

on collections made for the author by Mr. C. F. Underwood from December, 1907, to June, 1908.— J. A. A.

Ridgway on New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Tropical American Birds.¹—Of the 16 new genera here described, 9 belong to the family Formicariidæ and 7 to the family Furnariidæ; the 3 new species and 8 new subspecies, belong to the families Furnariidæ and Dendrocolaptidæ. In a foot-note (p. 74) the genus *Myrmelastes* is considered as inseparable from *Myrmeciza*, and *Myrmelastes lawrencii* Salv. and Godm. is stated to be the immature male of *Gymnocichla cheiroleuca*, and *M. corvinus* Lawr. (= *M. ceterus* Bangs) to be the same as *G. nudipes*.— J. A. A.

New North American Birds.—Mr. E. W. Nelson² has described a new thrush from Tamaulipas, Mexico, as *Catharus mexicanus smithi*, it differing from *mexicanus* in having shorter wings and tail and longer tarsi, and also slightly in coloration.

Messrs. Thayer and Bangs have recently described³ a new form of the Snowy Egret from San José Island, Gulf of California, about sixty miles north of La Paz, as *Egretta candidissima brewsteri*, on the basis of its large size, especially evident in "the enormously heavy legs."

Mr. Joseph Grinnell has proposed the addition of "three new Song Sparrows"⁴ from California. One of them is from "the extensive marshes at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers," and while resembling *Melospiza melodia gouldi* Baird (= *M. m. samuelis* Baird) in coloration, it is larger with a heavier bill, which is markedly more swollen at the base, and is hence named *M. m. maxilaris*. The second is the *M. m. gouldii* Baird, revived, which has of late been referred to *M. m. samuelis* as a synonym. A recent reëxamination of a large amount of material by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature, including specimens furnished by Mr. Grinnell, has failed to convince the Committee of the propriety of its recognition (see *antea*, p. 301). The third is from the vicinity of the Salton Sea and suitable localities along the Lower Colorado River, and is named *M. m. saltonis*. This form is considered by the same Committee (see *antea*, p. 301) as not separable from *M. m. fallax*, as commonly recognized — in other words, that *saltonis* is the Desert Song Sparrow of the arid Southwest. The type of *fallax*, unfortunately, proves not to be quite typical as to locality, being a winter specimen and a migrant, but *fallax*

¹ New Genera, Species and Subspecies of Formicariidæ, Furnariidæ, and Dendrocolaptidæ. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXII, pp. 69-74, April 17, 1909.

² A New Thrush from Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXII, pp. 49, 50. April 17, 1909.

³ Description of a New Subspecies of the Snowy Heron. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, Vol. IV, pp. 39-41. April 29, 1909.

⁴ Three New Song Sparrows from California. By Joseph Grinnell. University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 265-269. April 9, 1909.

has nevertheless been accepted as the name of the form of which *saltonis* may perhaps be regarded as the extreme manifestation. In the opinion of the A. O. U. Committee there is not room nor good reason for admitting two forms of the pallid phase of the Song Sparrow. It unfortunately happens that this is another of the many cases where the type of a form is unsatisfactory, being more or less intermediate between two forms which are sufficiently differentiated in their respective areas of full development. To make such an unfortunate circumstance the basis or excuse for another 'split' seems hardly the wisest way to deal with such cases.— J. A. A.

Widmann on 'The Summer Birds of Shaw's Garden.'— Shaw's Garden,¹ or the Missouri Botanical Garden, at St. Louis, Mo., is the summer home of forty species of birds, while six others are here recorded as "more or less regular visitors from nearby breeding grounds." It is believed that several others would nest within the Garden if suitable nesting-boxes were provided for them, and suggestions are made for their arrangement in a way to render them undesirable to the House Sparrows.

Of many species of European songbirds introduced into St. Louis about 1870, only two seem to have secured a permanent foothold. These are the House Sparrow and the European Tree Sparrow. The former soon became abundant at St. Louis, as elsewhere; the latter has been able to maintain its foothold in various parts of the city, Shaw's Garden having "always been, and still is, one of the few places where the Tree Sparrow has found refuge and succeeds in rearing a few broods." The difference between the two species, in habits and temperament as well as in size and markings, are pointed out, and further emphasized by an excellent colored plate representing both species. The Tree Sparrow has suffered from the tyranny and persecution of its larger, more pugnacious and more prolific fellow-countryman, the House Sparrow, a plea for the repression of which and for the encouragement of the Tree Sparrow is here made. St. Louis and vicinity, says Mr. Widmann, is the only place in America where the Tree Sparrow occurs.

In his pleasant comment on the status and traits of the various species of summer birds in the Garden, he states that "the number of Blue Jays and Bronzed Grackles should always be kept limited to a very few pairs during the breeding time," owing to their depredations upon the eggs and nestlings of the smaller birds.— J. A. A.

Cole on 'The Crow as a Menace to Poultry Raising.'²— The economic relation of the Crow to agriculture is still an unsettled question, not so much in reference to its direct attacks upon farm crops and poultry, which are

¹ Summer Birds of Shaw's Garden. By Otto Widmann. 20th Ann. Rep. Missouri Botanical Garden, pp. 41-80, pl. i, colored.

² The Crow a Menace to Poultry Raising. By Leon J. Cole. 21st Ann. Rep. Rhode Island Agric. Experiment Station, pp. 312-316, January, 1909.