

Stone and Rhoads on Birds from Northeastern Lower California.¹—

A trip to the mouth of the Colorado River, made by Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads in the early part of the year 1905, in the interest of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, resulted in the acquisition of considerable collections of mammals and birds, which are here reported upon by Mr. Witmer Stone. The birds numbered 258 specimens, representing about 50 species. These are listed, with their localities and a transcript of Mr. Rhoads's field notes. A second annotated list of 58 species that were observed, but not collected, completes this welcome addition to our knowledge of the little known ornithology of the delta region of the Rio Colorado. — J. A. A.

Thayer and Bangs on Birds from Panama.—Two papers (Nos. 2 and 3) have recently appeared relating to the results of the John E. Thayer Expedition of 1904. The first² relates to the mammals and birds of the Pearl Islands, Bay of Panama, collected by Mr. W. W. Brown on a second visit to these islands in March and April, 1904. Previous to Mr. Brown's first visit to these islands, in 1900, little was known of their natural history. "On his first trip to the Pearl Islands Mr. Brown secured examples of forty-two species of birds, only two of which were North American migrants. On the present expedition he took representatives of ninety-two species. . . . Thus the number of species of birds so far taken in the Pearl Islands is ninety-four, of which thirty-three are North American migrants, and sixty-one resident breeding birds of the islands." Of the 33 North American migrants 24 are passerine species and 9 are sandpipers and plovers.

Respecting a number of the species and subspecies there is much pertinent comment respecting their status and relationships. Of special interest are the remarks on the *Butorides virens* group. The Pearl Island examples are found to be inseparable from the West-Indian *B. v. maculata* (Bodd.), of which the *B. v. brunnescens* of authors appears to be merely an inconstant color phase, both forms occurring in the Pearl Islands, and between which, in the Pearl Island series "there is every stage of intermediate coloring." It is further said: "After examining a very large amount of material in this connection, we are forced to place very little reliance on color as a character by which to distinguish the various species. Seasonal difference in this respect is very great, individual variation is also great, and in arid regions the bird bleaches out very fast. . . . The subspecies *maculata* also has a rufous phase — the so-called *B. brunnescens* — which thus far has been recorded from Cuba and the

¹ On a Collection of Birds and Mammals from the Colorado Delta, Lower California. By Witmer Stone. With Field Notes by Samuel N. Rhoads. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, Sept., 1905, pp. 676-690. Dec. 6, 1905.

² The Mammals and Birds of the Pearl Islands, Bay of Panama. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. XLVI, No. 8, pp. 137-160. Sept., 1905. Birds, pp. 140-160.

Pearl Islands only. That this is merely a phase of plumage is abundantly shown by the Pearl Island series [21 specimens]." It is also suggested that *B. v. anthonyi* will prove to be merely a synonym of *B. v. frazari*.

Two subspecies are described as new, and one previously described by Mr. Bangs has been found, in the light of new material, to be untenable.

The second paper relates to the vertebrata of the Savanna of Panama,¹ — a grassy plain near the city of Panama, where Mr. Brown collected during the greater part of May, 1904, obtaining, in addition to collections of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes, 86 species of birds, of which three are described as new. The only North American migrant among them was the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii alnorum*).

In other recent papers Mr. Bangs discusses² the status of *Icterus gualanensis* Underwood, and arrives at the conclusion that it is "an example of *I. giraudii* perfectly typical in every respect except in having the black of the head extending somewhat farther back" than is usual. He also cites several species of *Ramphocelus*, each resting on a single peculiar individual, which he considers as other instances of a similar kind, — species resting merely on 'freaks' or hybrids. He, on the other hand, considers,³ contrary to Mr. Ridgway's conclusion, that the Panama Green Honey Creeper is entitled to recognition as a subspecies (*Chlorophanes spiza exsul*), ranging from northern and western Ecuador through Panama to Chiriqui, and as distinguishable from the more northern *C. s. guatemalensis* by smaller size and shorter bill. — J. A. A.

Stone on a Collection of Birds from British East Africa.⁴ — This collection was made by Mr. George L. Harrison, Jr., on a journey through Central East Africa, May 16 to November 4, 1904, and numbers 212 species, including one new to science. The annotations give the localities and dates of collecting, and the color of the irides, bill, etc., taken from the freshly killed specimens. The classification is that of Dr. Sharpe's 'Hand-List of Birds.' — J. A. A.

McGregor on Philippine Birds. — Publication No. 34 of the Bureau of Government Laboratories, Philippine Islands, contains two papers⁵

¹ Vertebrata from the Savanna of Panama, *Ibid.*, No. 12, pp. 211–230. January, 1906. Birds, by John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs, pp. 213–224.

² What is *Icterus gualanensis* Underwood? By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVIII, pp. 167–170, June 29, 1905.

³ The Name of the Panama Green Honey Creeper. By Outram Bangs. *Ibid.*, p. 186, June 29, 1905.

⁴ On a Collection of Birds from British East Africa obtained by Mr. George L. Harrison, Jr. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, Nov., 1905, pp. 755–782. Jan. 24, 1906.

⁵ I. Birds from Mindoro and small adjacent Islands; II. Notes on three rare Luzon Birds. By Richard C. McGregor. [Publication] No. 34. Bureau of Government Laboratories, Department of the Interior. 8vo, pp. 32, with 13 half-tone plates. October, 1905.