

ceased to sing, and after a good layer of fat had been acquired they seldom uttered even a chirp. Early in the following spring the birds were placed under normal conditions, and they soon moulted into the condition appropriate to the season; in other words, they moulted immediately into the nuptial plumage, the autumn moult and the dull plumage of winter having been completely omitted. "I think we thus have proof," says Mr. Beebe, "that the sequence of plumage in these birds is not in any way predestined through inheritance bringing about an unchangeable succession, in the case of the Tanager, of scarlet — green, scarlet — green, year after year, but that it may be interrupted by certain external factors in the environmental complex." These interesting results could not have been foreseen, and we await with interest the result of Mr. Beebe's further experiments along these lines.— J. A. A.

**Contributions to Philippine Ornithology.**—No. 5 of Vol. II (October, 1907) of the 'Philippine Journal of Science' contains 14 papers on Philippine birds, of which 9 are by Richard C. McGregor, 2 by Dean C. Worcester, 2 by Dr. Edgar A. Mearns, and 1 by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt (noticed *antea*, p. 245). These vary in length from a note on a single species to a list of the species of an entire island, as follows: 'On a Nesting Specimen of *Caprimulgus griseatus* Walden,' by D. C. Worcester, pp. 271-273, with 2 half-tone plates; 'On a Nesting Place [Didikas Rocks] of *Sula sula* (Linn.) and *Sterna anaetheta* Scopoli,' by D. C. Worcester, p. 175, and 1 half-tone plate; 'Notes on a Collection of Birds from the Island of Basilan, with Descriptions of three new Species,' pp. 279-291, by R. C. McGregor — 151 species, 29 here for the first time recorded; 'Descriptions of four new Philippine Birds,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 292-294; 'The Occurrence of Blythe's Wattled Lapwing and Scaup Duck in the Philippines,' by R. C. McGregor, p. 295; 'Notes on a Bird unrecorded from Mindanao,' by R. C. McGregor, p. 296 — *Rhaldornis inornata* Grant; 'Notes on [three] Specimens of Monkey-eating Eagle (*Pitheophaga jefferi* Grant) from Mindanao and Luzon,' by R. C. McGregor, p. 297; 'Notes on Birds collected in Cebu,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 298-309 — 149 species, 24 previously unrecorded; 'Birds observed in Bantayau Island, Province of Cebu,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 310-314 — 66 species; 'The Birds of Bohol' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 315-333, and a half-tone plate of *Circus melanoleucus* — 145 species, 91 here first recorded, 2 new; 'The Birds of Batan, Camiguin, Y'Ami, and Babuyan Claro, Islands north of Luzon,' by R. C. McGregor, pp. 337-349 and 5 half-tone plates — 78 species, 1 genus and 7 species described as new; 'Two Additions to the Avifauna of the Philippines,' by E. A. Mearns, p. 353 — *Butorides spodiogaster* (Sharpe) and *Spodiop-sar cineraceus* (Temm.); 'Description of a new Genus [*Malindangia*] and nine new Species of Philippine Birds,' by E. A. Mearns, pp. 355-360 — with a key to the Philippine species of *Merula*.

As indicated by the titles and comment, these papers form an important contribution to Philippine ornithology.— J. A. A.