

here¹ his belief that *Cactornis* is generically separable from *Geospiza*, contrary to the view of Mr. Ridgway, and claims that "the *Cactornis propinqua* Ridgway from Tower Island in the north and *Geospiza conirostris* Ridgway from Hood Island in the south of the Archipelago have no relationship whatever." He believes that "all the plastic genera, which are represented only by a single species on each island, as *Nesomimus*, *Certhidia*, *Pyrocephalus* and *Cactornis*, show peculiar species on nearly every island," while there are genera, "like *Geospiza* and *Cactornis*, which have more than one species on one island,—two or three, perhaps four." In explanation of this he says we "simply have to imagine that already, before the splitting up of the Galapagos land area into distinct islands, there existed at least three species of *Geospiza* and *Camarhynchus*, each of which became differentiated on the different islands. This shows at once that we can not arrange these species in one series, [as done by Mr. Ridgway] but in three parallel series," etc.

Dr. Baur makes a few remarks about the birds from Charles, Hood, Barrington, and South Albemarle Islands, and explains that the disappearance of the box of specimens at Guayaquil was not so serious a loss as supposed, only three species being lost instead of the much larger number stated by Mr. Ridgway. Of the others alcoholic specimens were preserved. Dr. Baur also makes some additions to the lists of species given by Mr. Ridgway from some of the islands. — J. A. A.

Bulletin of the B. O. C.—No. XLIX of this periodical, Dec. 29, 1897, contains among other novelties *Phaëtton americanus* sp. n., the North American bird being distinguished from *P. flavirostris* by having the black on outer web of 1st primary extending within 0.50 of the end, that on 2d and 4th primaries reaching almost to the tip, the whole outer web of the 3d black, and the bill entirely black, except above the nasal opening.—E. C.

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¹ Birds of the Galapagos Archipelago: a Criticism of Mr. Robert Ridgway's Paper. By G. Baur, University of Chicago. Amer. Naturalist, Vol. XXXI, Sept., 1897, pp. 777–784.

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