

**Berlepsch on the Tyrannidæ.**<sup>1</sup>—As is well known, Count von Berlepsch has long given special attention to this difficult family of birds, and here presents his latest conclusions respecting the relationships and status of the genera usually referred to it, and gives his opinion respecting the status and proper nomenclature of a considerable number of the species. He divides the family into seven subfamilies, of which three are new, as follows: (1) Tæniopterinæ, with 22 genera; (2) Tyranninæ, with 10 genera; Myiarchinæ, subf. nov., with 13 genera: (4) Rhyneocyclusinæ, subf. nov., with 4 genera; (5) Platyrhynchinæ, with 22 genera; (6) Serpophaginæ, subf. nov., with 5 genera; (7) Elæniæinæ, with 12 genera. Several new species and subspecies are proposed, and the following new genera: (1) *Xanthomyias*, type *Muscicapa virescens* Temm.; (2) *Oreomyias*, type *Pogonotriccus plumbeiceps* Lawr. The heretofore current generic position of a large number of species is here changed.—J. A. A.

**Berlepsch on the Genus Elænia.**<sup>2</sup>—Forty-nine forms of this genus (*Myiopagis* is merged with true *Elænia*) are here recognized — 31 species and 18 additional subspecies, or 12 more than were listed by Sharpe in 1901. Two species and six subspecies are described as new. The preliminary matter includes comment on the affinities of the genus, its geographical distribution, habits of the species, nesting and eggs, and an extended résumé of the literature, but not a word on the seasonal variation in color, so striking in many of the forms, shown not only in freshly moulted birds as compared with birds in the faded breeding plumage, not only in specimens from the same locality but in individual moulting birds in which both plumages may frequently be seen. Neither is anything said of the wide range of individual variation in the size and shape of the bill, and in general size, nor of the varying amount of concealed white in the crest, which is often absent in some forms in the younger birds. Yet many forms here recognized seem to rest on just such differences. Sixteen years ago, when the present reviewer had something to say on some of the species and subspecies of this group, the fashion of fine splitting had not nearly reached its present stage of refinement, and many forms then synonymized we should now freely recognize, but not, we fear to the same extent as in the able and very valuable monograph here under notice. The amount of seasonal and individual differentiation unquestionably evident in every large series from any single locality should inspire caution when it comes to the naming of new forms from single specimens.

This valuable monograph gives careful descriptions of all the forms recognized, full bibliographies of each, and a list of the localities from

<sup>1</sup> Studien über Tyranniden. Von Hans Graf Berlepsch. Proc. IVth Internat. Orn. Congress, 1905, (1906), pp. 463-493.

<sup>2</sup> On the Genus *Elænia* Sundelev. By Hans Graf von Berlepsch. Proc. IVth Internat. Orn. Congress, 1905 (1906), pp. 372-448.

which specimens have been reported; also a key for the determination of the species; a table showing their geographical distribution, and a list of localities; also a list of the species wrongly placed in *Elenia* by different authors, with their proper designations; and finally a list of the specimens of *Elenia* (about 380) contained in the author's collection, and representing 39 of the 49 forms recognized.—J. A. A.

**Berlepsch and Stolzmann on Birds from Peru.**<sup>1</sup>—During the years 1893-1898 M. Jean Kalnowski made considerable collections of birds in various parts of Peru, which form the basis of the present report. The species are listed in seven categories, in accordance with the localities at which they were collected, and include about 200 species. One genus and 14 subspecies are described as new, and several others are for the first time recorded from Peru. The technical annotations relate mainly to the character of the specimens in comparison with those from other localities but in part to questions of nomenclature. In adopting the name *hedwigæ* in place of *fulgentissima* for a species of *Chlorochrysa* (p. 108), these authors appear to have overlooked the fact that *fulgentissima* is the earlier name, the paper in which it occurs having been published Sept. 12, 1901, while *hedwigæ* was first published in the October number of 'The Ibis' of the same year, or nearly three weeks later than *fulgentissima*. Thirteen species of North American birds are recorded as winter visitors, of which eight are Plovers and Sandpipers and five are Passeres, the latter being *Hyalocichla swainsoni*, *Piranga rubra*, *Dendroica "rara"* (= *cerulea*), *Wilsonia canadensis*, and *Empidonax pusillus trillii*.—J. A. A.

**Jourdain's 'The Eggs of European Birds.'**—Part II of this excellent work<sup>2</sup> treats the species in sequence, with their various subspecies, from No. 30, *Loxia leucoptera bifasciata*, to No. 78, *Motacilla flava*. Under each species are given the common vernacular names by which they are known in the various countries of Europe, references to the leading standard works on European birds, and to the works where the eggs of the species have been previously figured. The breeding range is next stated in general terms, and amplified in paragraphs relating to its general distribution (*a*) in the British Isles, (*b*) in continental Europe. The character and position of the nests are described in considerable detail, as are also the eggs and their principal variations. The measurements and weights given are often the averages of large series. About two pages are thus devoted to each species,

<sup>1</sup> Rapport sur les nouvelles Collections ornithologiques faites au Pérou par M. Jean Kalinowski. Par Hans Graf von Berlepsch et Jean Stolzmann. Ornith., Vol. XIII, Sept., 1906, pp. 63-133.

<sup>2</sup> The Eggs of European Birds. By the Rev. Francis C. R. Jourdain, M. A., M. B. O. U. Part II, London: R. H. Porter, 7 Princes St., Cavendish Square, W., 1906. 8vo, pp. 81-160, 14 col. pl. Price, 10s. 6d. per part, net.