Chukar Partridge, Turkey, Pea Fowl, Guinea Fowl and Prairie Chicken, of the native goose, duck, stilt, coot, gallinule, and of the Golden Plover, Wandering Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone and Bristle-thighed Curlew round out the treatment.

Outstanding in all sections is the information on food habits, distribution and populations—as are also the illustrations which are excellent.

This bulletin and the scientific papers on which it is based furnish the most extensive and intensive study yet undertaken of any avian species in Hawaii.—H. I. FISHER.

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#### OBITUARIES

CHARLES TAYLOR VORHIES, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1918, died suddenly in Washington, D. C., on March 10, 1949. Born in Henry County, Iowa, September 7, 1879, he attended public grade and high schools and received his B.S. from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1902. In 1908, he became the first to receive the Ph.D. in zoology at the University of Wisconsin. As professor of zoology and botany at the University of Utah, he served also from 1911 to 1913 as acting dean of the medical school. Moving to Tucson in 1915, he became a professor at the University of Arizona, where for years he was head of the department of entomology and economic zoology. Among other positions, he served for a period as acting president of the University. He would have retired June 30, 1950.

Originally an entomologist, Dr. Vorhies later worked mainly on the lives and ecology of "desert" rodents. Well versed also in herpetology and ornithology, he was one of our few true naturalists. His leadership in the field of ecology was recognized in his election as president of the Ecological Society of America in 1939. Long active in the cause of conservation, he helped found the Arizona Game Protective Association, the Tucson Natural History Society, and the Arizona Wildlife Federation which he served as secretary-treasurer for many years. He was a vice-president and chairman of the Committee on Conservation Education of the National Wildlife Federation; a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and president of its Southwestern Division in 1933; and active in other scientific and honorary societies.

Most of his ornithological papers appeared in 'The Condor' (1921 to 1947). He will be especially remembered for such ecological papers as 'Do Southwestern quail require water?' (*Amer. Nat.*, 62: 446-452, 1928) and his studies of rodents, particularly his pioneering 'Water requirements of desert animals in the Southwest' (*Univ. Ariz. Agr. Exp. Sta., Tech. Bull.*, 107, 1945). His death is a tragic loss to his associates, to science, and to the cause of intelligent land use.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS.

ROBERT BRUCE HORSFALL, an Associate elected in 1905, died at Long Branch, New Jersey, March 24, 1948, at the age of 79. He was born at Clinton, Iowa, on October 21, 1868, where his father had emigrated from England. He studied at the