

ble or probable occurrence — according to the weight and character of the evidence.” There may be exceptions to the rule, as in the case of species of easy recognition, like the Turkey Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, and the Cardinal, when reported by persons known to have had previous familiarity with the birds in life. “But on no authority, however good, should a mere field observation of any bird that is really difficult to identify, be taken as establishing an important primal record.” This is the basis of the author’s rulings in the present paper — a proper and the only safe basis in view of the present day methods of numerous amateur observers, who are too often burdening ornithological literature with ill-advised records.

Lack of space forbids detailed comment on the main text of the work, the ‘Annotated List of the Species,’ but its general character may be inferred from the excerpts already given from the author’s preface. For each species, following the technical name, is given usually, in a single line of small type, the general character of its occurrence, followed by three to five lines of small type respecting its ‘seasonal occurrence,’ in which dates of arrival and departure, and of nesting, are given, varying in character in accordance with the manner of occurrence of the species. Then follows, in larger type, a detailed statement, consisting of a few lines to several pages, as the case may require, in some instances including transcripts from the author’s notebooks running back to the later sixties. Many of these local bird histories are of exceeding interest, dealing as they do with the local increase or decrease of various species; while the five pages devoted to so common a bird as the Robin form a most charming bit of local bird lore.

The illustrations consist of three maps,—one of the ‘Cambridge Region’ of 1906, one of Cambridge at 1635, and one of Fresh Pond and its surroundings as they existed in 1886,—a portrait of Thomas Nuttall, a photogravure of a scene in the Maple Swamp (from a photograph taken by the author in June, 1900), a colored plate, by Fuertes, of *Acanthis brewsteri* (now thought to be probably a hybrid between *Acanthis linaria* and *Spinus pinus*), and a half-tone reproduction of a drawing of the Cabot shooting stand at the outlet of Fresh Pond, in use from about 1832 to 1840.

While relating to only a small area, and prepared with strict reference to the local standpoint, ‘The Birds of the Cambridge Region’ cannot fail to become a classic in the annals of faunistic ornithology.— J. A. A.

**Hellmayr ‘On the Birds of the Island of Trinidad’.**<sup>1</sup>—“The present paper is primarily based on the extensive collections made by Mr. André or his collectors in different parts of the island. Besides these series, which amount to upwards of 1500 skins, the Tring Museum received a number

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<sup>1</sup>On the Birds of the Island of Trinidad. By C. E. Hellmayr. Novitates Zoologicae, Vol. XIII, No. 1, February, 1906, pp. 1-60.

of birds collected by Dr. Percy Rendall in the districts of Savannah Grande and Tacarigua" (p. 1). In addition to the collection of Trinidad birds here mentioned the Tring Museum also contains a large number of specimens from Tobago and from the adjoining mainland, Mr. Hellmayr, therefore, being exceptionally well equipped to prepare the discussion of the relationships of the avifauna of these islands to one another as well as to that of the continent. Following this discussion, which occupies pages 2 and 3 of his memoir, he presents fully annotated lists of (1) "the species collected by Messrs. André, Percy Rendall and Chapman," (2) a list of the species found on the islands between Trinidad proper and the Paria coast," and (3) a list of those species "the occurrence of which is doubtful or has been wrongly given."

The first part of Mr. Hellmayr's paper is rendered especially valuable by his synoptic treatment of closely related groups having representatives in Trinidad. Here are described under new names *Pachysylvia aurantiifrons saturata*, *Mionectes oleagineus pallidiventris*, *Pitangus sulphuratus trinitatis*, *Dysithamnus affinis andrei*, *Celeus elegans leotaudi*, *Piaya cayana insulana*, and *Hydranassa tricolor rufimentum*. *Cyanerpes cerulea trinitatis* (Bp.) is recognized as a valid form, and *Sclateria* is proposed to replace *Heterocnemis*, preoccupied. *Chlorospingus leotaudi* Chapm. is shown to be the female of *Tachyphonus luctuosus* and *Lanio lawrencei* Scl. is considered to be an immature male of the same species; an "unfortunate" instance, as Mr. Hellmayr remarks, of one bird having been referred to three different genera, and at the same time an interesting comment on the nature of 'generic' characters in the class Aves.

Mr. Hellmayr's 'Hypothetical List' would have been more correct if he had examined Chapman's 'Further Notes on Trinidad Birds',<sup>1</sup> a paper which he seems not to have seen. In it he will find that *Piranga hamalea* was included in Chapman's list on the basis of a captured specimen, the identity of which had since been confirmed by Mr. Ridgway, that of *Chætura cinereicauda*, omitted by Hellmayr, eight examples were taken, and that of *Chætura spinicauda*, the occurrence of which in Trinidad Hellmayr "greatly doubts," five specimens were secured. We may here also call attention to the *lapsus* in this 'Hypothetical List' of *Carduelis* (p. 58) for *Cardinalis*.—F. M. C.

**Cherrie on Birds Collected in Trinidad.**<sup>2</sup>—Although Mr. Cherrie collected in Trinidad only eight days (March 14–25, 1905) he secured specimens of three species not previously recorded from the island, one of which is described as new under the name of *Attila wightii*, while the others are

<sup>1</sup> Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., VII, 1895, pp. 321–326.

<sup>2</sup> Species of Birds Collected at St. Matthews Cocoa Estate, Heights of Aripo, Trinidad. By Geo. K. Cherrie. Science Bulletin [no number] of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, pp. 1–6, issued June, 1906.