

Lyman on an expedition to the Altai Mountains of Siberia and Mongolia, and which was presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

The list includes 52 species and subspecies of which the following are described as new: *Falco æsalon lymani*, *Pinicola enucleator pacata*, and *Perisoreus infaustus opicus*.—W. S.

Thayer and Bangs on a New Race of Great Blue Heron.¹—The specimens upon which this form — *Ardea herodias sancti-luceæ* — is based were obtained by Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr. in 1910 from a 'rookery' discovered on Espiritu Santo Island. It is very much like the bird of the Galapagos *A. b. cognata* but much larger. — W. S.

Bangs on New Species of Birds.—Mr. Outram Bangs has recently published descriptions of a number of new birds from various parts of the world. In one paper² are described *Rupornis magnirostris occidua*, eastern Peru; *Penelope perspicax*, western Colombia; *Antrostomus rufus otiosus*, St. Lucia, W. I.; *Thamnophilus doliatus catus*, Margarita Isl., Venezuela; *Pyrocephalus rubinus blatteus*, British Honduras; and *Leistes superciliaris petilus*, Uruguay. As regards the *Pyrocephalus* the reviewer pointed out the difference between the birds of Yucatan and Orizaba in collections made by him, in 1890 but the material in the U. S. National Museum seemed to show that the two forms were not confined to definite geographic areas and were perhaps merely individual variations.

In the collection of Palestine birds made by Selah Merrill and recently acquired by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Mr. Bangs found an undescribed swift³ which he calls *Apus melba petrensis*; while in the Henry Bryant Collection two Song Sparrows taken at Enterprise, Florida in 1859 seem to constitute a distinct resident race which is named *Melospiza melodia beata*.⁴ They have "enormous bills, that cannot be matched in a series of over one hundred skins from points in eastern North America." The culmen measures respectively 14 and 13 mm. while Ridgway's average of 41 specimens of *M. m. melodia* is 12.45 mm. (11.43 to 13.21). From Cuba are described⁵ *Podilymbus podiceps antillarum*, *Limnopardalis maculatus inoptatus*, *Cyanerpes cyaneus ramsdeni* and in the same paper

¹ A New Race of Great Blue Heron from Espiritu Santo Island, Lower California. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. N. Eng. Zool. Club, IV, pp. 83-84. February 23, 1912.

² Descriptions of New American Birds. By Outram Bangs, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XXIV, pp. 187-190. June 23, 1911.

³ A New Swift from Palestine, By Outram Bangs, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXIV, pp. 195-196. June 23, 1911.

⁴ The Florida Song Sparrow. By Outram Bangs, Proc. N. Eng. Zool. Club, IV, pp. 85-87, June 5, 1912.

⁵ New Birds from Cuba and the Isle of Pines, By Outram Bangs, Proc. N. Eng. Zool. Club, IV, pp. 89-92, March 31, 1913.

Gymnasio laurencei exsul and *Agelaius subniger* from the Isle of Pines. *Reguloides pulcher vegetus* is described as new from western Szechwan, central China¹ while the Green Heron of the Maldives² is named *Butorides albidulus*.— W. S.

Zimmer's "Birds of the Thomas County Forest Reserve."³— The region covered by this paper comprises the U. S. Government Forest Reserve in Thomas County, Nebraska, to which Mr. Zimmer and other Nebraska ornithologists have given much attention. There is presented first an ecological classification of the several 'habitats', the sandhills being regarded as Upper Sonoran while the Prairie is Carolinian. The birds characteristic of each region are mentioned, followed by a fully annotated list of 142 species. While the nomenclature follows the A. O. U. List in the main we note that the possessive 's' of all personal names is dropped as is the trinomial from the 'typical' race except where another form of the same species occurs in the area under consideration, — the latter a rather inconsistent practice. This however in no way detracts from the value of the paper which is a well conceived and well presented contribution to the ornithology of an interesting region.— W. S.

California Economic Ornithology.— In Game Bulletin No. 1 (1913) of the California Fish and Game Commissioners, is reprinted Mr. H. C. Bryant's paper on "The present and future status of the California Valley Quail." The bulletin also contains Mr. Bryant's report on his "Investigation of the Economic Status of Non-Game Birds." This article describes the purposes and methods of the investigation, and briefly reports on the economic status of the Western Meadowlark, Blackbirds, and the Lewis's Woodpecker.

Mr. Bryant's final report on "The Economic Value of the Western Meadowlark in California" appears as Bulletin 236 of the State Agricultural Experiment Station. The percentages of animal and vegetable food for the year are reported as approximately 60 and 40. The writer concludes that the balance is certainly in favor of the Meadowlark.— W. L. M.

Four Economic Papers by Professor W. E. Collinge.— The Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula europaea*) has an evil reputation as a destroyer of buds of fruit trees, and Professor Collinge confirms this opinion by the results of examination of the stomachs of 308 of these birds. He finds that "during the five months, January to May, the food consists largely of fruit-buds

¹ A New Warbler from Western China. By Outram Bangs, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XXVI, pp. 95-96. May 3, 1913.

² The Green Heron of the Maldives. By Outram Bangs, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXVI, pp. 93-94, May 3, 1913.

³ Birds of the Thomas County Forest Reserve. By John T. Zimmer. Proc. Nebraska Ornith. Union, Vol. V, Part 5. April 14, 1913. pp. 51-104.