

Interesting observations are given on the plumage of grouse and ptarmigan, and of the young of the Pipit.

The paper is a valuable contribution to the ornithology of an interesting region and will aid materially in ascertaining the exact range and relationship of the birds of the northern Rockies.— W. S.

Riley on New Neotropical Birds.— Through the courtesy of Mr. Chas. T. Ramsden, Mr. Riley was enabled to examine a series of the resident King Rail of Cuba which, as he had suspected,¹ proved to be separable and is consequently named, *Rallus elegans ramsdeni*.

Three Hummingbirds of the genus *Chlorostilbon* in the U. S. National Museum, obtained on the Purus River, Brazil, are found by Mr. Riley to be unlike any known species of the genus and are described² as *Chlorostilbon puruensis*.

Owing to the transfer of the name *Tanager* from the Blue Tanagers to the Euphonias Mr. Riley considers that *Euphonia sclateri* Sundeval 1869, now *Tanager sclateri*, renders *Tanager sclateri* Berlepsch 1880 untenable for the Blue Tanager of Trinidad, and renames it *Thraupis episcopus nesophilus*.³ We cannot however see the necessity for such action. The two species were described under different generic names and are still in different genera.— W. S.

Todd on the Genus *Chæmepelia*.⁴— We seldom find a more elaborate or painstaking monograph than that which Mr. Todd here presents on the Ground Doves. Incidentally it illustrates how apt we are, in our haste to propose new names and straighten out matters of nomenclature, to overlook the work of our predecessors along the same lines. This genus has been a storm center in such matters. Some years ago diverse opinions were held as to whether the Linnæan name *passerina* should apply to the Jamaican Ground Dove or to that of the southeastern United States, one receiving one new name and the other two, in consequence. Then came a controversy as to whether *Columbina* or *Chæmepelia* was the proper name for the genus. This was referred to a national and international committee with the result that it was declared still an open case to be settled by the first person to definitely designate a type. An immediate designation followed.

Mr. Todd however, by a little bibliographic research now shows us that

¹ The King Rail of Cuba, By J. H. Riley, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, pp. 83-86, March 22, 1913.

² A New Hummingbird of the Genus *Chlorostilbon* from Brazil. By J. H. Riley, do. pp. 63-64, March 22, 1913.

³ A New Name for *Tanager sclateri* Berlepsch. By J. H. Riley, do., XXV, pp. 185-188. December 24, 1912.

⁴ A Revision of the Genus *Chæmepelia*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Ann. Carnegie Mus. VIII, pp. 507-603, May 8, 1913.

all the discussions and publications bearing upon this subject were superfluous as G. R. Gray had settled the generic question definitely and conclusively as long ago as 1841, while Bonaparte in 1855, had settled the former problem with equal finality!

Mr. Todd's studies have been based upon a series of 1920 specimens representing all the known forms while his exhaustive synonymy has been personally verified with the exception of about fifty references and all but a half dozen of these have been checked up by correspondents. Full descriptions and measurements are presented for each form, with a discussion of distribution and nomenclature, while a full list of localities and specimens, and a key to the species and subspecies are added.

Sixteen races of *Chæmepelia passerina* are recognized, two of *minuta*, two of *rufipennis* while *buckleyi* and *talpacoti* remain undivided. The name *passerina* is used for the bird of the southeastern United States, as long ago restricted by Bonaparte; *palescens* for that of the west, while *bahamensis* is used for the Bermuda form, which proves not separable from that of the Bahamas, from which islands it was probably introduced rather than from the mainland. The other races are *neglecta* from Panama to Guatemala; *socorroënsis*, Socorro Island; *parvula* subsp. nov. from Honda, Colombia; *nana* subsp. nov., Jimenez W. Colombia; *quitensis* subsp. nov., Quito, Ecuador; *grisola*, Guiana and Amazonia; *albivitta*, N. Venezuela and Colombia and the Leeward Islands; *antillarum* Grenada to Barbados; *trochila*, Porto Rico to St. Lucia; *afrawida*, Cuba and Haiti; *insularis*, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac; *jamaicensis*, Jamaica; *exigua*, Mona and Great Magna.

C. minuta minuta ranges over most of S. America; while *C. m. elzodes* occurs from west central Colombia to southern Mexico. *C. rufipennis rufipennis* occurs from South America to Guatemala and *C. r. eluta* in the 'tierra caliente' of Mexico.

Mr. Todd's paper is a model piece of work and clears up the relationships of a group of birds which was badly in need of revision.— W. S.

Cory on New Neotropical Birds.¹— Mr. Cory here presents some results of his studies of the birds obtained on the recent museum expeditions to Venezuela and Peru undertaken by Mr. W. H. Osgood, Mr. Ned Dearborn and others. The following forms are described without further comment: *Nothocercus julius venezuelensis*, Paramo de Tama, Ven.; *Eupsychortyx cristatus continentis*, El Panorama, Ven.; *Urochroma costaricensis*, Limon, C. R.; *Piaya cayana venezuelensis*, Orope, Ven.; *Momotus osgoodi*, El Guayabal, Col.; *Scytalopus magellanicus grandis*, Tambo Ventija, Peru; *Threnetes frazeri venezuelensis*, Orope, Ven.; *Anthracothorax prevosti viridicordatus*, El Panorama, Ven.; *Glaucis hirsuta fusca*, Orope, Ven.; *Thau-*

¹ Descriptions of Twenty-eight New Species and Subspecies of Neotropical Birds. By Charles B. Cory. Field Museum of Nat. Hist. Publication 167. Ornithological Series, Vol. I. No. 7. May 31, 1913. pp. 283-292.