

ward. Five females with enlarged ovaries were taken and one contained an egg "that would have been deposited in one or two days."

The two new birds discovered have been described by Mr. Cory in this Journal (Vol. XII, 1895, p. 278). One, *Elainea cherriei*, is related to *E. fallax* of Jamaica, the other, *Hyetornis fieldi*, is a very interesting addition to this genus, which before contained only the Jamaican *Hyetornis pluvialis*.—F. M. C.

Warren's 'Taxidermy' and Bird-Laws.¹—Dr. Warren writes (Introduction, p. 9): "This Bulletin has been prepared to enable earnest students of ornithological science, who have complied with all the requirements of the act of May 14, 1889 (page 55), to learn some facts concerning the collecting and preservation of birds and their eggs." The object is a worthy one in so far as it relates to "earnest students of ornithological science," but we fear that the wholesale distribution of a pamphlet of this nature will awaken an interest in 'bird-stuffing' and result in the needless destruction of large numbers of birds. Birds mounted on "plush-covered panels" or "bamboo screens" are surely not in use for the "strictly scientific purposes" of the state law (p. 56), and suggestions for purely decorative work of this kind seem out of place in a treatise addressed to "students of ornithological science."

We are surprised to see that in spite of Dr. Warren's efforts Hawks and Owls are not protected by the Pennsylvania law.—F. M. C.

Ridgway and Lucas on a New Family of Birds.²—In 'The Auk' for April, 1895, p. 186, Mr. Lucas states that "Mr. Ridgway has found it necessary to establish a new family for the reception of the genus *Procnias* but the diagnosis has only recently appeared, in addition to which Mr. Lucas gives in a separate paper the osteological and pterylographical characters. The group has hitherto held the position of a subfamily of the Tanagrīdæ; and no one familiar with these birds can have failed to notice their aberrant characters, as compared with other Tanagers. Mr. Lucas says, respecting the osteology, that the skull, "in spite of its

¹ Bulletin No. 6. Department of Agriculture. Division of Economic Zoölogy. Taxidermy. How to Collect, Skin, Preserve and Mount Birds. The Game and Fish Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Illustrated. By B. H. Warren, M. D., State Zoölogist, Harrisburg, Pa. Second edition. Clarence M. Busch, State Printer of Pennsylvania, 1896. 8vo. pp. 128, fig. xi.

² Characters of a New American Family of Passerine Birds. By Robert Ridgway, Curator of the Department of Birds. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, No. 1076, pp. 449, 450.

Osteological and Pterylographical Characters of the Procnatiidæ. By F. A. Lucas, Curator of the Department of Comparative Anatomy. *Ibid.*, No. 1077, pp. 505-507, with 5 cuts.

superficial resemblance to that of a Swallow is structurally more nearly like that of such a typical Tanager as *Piranga erythromelas*; but in the characters of the palate, *Procnias* departs so widely not only from the Tanagers but from the large majority of Passerine birds, as to warrant the establishment of a separate family for the members of the genus." The pterylographical notes have been contributed by Mr. Hurbert L. Clark, who says that while the pterylosis of *Procnias* is evidently passerine, it "shows no particular leaning to any group." Figures are given of the palatal region of the skull, and of the dorsal feather tracts, the former in comparison with a Swallow and a Tanager, and the latter with those of several species of Tanagers.—J. A. A.

Montgomery on Migration as a Check upon Geographical Variation¹.—The evidence is so clearly in favor of Mr. Montgomery's proposition that few doubtless will question the correctness of his main conclusions. While we do not recall having seen the matter formally stated, doubtless the coincidences here stated have not failed of recognition on the part of many students of geographical variation. The author calls attention to the fact that birds which are non-migratory, or which migrate only to a limited extent, in case they have also a wide geographical distribution, are apt to become differentiated into more or less well-marked subspecies under the varying conditions of environment of the widely separated parts of their range, while birds that migrate extensively, say through 30° or more of latitude, even if widely dispersed during the breeding season, seldom show a tendency to become differentiated into subspecies. This he believes is due to the fact that "the influence of the winter environment acts as a check upon the acquisition of adaptations suited alone to the summer environment."—J. A. A.

Contributions to Economic Ornithology.—The 'Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1895', recently issued, contains two noteworthy contributions to economic ornithology. Mr. Sylvester D. Judd reports on the food and general habits of the Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, and House Wren, each species being illustrated with an excellent full-length cut by Mr. J. L. Ridgway. The verdict is favorable to all, as they subsist largely upon injurious insects. The House Wren is "exclusively insectivorous"; the others live partly on fruits, some of which are cultivated.

¹ Extensive Migration in Birds as a Check upon the Production of Geographical Varieties. By Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr., *American Naturalist*, June, 1896, pp. 458-464.

² Four Common Birds of the Farm and Garden. By Sylvester D. Judd, Assistant Ornithologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1895, pp. 405-418, with 4 cuts.