

very wild that it was lost among the sand hills. In order to satisfy myself that the bird I failed to get would remain, I made another visit on February 9, to the island, and after searching for more than three hours I succeeded in flushing and finally securing it. All the specimens taken are females. The winter of 1906 has been the mildest since the winter of 1889-90, and the presence of these birds on this coast is not due to a rigorous season, but to the absence of the food supply. For previous records of the capture of this species in South Carolina by the writer, see 'The Auk,' April, 1902, p. 203.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Tagging Migrants.—In accordance with the scheme outlined in 'The Auk,' XXI, p. 410, I have been placing aluminum tags upon the tarsus of nestling birds, and have induced others to follow my example in the work. This past spring several field workers have been using tags supplied by me and this winter the first result has been attained.

May 29 Mr. Chas. Kirkpatrick of Keota, Keokuck Co., Iowa, tagged a nest of half grown Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) near his home. Dec. 25 Mr. J. E. Ross took No. 123 of this series at Many, Sabine Co., Louisiana. The bird was not saved but I secured the tag from the collector and have identified it as one of my issue.

This single success shows what might be expected if the work was more generally prosecuted by ornithologists in the field. The amount of labor it entails to bend bands around the legs of a brood of nestlings is insignificant in comparison with the value of the results that may be achieved if but a very small percentage of the so marked birds ever turn up again. Many of the problems of ornithology can be solved only by some such line of work. Exact data on the age of different plumages, length of life of birds, individual routes of migration and the distances traveled by individuals, are but some of the problems that must be so attacked. To avoid confusion of having several series of tags in use at once it is advisable for one person to issue them,¹ only stipulating that, at the end of the season, a list of the tags so used, the species thus marked, and the date and place, be furnished me to be kept as a matter of record, and to have the benefit of two records to guard against loss of notes through accident.—P. A. TAVERNER, *165 Oakland Ave., Detroit, Mich.*

Notes from Hancock County, Mississippi.—On January 1, 1902, a specimen of Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) was taken by W. B. Allison and the writer, in a low meadow cleared from the pine woods near Bay St. Louis. It was in fine plumage and good condition. Another was seen in the same place on February 11, 1902. These two are the only Mississippi records.

¹ The tags are inexpensive and I will gladly distribute them to those desirous of carrying on the work.

In my note-book I find this entry under date of Apr. 8, 1902: "... I observed an interesting thing in connection with another Waxwing, separate from this flock. On a bare branch, a few yards away, in a little swampy bottom, I noticed an attenuated object, perfectly motionless, that soon took the colors, but not the shape, of a Cedarbird. It was so very thin and elongated that I thought either that it was the dried body of a bird that had hung there for weeks, or that a particularly murderous Shrike had impaled it by the neck, and the stretching had resulted from that. But as I came very close, and got a side view, I saw that the bird was alive, but was adopting the ruse described by Chapman, in his book on bird photography, as being employed by *Ardetta exilis*. The neck was stretched straight up, the bill nearly vertical, the crest depressed; and the general appearance of the bird made it obvious that it was trying, by straightening and greatly attenuating its body, to simulate as closely as possible a dead branch. When I was about five feet away, it fluttered off with some difficulty, evidently wounded." — ANDREW ALLISON, *Ellisville, Miss.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway on the American Families of Oligomyodian Passeres.¹

—In a paper of ten pages Mr. Ridgway reviews the taxonomic history of these groups, and gives a 'Provisional Key to the Families of Mesomyodi,' followed by a revision of the families Tyrannidæ, Pipridæ, and Cotingidæ, with the result that a dozen genera heretofore commonly placed in Tyrannidæ are now either actually removed to other families, or their closer alliance to other families is suggested. Several, as *Sirytes*, *Hylonax*, *Elainopsis*, *Tyrannulus* and *Ornithion*, are transferred to the Cotingidæ, four or five others are thought to have Formicarian affinities, and one, *Lawrencia*, is thought to agree essentially with the Vireonidæ. As the internal structure of very few of the Mesomyodian forms is known, the arrangement here proposed is necessarily tentative, being based mainly on external characters.— J. A. A.

¹ Some Observations concerning the American Families of Oligomyodian Passeres. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XIX, pp. 7-16, Jan. 29, 1906.