

The annotated list follows the classification set forth in Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America.' Under each species is a full bibliography for the Isle of Pines, to which, in the reviewer's opinion, might have been added a reference to the original publication of the name employed, which is usually of great assistance to those using the paper. There follows a discussion of the occurrence and habits of each species on the island, and of its systematic status.

We find described as new *Amazona leucocephala palmarum* (p. 228), Isle of Pines; *Vireo gundlachii orientalis* (p. 256) Guantánamo, Cuba; and *Holoquiscalus caymanensis dispar* (p. 276), Isle of Pines,—the last being renamed on an erratum insert *Q. c. caribæus*, *dispar* proving untenable. The species and subspecies of *Holoquiscalus* and the races of *Jacana spinosa* are considered at length and reasons are set forth for the rejection of *Podilymbus podiceps antillarum* Bangs and *Agelatus subniger* Bangs, as well as the races of *Squatarola squatarola* recently proposed by Thayer and Bangs, and the West Indian races of the Green Heron proposed by Oberholser. As Mr. Todd is confessedly not following the A. O. U. Check-List where the "latest and best authorities" differ from it, attention might be called to the fact that by Opinion 62 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (March, 1914) the genera *Herodias* and *Urubitinga* become untenable, being synonyms respectively of *Egretta* and *Morphnus*.

Mr. Todd's careful study of the material before him brings out many interesting points, among others the fact that *Sturnella magna hippocrepis* is nearest to *S. m. argutula* and not to *S. neglecta* as stated by Ridgway, while *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis* is the form occurring on the Isle of Pines in spite of Prof. Cooke's reference of all West Indian records to typical *noveboracensis*.

The bibliography comprises 64 titles of which 42 are of articles by A. C. Read published in newspapers, 'The Oölogist,' and 'Bird Lore's' Christmas lists. Much space in Mr. Todd's list is taken up with discrediting or rejecting records of Mr. Read, which seem to be almost entirely based upon sight or upon specimens shot but not preserved. It would seem that this represents a waste of time and energy as the records which are accepted as probable are severely discounted by the obvious inaccuracy of the others. Would it not be best to ignore such publications absolutely as the surest way to discourage them in future? This however detracts in no way from Mr. Todd's admirable paper which will stand as authority on the birds of the Isle of Pines for many years to come.—W. S.

Wetmore's 'Birds of Porto Rico.'¹—This notable paper is the first comprehensive work on the food habits of neotropical birds, besides being a handy popular list of the birds of Porto Rico. From both aspects it is most welcome, not only to residents of the island but to others as well.

¹ Birds of Porto Rico. By Alex Wetmore. U. S. Dept. Agr. Bull. No. 326. pp. 1-140, pl. I-X. March 24, 1916.

The immensely valuable agricultural interests of Porto Rico have suffered severely from insect pests and it seemed desirable, in seeking means to combat them, to obtain at the outset definite data on the food habits of the native birds, in order to formulate plans for the better protection of those of greatest economic importance. Mr. Alex Wetmore, Assistant Biologist of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, was selected for carrying out this investigation and judging from his report a better choice could not have been made. During a residence of nine months on the island, December 13, 1911 to September 11, 1912, he visited forty-four localities obtaining 2200 stomachs and a mass of data. Upon this material and a thorough study of the literature the report has been based.

The brief introduction discusses the birds found in the various agricultural districts — the cane fields, coffee plantations, and citrus groves; and the bird enemies of some of the principal insect pests — the mole cricket, sugarcane root-borer, weevil stalk-borer and May beetle.

Then follow instructions for increasing birds, based on experience in the United States, and a discussion on the introduction of exotic species. Of several species introduced in the past, only the Hooded Weaver-finch (*Spermestes cucullatus*) has become generally distributed and fortunately it has not proved injurious. Mr. Wetmore is opposed on general principles to introducing foreign birds, but thinks it possible that the Barn Owl might be a valuable adjunct to the native avifauna as a check on the rats.

