

garded as subspecies of the Old World *Gallinula chloropus* is correct. Besides *G. c. galeata* here restricted to southeastern South America, he recognizes four other races *G. c. garmani* Allen, from the Andes; *G. c. cerceris* Bangs, from the Lesser Antilles; and two here described as new *G. c. pauxilla* (p. 96), Rio Cauca, western Colombia; and *G. c. cachinnans* (p. 96) type from De Soto Co., Florida, for the North American bird.

In another paper¹ the smaller Mockingbird of the northern Bahamas is separated as *Mimus polyglottos delenificus*, type locality Andros Island; and in conjunction with Mr. John E. Thayer² the Song Sparrow of Nova Scotia is described as *Melospiza melodia acadica* (p. 67), type locality Wolfville.—W. S.

Swarth on the Pacific Coast Races of Bewick's Wren.³—From an examination of 597 skins, nine races are recognized.

Two other forms are "pointed out and their characteristics described, but no names affixed," because "it is impossible to indicate more than obscure average distinctions" and because the "extreme variability of even the most strongly marked of the described forms militates against" their recognition. The author fears possible criticism of his action but we think it will meet with very general endorsement.

Mr. Swarth's study is a very painstaking one, abounding in minute data, and will be a great help to those who wish to name their specimens, for to many who do not have a series of 500 skins for comparison this is by no means an easy task. There are some helpful suggestions to the A. O. U. Committee as to defining of the ranges of *spilurus* and *charienturus* in view of their refusal to recognize the poorly defined race *drymæus*.—W. S.

Murphy and Harper on New Diving Petrels.⁴—In their studies of the family Pelecanoididæ Messrs. Murphy and Harper have found two unnamed forms of the curious little Diving Petrels which so closely parallel in size and appearance the Murrelets of the northern hemisphere. These are named in the present paper, *Pelecanoides urinatrix chathamensis* (p. 65), Chatham Islands; and *P. georgica* (p. 66) South Georgia Island.—W. S.

Chapin on the Pennant-Winged Nightjar.⁵—During his sojourn in the great Equatorial forest of Central Africa, Mr. Chapin secured

¹ The Smaller Mockingbird of the Northern Bahamas. By Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. VI, p. 23. March 29, 1916.

² A New Song Sparrow from Nova Scotia. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. V, pp. 67-68. May 29, 1914.

³ The Pacific Coast Races of the Bewick Wren. By Harry S. Swarth. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., Vol. VI, No. 4, pp. 53-85, pl. 2. May 8, 1916.

⁴ Two New Diving Petrels. By Robert Cushman Murphy and Francis Harper. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXV, pp. 65-67. April 1, 1916.

⁵ The Pennant-winged Nightjar and its Migration. By James P. Chapin. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXV, pp. 73-81. Scientific Results of the Congo Expedition. Ornithology, No. 3. April 12, 1916.

specimens of this curious Nightjar only during March and July. Suspecting that these records might indicate a migration he has recently made a thorough study of the published records of the species and finds his surmise to be correct.

All the breeding records of *Cosmetornis* (September-January) are in southern Africa below the Equatorial forest, while all records from March to July are from the more or less open country north of the forest. We thus have a regular migration across the equator of a distinctly tropical bird, which is obviously different in origin from the great movement of migratory species in the north temperate and arctic regions.

As a possible incentive, Mr. Chapin suggests the great abundance of flying termites in the grasslands north of the forest from April to August. These "white ants" are eagerly devoured by the Nightjars which gather in large flocks to catch them. Mr. Chapin seems to have worked out his problem convincingly and his paper is one of much interest.—W. S.

Bangs on Birds from the Cayman Islands.¹—A complete collection of the resident birds of the three Cayman Islands, recently obtained by Mr. W. W. Brown and now the property of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, forms the basis of a paper by Mr. Bangs. Thirty-seven forms are listed of which *Amazona leucocephala hesternus* (p. 308), Cayman Brac, is described as new. Many notes on the plumage and relationship of the various species are given and a review of the races of *Tiaris olivacea*. The paper forms a valuable contribution to West Indian Ornithology.—W. S.

Cherrie on New South American Birds.²—Of the four hundred odd species of birds secured on the Roosevelt South American Expedition some naturally proved to be new, and these Mr. Cherrie has carefully described in the present paper. They are as follows: *Chætura chapmani viridipennis* (p. 183), Doze Octobre; *Celeus roosevelti* (p. 183), Tapirapoan; *Myrmotherula kermi* (p. 184), Barão Melgaco; *Rhopoterpe torquata tragicus* (p. 184), Rio Roosevelt; *Synallaxis rufogularis*, (p. 185), Barão Melgaco; *Phacellodomus ruber rubicula* (p. 186), San Lorenzo River; *Philydor erythrocerus lyra* (p. 186), Rio Roosevelt; *Xiphocolaptes major saturatus* (p. 187), and *Myiopagis viridicata rondoni* (p. 188), Urucum near Corumba; *Sporophila hypoleuca clara* (p. 188), San Lorenzo River — all from Matto Grosso, Brazil.

Picolaptes angustirostris prædatus (p. 187), Concepcion del Uruguay; *Myositta manimbe nigrostriata* (p. 189), Rio Negro, Paraguayan Chaco; and *Thraupis palmarum duvida* (p. 90), Rio Roosevelt, Amazonia.

¹ A Collection of Birds from the Cayman Islands. By Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., Vol.-LX, No. 7, pp. 303-320. March, 1916.

² Some apparently undescribed Birds from the Collection of the Roosevelt South American Expedition. By George K. Cherrie. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXV, Art. VII. pp. 183-190. May 20, 1916.