

RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway on New Forms of Picidæ.¹—Mr. Ridgway here describes 11 new subspecies of American Woodpeckers and proposes a new genus, *Belanosphyra*, for the *Melanerpes formicivorus* group. Most of the subspecies are tropical, but the following are North American: (1) *Colaptes auratus borealis*, the large form of the Canadian and Hudsonian zones, based wholly on size. (2) *Colaptes chrysoides mearnsi*, from "Arizona, extreme southeastern California and northern Lower California." *C. c. brunnescens* Anthony, omitted from the last A. O. U. Check-List, is also here reinstated. (3) *Centurus uropygialis brewsteri*, from southern Lower California. (4) *Phlæotomus pileatus floridanus*, from peninsular Florida. This, with the recently described *P. p. picinus* Bangs,² here also recognized, gives four subspecies of *P. pileatus*, and adds two to the last A. O. U. Check-List. All are based mainly on differences in size, and on the fact that corresponding subspecies are recognized for the corresponding areas in the *Dryobates villosus* and *D. pubescens* groups.—J. A. A.

Oberholser on the Flycatchers of the Genera *Hypothymis* and *Cyanonympha*.³—The genus *Hypothymis* consists, as here recognized, of 4 species and 16 additional subspecies, of which 15 are subspecies of *H. azurea*, for the most part insular forms; 11 of the subspecies are here first distinguished; most of the others were originally described as species. The group ranges from southern India to the Philippines, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, and Java, including the numerous smaller outlying islands. The new genus *Cyanonympha* consists of *Hypothymis superciliaris* and its subspecies *samarensis*, from the southern Philippines. Keys are given to the species and subspecies, and tables of measurements of large series of specimens of many of the forms recognized. The monograph is based mainly on the collections made by Dr. W. L. Abbott, with other material in the U. S. National Museum, numbering altogether (including a few borrowed) 205 specimens.—J. A. A.

Roberts's 'The Evening Grosbeak in Minnesota.'⁴—This paper⁴ was "prepared in its present form for publication in a 'Report on the Birds of Minnesota' in course of preparation by the Minnesota Natural

¹ Diagnoses of Some New Forms of Picidæ. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXIV, pp. 31-36, Feb. 24, 1911.

² Proc. New England Zool. Club, IV, p. 79, April 2, 1910.

³ A Monograph of the Flycatcher Genera *Hypothymis* and *Cyanonympha*. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXXIX, pp. 585-615. Feb. 28, 1911.

⁴ The Evening Grosbeak in Minnesota. A. O. U. No. 514. *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina* (W. Cooper). By Thomas H. Roberts. Bull. Minnesota Acad. of Science, Vol. IV, No. 3 (1910), pp. 406-414.

History Survey," where it will eventually appear in a probably much condensed form. It contains at present an annotated synonymy of Minnesota references, arranged chronologically, and a detailed description of the species, followed by an extended account of its manner of occurrence in Minnesota, with localities of occurrence, and migration dates for both fall and spring, running back to the earliest known record of its occurrence. Its habits during its stay in Minnesota, which is often prolonged till late in May, are described in detail, including its haunts, food, song, and general behavior. This is followed by transcripts from the original account of the species given by William Cooper in 1825, in the first volume of the 'Annals' of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York. Its beautiful plumage and pleasing song render it an exceptionally attractive species. Says the author: "A life time may be spent in close intimacy with birds and yet the clear whistle or a gleam of the unique tricolored vestments of the Evening Grosbeak, never fails to secure a pause in one's occupation and a moment passed in admiration and wonderment. Until the remarkable and previously unnoted advent of thousands of these birds into the whole northeastern portion of the United States in the winter of 1889-90 the Evening Grosbeak, except in a few favored localities, was a veritable will-o'-the-wisp, a sort of disembodied bird-spirit to most ornithologists."—J. A. A.

Beetham's 'Photography for Bird-Lovers.'¹—Mr. Beetham's fitness to prepare what may be called a practical manual of Bird-Photography has been shown in his "The Home-Life of the Spoonbill," etc., already noticed in these pages (*antea*, pp. 132, 133). The present work is divided into twelve chapters, the first of which is an introduction relating to the general subject, followed by chapters on apparatus, nest-photography, photographing young birds, photographing by the stalking method, by the concealment method, by concealment and artificial attraction, by rope-work on the cliff-face, photography of birds in flight and in captivity, and on bird-photography in color and in cinematography. The subject of apparatus is considered at considerable length, based on the author's ample experience, and will doubtless prove very helpful to beginners in bird-photography in securing a proper equipment. The author treats fully of the difficulties met with in nest-photography and the devices that may be used to secure successful results; also of stalking and hiding, and of methods of concealment, etc., with hints on focussing at nests, the difficulties met with in cliff work, and instructions for color photography and cinematography work. In short, the whole field is apparently well

¹ Photography | for | Bird-Lovers | A Practical Guide | By | Bentley Beetham, F. R. S. | Author of | "The Home-Life of the Spoonbill, the Stork, and Some Herons | With Photographic Plates | London | Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. | 1911 — Sq. demy 8vo, pp. vi + 126, with 16 full-page half-tone plates and several text illustrations. Price 5s. net.