

the Florida form, instead of the common form, *cristata*. As this may be true, and as I am unable to verify the suggestion, I withdraw the record of *Cyanocitta cristata cristata* and substitute for it *Cyanocitta cristata* subsp.?

Crow. It is suggested that the crow of the region is the Southern Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*, of Howell, 1913. This may be true, but as it has not as yet been passed on by the A. O. U. Committee, I do not feel at liberty to anticipate the action of the Committee, and therefore follow the lead of Pearson (*op. cit.*, p. 521). It is hard enough to keep up with the changes of modern zoological nomenclature without attempting to jump ahead of it!

Cardinal. This is an error. It should read the Gray-tailed Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis canicaudus*, instead of the common Cardinal, subspecies *cardinalis*.

Painted Bunting. It is suggested that this should be the Texas Painted Bunting, a subspecies, a suggestion that I am unable to verify.

Texas Chickadee. I based the breeding record on the presence of young birds already out of the nest. As there is a bare possibility that these babies *might* not have hatched on the island, I withdraw the breeding record.

In conclusion, let me say that until a mass of careful, up-to-date work is done on the avifauna of Texas, it is almost useless to attempt to compare records. The field is still practically untouched, and the lines of overlapping of eastern and western, northern and southern varieties are still undrawn with any degree of certainty. There is a great piece of work to be done in Texas, and it is to be hoped that local ornithologists (of whom there are several) may, in the not too far distant future, give us some really constructive work on Texas ornithology.—ALVIN R. CAHN, *Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, June 25, 1923.*

Green-tailed Towhee in the Blue Mountains of Washington.—On July 19, 1923, while working south of the Wenatchee Ranger Station (Asotin County), elevation 5500 feet, my attention was called to a bird by a song which did not fit into the usual program of my territory. At first, it was thought to be the song of the Slate-colored Fox Sparrow; yet it had in it the quality of the Western Lark Sparrow. The notes were followed across the upper canyon of Wenatchee Creek, only to have them cease when the desired locality was reached. The following morning the search was renewed and a male Green-tailed Towhee (*Oreospiza chlorura*) was taken. The bird was in full breeding condition, but in somewhat worn plumage.

In all, three singing males of this species were heard in this canyon, which was one of many similar ones tributary to the Grande Ronde River.—WM. T. SHAW, *Pullman, Washington, July 24, 1923.*

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The phenomenon of albinism among birds is now so very well known that we doubt the value of printing further records of albinos. Indeed we do not invite further contributions to this magazine of such records, *unless* there be accompanying observations of some significance, such as upon the behavior of other birds toward said aberrant individuals, or upon the results of their breeding. We might suggest further that such albinos as are met with had much better be left alive than collected. The intrinsic value of an albino blackbird, for instance, is much greater for potential information alive than when turned into a study-skin. Normally colored birds make far more instructive specimens from nearly every point of view.

The August, 1923, number of the National Geographic Magazine contains a noteworthy contribution from William L. Finley, entitled "Hunting Birds with a Camera". The best 36, we judge, of all the pictures taken by Mr. and Mrs. Finley, either themselves alone or in collaboration with Mr. H. T. Bohlman, are here reproduced in admirable style. The text gives briefly some of the circumstances in the interesting history of these remarkable pictures.

We marvel at the productive activity displayed by the ornithologists of Australia. Book after book comes out, of superior technical merit or else of good popular character. The Emu holds, perhaps, foremost rank among the ornithological

magazines of the world for the publication of new life-history materials, and its photographic illustrations are seldom excelled. Now we have announcement of a projected work of superlative magnitude, to be entitled "Cayley's Birds of Australia, their Habits, Nests and Eggs". The publishers are Angus and Robertson, of Sydney. The work will be illustrated by Mr. Neville W. Cayley, a talented artist; and the text will be furnished by many authorities in the different portions of the field covered, among whom are A. J. Campbell, A. G. Campbell, C. L. Barrett (editor), Edwin Ashby, W. B. Alexander, and S. A. White. Apparently, this will be a thoroughgoing, joint product bringing the subject of Australian ornithology right down to date in practically complete form.

Mr. H. Hedley Mitchell, of the Normal School at Regina, Saskatchewan, has compiled a very creditable list of the birds of that Province. The Provincial Government plans to publish this shortly in a form to be useful to the public in general and to school people in particular. The appearance of this contribution, which we have examined in manuscript, will, we feel sure mark a distinct advance in the development of the ornithology of the central Canadian provinces.

Dr. Casey A. Wood is spending some months in the Fiji Islands where he is making observations upon the bird-life, and securing drawings and specimens of the rarer species.

We observe with interest a note appended to a recent publication of the United States Department of Agriculture. After the usual announcement of the place of sale and the cost, there is added, "purchaser agrees not to re-sell or distribute this copy for profit". Presumably this is an outcome of a growing feeling of resentment on the part of the interested public at the way in which certain important government publications have at once become "out of print", to re-appear in the hands of the book dealers at greatly inflated prices. Whether the "profiteers" aimed at will feel themselves bound by any such "agreement" is a question, but at any rate it is a satisfaction to know that this particular problem is recognized by those in authority and that steps are being taken towards a solution. The Federal Government is performing an extremely useful function in supplying authoritative information, on ornithological subjects as well as on many others, at minimum cost, and it is a service that we believe receives general and deep appreciation. If some method can be devised

whereby speculators can be discouraged from grasping the opportunity so easy to be taken advantage of, the general public will benefit.

Among Cooper Club members who participated in the programs of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Los Angeles, September 17 to 19, were the following: Mr. Donald R. Dickey, on the birds of Laysan Island (illustrated by motion pictures); Dr. Walter P. Taylor, on the present status of the Band-tailed Pigeon, and on the conservation of upland game birds in Washington; Mr. E. C. Jaeger, on the importance of correct geographical place names; Dr. Joseph Grinnell, on the bird-life of Death Valley, and on geography and evolution; Dr. Barton W. Evermann, on the sea environment of natural resources contrasted with that on the land in relation to conservation; Mr. J. Eugene Law, on the geologic history of the Fox Sparrows; Dr. David Starr Jordan, on barriers in relation to species-forming.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

GRISCOM ON *DENDRAGAPUS**.—Of the four birds described in this paper, one is a supposedly new form of sooty grouse, *Dendragapus obscurus munroi*, from the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia. The main point of general interest in this description is the claim that there are in the genus *Dendragapus* two molts each year. Aside from the regular annual molt, Griscom asserts and re-asserts that there is in the male a "prenuptial" molt, which involves the plumage of "head, neck, chin and throat, and to a slight extent the upper back," and that in the female it is even more extensive. This molt, it is stated, is accomplished in the male in May or early June. In the female of *munroi* it takes place "anywhere between early April and the middle of June."

The material used as the basis for the study consisted of twenty-nine skins of "*munroi*," from the Queen Charlotte Islands, and a total of just fifteen skins of "*fuliginosus*" from elsewhere. Griscom proceeds at the outset to preach the exercise of care in systematic work in determining the effects of molt and wear. In other words, he 'talks down' to other systematic workers, more particularly to Mr. Harry

*Descriptions of Apparently New Birds from North America and the West Indies, by Ludlow Griscom: American Museum Novitates, Number 71, April 30, 1923, pp. 1-8.