

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 *Sirystes*, *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.