

## RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway's 'The Birds of North and Middle America.' Part VI.<sup>1</sup>— This portly volume carries Mr. Ridgway's great work almost as far as the Falconiformes, the two groups Coccygiformes (Cuckoo-like Birds) and Psittaciformes (Parrots), which intervene having been omitted on account of lack of space, although the former is entirely in type and the latter nearly completed. It will thus be seen that of the 'land birds' Mr. Ridgway has only the Hawks and the Gallinaceous birds to treat of.

The families covered in the present part are treated in the same thorough manner that characterized the earlier volumes. Seven of the twelve do not occur north of Mexico and the West Indies, but the Woodpeckers, Goatsuckers, Owls, and Kingfishers contain many North American species and the volume will thus be of much greater interest to those who do not extend their studies below the southern boundary of the United States, than was its predecessor. The treatment of the Nighthawks and Horned Owls follows the recent monographs of Mr. Harry C. Oberholser, since Mr. Ridgway examined the material with him and coincided with his views. The new forms proposed in this connection have been elsewhere commented upon in these columns. In other groups we note: *Psilopornis* (p. 361), a new genus with *Galbula albirostris* as its type, and the following new subspecies; *Hypnelus ruficollis coloratus* (p. 382), Encontrados, Venezuela; *Otus asio hasbroucki* (p. 694), Palo Pinto Co., Texas; *O. a. brewsteri* (p. 700), Salem, Oregon; *Glaucidium gnoma grinnelli* (p. 791), Humboldt Bay, California; *G. siju vittatum* (p. 805), Isle of Pines; *Micropallas whitneyi sanfordi* (p. 809), Lower California; and *M. v. idoneus* (p. 810), Hidalgo, Texas. A number of changes in the nomenclature of species of the A. O. U. Check-List are noticed. *Dryobates villosus leucomelas* becomes *septentrionalis*, while the subspecies *D. v. leucothorectes*, *ortus*, *silkensis*, *icastus*, *D. pubescens glacialis*, *D. scalaris eremicus*, and *cactophilus*, *Colaptes auratus borealis*, *Xenopicus albolarvatus graviorostris*, *Phlæotomus pileatus floridanus*

<sup>1</sup> The Birds [of] North and Middle America: [A Descriptive Catalogue] of the [Higher Groups, Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Birds] known to occur in North America, from the [Arctic Lands to the Isthmus of Panama] the West Indies and other Islands [of the Caribbean Sea, and the] Galapagos Archipelago. [By] Robert Ridgway, [Curator, Division of Birds.] Part VI.

Family Picidæ — The Woodpeckers.

Family Capitonidæ — The Barbets.

Family Ramphastidæ — The Toucans.

Family Bucconidæ — The Puff Birds.

Family Galbulidæ — The Jacamars.

Family Alcedinidæ — The Kingfishers.

Family Todidæ — The Todies.

Family Momotidæ — The Motmots.

Family Caprimulgidæ — The Goatsuckers.

Family Nyctibiidæ — The Potoos.

Family Tytonidæ — The Barn Owls.

Family Bubonidæ — The Eared Owls.

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and *picinus* are recognized. The California Woodpecker and its races are separated generically as *Balanosphyra* Rgdw., while for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker the generic name *Phrenopicus* Bp. is used. The genus *Ceryle* is divided, *Streptoceryle* being used for *C. alcyon* and *torquata*, and *Chloroceryle* for *C. americana* and its allies.

Several races accepted by the A. O. U. Committee are rejected by Mr. Ridgway as *Phalacroptilus nuttallii nitidus* Brewster which he regards as not distinct from *P. nitidus*; *Cryptoglaux acadicus scotæus* Osgood which is considered an individual variation of *C. acadicus*; and *Otus flammeolus idahoensis* Merriam which is referred to *O. flammeolus*.

*Melanerpes formicivora* of the Check-List appears as subspecies *aculeata* Mearns, true *formicivora* being exclusively Mexican and in the same way *Dryobates scularis bairdi* of the Check-List becomes *D. s. symplectus*. *Otus asio* is considered to apply to the Florida Screech Owl which necessitates the use of *O. a. navius* (Gm.) for the common eastern form, while *O. xantusi* is made a subspecies of *O. asio*.

The footnotes throughout the volume are full of important bibliographic references and synonymy of extralimital forms, while the generic synonymy in the main text contains numerous names with their types designated which are not to be found in other general works.

'The Birds of North and Middle America' is essentially a technical work and only those who are constantly engaged in general systematic ornithology will really appreciate the enormous amount of labor that the author has expended upon it. Mr. Ridgway richly deserves the congratulations of all ornithologists upon the splendid results that he has already accomplished and their best wishes for his success in the volumes that still remain to be completed.—W. S.

#### Chapman on New Birds from Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.—

Dr. Chapman's studies of the rich series of South American birds obtained by the recent expeditions of the American Museum of Natural History are progressing steadily and two publications relating to them have recently appeared. In the first<sup>1</sup> he calls attention to the need of collections from the Bogotá district of Colombia in order to fix the exact type localities of the 200 species that have been described from there, and describes very briefly the itinerary of the expedition which he conducted to Bogotá in 1913 for the purpose of securing the desired material. Some 2300 specimens representing over 500 species were obtained, and 28 forms are here described as new either from this collection or from that of the previous expedition.

A second paper<sup>2</sup> describes the attempt of Mr. Leo E. Miller and Mr. F. X. Iglseider of the American Museum to reach Mt. Duida on the upper Orinoco.

<sup>1</sup> Diagnoses of apparently new Colombian Birds, II. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXIII, Art. XII, pp. 167-192. March 19, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of a new Genus and Species of Birds from Venezuela. By Frank M. Chapman. do., Art. XIII, pp. 193-197. March 19, 1914.