

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.¹—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.²—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

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

² 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.