In the annotated list the several native names of each species are added to the English and technical names, and a good account of the habits and distribution is presented. Then follows an analysis of the food, based upon the examination of stomach contents. The information thus obtained in the case of North American birds which winter in Porto Rico is of particular interest as it rounds out our knowledge of the food habits of these species.

Mr. Wetmore found the "Martinete" or native variety of the Green Heron, to be the greatest destroyer of the injurious mole cricket, while the Blackbird (*Holoquiscalus brachypterus*) seems to be the greatest enemy of the root-borer. The little owl (*Gymnasio nudipes*) feeds largely upon the May beetle. There was no evidence that any of the Porto Rican birds were injurious, with the exception of two hawks which however, are not common.

Porto Rico, like the other Greater Antilles is very poor in bird species compared with Central America and Mr. Wetmore's list comprises only 162 species with 16 others, the occurrence of which he thinks requires confirmation. Of this number only about 50 are resident land birds. As an indication of the abundance of bird life on the island several censuses are given. One on May 24 at Yauco yielded 391 individuals of 35 species in four hours, over a distance of five miles; while on June 28 near Lares 335 individuals of 27 species were seen. The several half tone plates represent Porto Rican birds from drawings by Fuertes and photographs of stomach contents.

Mr. Wetmore's report will serve a valuable purpose in stimulating inter-

est in the birds of the island among the residents and the author is to be congratulated upon an admirable piece of work.— W. S.

Hersey's 'List of Birds Observed in Alaska and Siberia.'¹— Mr. Hersey's trip along the Alaskan coast during the summer of 1914 was undertaken in the interest of Mr. A. C. Bent to obtain data for his continuation of the 'Life Histories of North American Birds.' Notes on 105 species are contained in the list of which 74 are water-birds.

The "repeated occurrence" of Fisher's Petrel (*Æstrelata fisheri*) was one of the pleasures of the trip, but the scarcity of the Emperor Goose and Spectacled Eider seems to point to the greatly increased rarity of these species in the near future.

The practice of treating two species collectively in the annotated list is unfortunate as it leads to ambiguity. On p. 13 for instance it is impossible to tell whether the four gulls that followed the vessel to Ketchikan included any Western Gulls or whether they were all Herring Gulls. If any of the former were present the occurrence constitutes a new record for Alaska.

Mr. Hersey's list is a welcome addition to the literature of the Alaskan coast and the western arctic region, and the extensive notes obtained for Mr. Bent will doubtless add largely to the accuracy and interest of his accounts of the northwestern waterfowl.— W. S.

Brooks' 'Notes on Birds from East Siberia and Arctic Alaska.'²— Messrs. W. Sprague Brooks and Joseph Dixon accompanied the 'Polar Bear' hunting party, organized by graduates of Harvard University in the spring of 1913, and remained in the Arctic regions for some fifteen months, making collections for the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. The paper before us comprises Mr. Brooks' report on the birds, of which 160 species were observed. Notes of interest on the habits and distribution of many of the species are presented. Five forms are considered worthy of differentiation. A gull from Ellesmere Land allied to *L. kumlieni* is named *Larus thayeri* (p. 373) in honor of Col. J. E. Thayer through whose generosity the collection was obtained. The other new forms are *Histrionicus h. pacificus* (p. 393), Cape Shipunski, Kamchatka, including all the Pacific coast Harlequins; *Ædemia deglandi dixonii* (p. 393), Humphrey Pt., Alaska; *Nannus hiemalis semidiensis* (p. 400), Semidi Islands, Alaska; *Leucosticte griseonucha maxima* (p. 405), Commander Islands.

Messrs. Brooks and Dixon deserve much credit for securing so many interesting specimens and for visiting so many localities. They have added materially to our knowledge of the birds of the great northwestern arctic coast.— W. S.

¹ A List of the Birds Observed in Alaska and Northeastern Siberia During the Summer of 1914. By F. Seymour Hersey. Smithsonian Misc. Collns. Vol. 66, No. 2, pp. 1-33. 1916.

² Notes on Birds from East Siberia and Arctic Alaska. By W. Sprague Brooks. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. Vol. LIX, No. 5. pp. 361-413. September, 1915.