

**Ridgway on a Small Collection of Costa Rican Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—The collection consists of 10 species of little-known birds, which are here further described from specimens submitted for examination by the authorities of the Costa Rica National Museum. Several of them are species recently characterized by Mr. Ridgway and Mr. Cherrie, and one is here described as new, namely "*Buthraupis cæruleigularis* Cherrie, sp. nov." The status of *Tachyphonus rubrifrons* Lawr. is considered, *Antristomus rufo-maculatus* Ridgw. is referred to *A. saturatus* Salvin, and considerable additional material relating to a number of other species is described, particularly *Platypsaris aglaia* Ridgw. and *Scytalopus argentifrons* Ridgw.—J. A. A.

**Ridgway on a Collection of Birds from Alaska.**<sup>2</sup>—This is a briefly annotated list of 35 species, collected by Mr. C. H. Townsend at Kodiak, the Shumagins, and other points along the Alaskan coast, principally in August, 1888. The notes give simply the localities and dates of the specimens collected, with in addition a description of the first plumage of the Western Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis pacificus*).—J. A. A.

**Ridgway on a New Storm Petrel.**<sup>3</sup>—The Storm Petrel heretofore known as *Oceanodroma melania* (Bon.) is here renamed *Oceanodroma townsendi*, as "a series of nine finely prepared skins of this species, collected by Mr. C. H. Townsend off Guaymas and Acapulco, Mexico, proves," says Mr. Ridgway, "that this bird cannot be the *Thalassidroma melania* of Bonaparte, neither the dimensions nor the coloration agreeing at all closely with the latter." The habitat is given as "off coast of Mexico, north to Cape St. Lucas and Guaymas." The specimen (No. 13,025) selected as type was taken at Cape St. Lucas many years since by Mr. J. Xantus. The date of capture of none of the specimens is here given.—J. A. A.

**Ridgway on the Genus *Formicarius*.**<sup>4</sup>—This revision of the difficult and little-known genus *Formicarius* is based on a "series of nearly sixty specimens," which serves to make quite clear a number of doubtful

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<sup>1</sup> On a small Collection of Birds from Costa Rica. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, 1893, pp. 609-614.

<sup>2</sup> Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made in Alaska by Mr. C. H. Townsend during the Cruise of the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer *Albatross*, in the Summer and Autumn of 1888. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, 1893, pp. 663-665.

<sup>3</sup> Description of a New Storm Petrel from the Coast of Western Mexico. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, 1893, pp. 687, 688.

<sup>4</sup> A Revision of the genus *Formicarius* Boddaert. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XVI, 1893, pp. 667-686.

points, but, says Mr. Ridgway, "the material is still far from adequate for a satisfactory treatment of the subject, immense areas of South America and considerable portions of Central America being absolutely unrepresented." One of the results is the discovery that "three very distinct forms of the *analis* section of the genus occur in Costa Rica," and that the form usually referred to *F. analis* is really not that species at all, but *F. nigricapillus* Cherrie, MS., here for the first time described. Of the 12 species recognized by Mr. Ridgway 10 were represented in the material under examination. The provisional name *Formicarius nigrifrons glaucopectus* is proposed for "three Guiana birds" which appear to differ from true *nigrifrons* of the Upper Amazon. The probable intergradation of a number of the forms here treated as species is intimated.—J. A. A.

**Stejneger on Japanese Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—Of the forty odd species here commented upon eight are given as new to the avifauna of Japan, and five are described as new to science. The latter are *Æstrelata longirostris*, *Columba taczanowskii*, *Accipiter pallens*, *Locustella hondoensis* and *Emberiza ciopsis ijimæ*. In commenting on *Oceanodroma markhami* (Salv.) Dr. Stejneger refers incidentally to *O. melania* (Bon.), considering that "the two Mexican birds, the type and the [Cape St. Lucas] specimen in the National Museum" as "true *O. melania*." But Mr. Ridgway (see above, p. 169) has since made the Cape St. Lucas bird (No. 13,025, U. S. Nat. Mus.) the type of his recently described *Oceanodroma townsendii*. (Cf. Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XVI, 1893, p. 687.)

Dr. Stejneger has also an important note on *Æstrelata brevipes* (Peale), in which he claims that *Æ. brevipes* is not a synonym of *Æ. leucoptera* (Gould), as commonly supposed; on the other hand, *Procellaria torquata* Macgillivray (1860) he finds to be a synonym of *Procellaria brevipes* Peale (1848). He also finds that the bird previously recorded by him as *Æ. leucoptera* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XIV, 1891, p. 490) is the *Æ. hypoleuca* Salv., as shown by recent examination of authentic material. There are also a couple of pages of critical observations on *Yungipicus kizuki* and *Y. k. seebohmi*, and much criticisms of Mr. Seebohm's views on the nomenclature and relationships of Japanese birds.—J. A. A.

**Richmond's Notes on Nicaraguan Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—So many lists of tropical birds are based on the collections of natives or travellers having little or no knowledge of ornithology, and are therefore accompanied only by

<sup>1</sup> Notes on a Third Instalment of Japanese Birds in the Science College Museum, Tokoyo, Japan, with Descriptions of New Species. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XVI, 1893, pp. 615-638.

<sup>2</sup> On a Collection of Birds from Eastern Nicaragua and Rio Frio, Costa Rica, with Notes; and a Description of a Supposed new Trogon. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, 1893, pp. 479-532.