

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.

rarely serious, as to its destruction of the eggs and young of other birds. Its depredations upon poultry are local and sporadic, and doubtless limited to a small proportion of the crow population of a given district. In the present paper Dr. Cole recites several well authenticated instances of considerable loss to poultry raisers from the fondness of crows for young chickens and ducklings. The author favors the non-protection of the crow by State laws, but believes it would be unwise to offer a bounty for their destruction. The crow has its good points as a destroyer of injurious insects, but in view of his general character as a nest-robber and chicken-thief, and his propensity for pulling up the farmer's young corn, it is doubtful whether his good deeds outweigh his many evil propensities.—J. A. A.

Swarth on the Distribution and Molt of Mearns's Quail.¹—Following a short account of the habits and distribution (illustrated with a map) of this quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumæ mearnsi*) Mr. Swarth gives a detailed account of the change from the juvenal to the first winter plumage, with illustrations of the various stages, from photographs, showing the ventral surface in thirteen specimens. Each stage of the change is described, and attention is called, apparently for the first time, to the sexual differences observable in the juvenal plumage.—J. A. A.

Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels.'²—Part IV,² dated April, 1909, completes the genus *Æstrelata*, and contains in addition the genera *Pagodroma*, *Bulweria*, *Macronectes*, *Fulmarus*, *Daption*, *Halobaena*, and three of the four 'species' of *Prion*. From the known intergradation of the four forms of *Prion* (*l. c.*, p. 286), three of them are evidently not properly entitled to the rank of species, and their interrelationships would be better expressed by the use of trinomials. *Bulweria macgillivrayi* is known only from a single specimen, as is also *Æstrelata fisheri*, and there are only two known examples of *Æ. heraldica*.

As in previous parts, we have here a most satisfactory summary of the history, characteristics, and relationships of these, for the most part, little known pelagic birds.—J. A. A.

Howard's 'The British Warblers,' Part III.—Part III³ of this remarkable monograph merits fully the liberal praise we bestowed upon Parts I and II

¹ Distribution and Molt of the Mearns Quail. By H. S. Swarth. Condor, Vol. XI, No. 2, March-April, 1909, pp. 39-43, 1 pl. and 3 text figg.

² Part IV, pp. 223-296, pll. lxxix-xcix. April, 1909. For notices of previous parts see Auk, XXV, 1908, pp. 244, 338; XXVI, p. 95.

³ The British Warblers: A History with Problems of their Lives. By H. Eliot Howard, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. Illustrated by Henrik Grönvold, London: R. H. Porter, 7 Princess Street, Cavendish Square, W. Part 3, February, 1909. Price, 21s. net.

Blackcap, pp. 1-30, 1 colored plate of male and female, 8 photogravure plates of male in various attitudes; Pallas's Warbler, 2 pp., 1 col. pl.; Radde's Bush-Warbler, 2 pp., 1 col. pl.; Chiff-chaff, 1 photogr. pl. of female; 4 maps, showing summer and winter distribution of the Blackcap and Garden Warbler.