

## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Index to 'The Ibis' 1895-1912.**<sup>1</sup>—This bulky volume is the third 'Index-volume' of 'The Ibis,' the others covering respectively the years 1859-1876, and 1877-1894. Unlike the custom adopted by 'The Auk,' 'The Ibis' issues a separate 'Subject Index' at the end of every series (six volumes) so that no entries of authors or subjects appear in the work before us. The size of the volume is greatly increased by the indexing of every species under both species and genus and of every trinomial name under subspecies, species and genus, there being no cross references whatever.

To anyone who has constant occasion to consult the files of 'The Ibis' this index is invaluable and ornithologists the world over owe a debt of gratitude to Messrs. Henry Peavot and Thomas Wells who compiled it and to Mr. W. L. Sclater, the editor.—W. S.

**Noble on the Resident Birds of Guadeloupe.**<sup>2</sup>—Mr. Noble spent the summer and early fall of 1914 on Guadeloupe Island in the French West Indies, collecting in the interest of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and the present report covers the results of his work. Forty-six species are listed accompanied by extensive notes on relationship, habits and abundance, while several introductory pages summarize the topography of the island, the vertebrate fauna and the present status of the bird life. The four species of parrots, were the earliest land birds to be exterminated, having been killed in large numbers by the natives. The Coot and Rail have apparently disappeared also, though their extirpation is to be laid to the mongoose rather than to human agency. The other extinct species is the Diablotin or Black-capped Petrel, which, according to the "oldest inhabitants" has not been seen since the great earthquake of 1847. Mr. Noble nevertheless is able to discuss the relationship of the Guadeloupe petrels at considerable length on the basis of four specimens in the Lafresnaye collection secured in Guadeloupe in 1842 by L'Herminier. These curiously enough belong to two different species, the smaller of which seems to correspond best with Kuhl's description of *Procellaria hasitata* while the larger is *P. diabolica* of Lafresnay. Mr. Noble further thinks it probable that the North American specimens of '*A. hasitata*' will be found to be *A. diabolica*.

The Laughing Gulls of the Antilles and Bahamas are found to be uniformly smaller than those from the mainland and Mr. Noble proposes to separate the latter as *Larus atricilla megalopterus* (Bruch). The Grackles

<sup>1</sup> Index of Genera and Species referred to, and an Index to the Plates in 'The Ibis' (Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Series), 1895-1912. Edited by William Lutley Sclater, M. A. London, 1916. pp. 1-513. Price, £1 12s. 6d.

<sup>2</sup> The Resident Birds of Guadeloupe. By G. K. Noble. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., LX., No. 10. August, 1916. pp. 359-396.

of Guadeloupe and Martinique are found to differ so very little in size that in the absence of any other character he thinks they should be united, and *Holoquisticus martinicensis* Ridgway become a synonym of *H. guadeloupenensis* (Lawrence). Ridgway's *Cichlherminia coryi* Mr. Noble considers to be the adult of *C. herminieri*, his series of twenty-four specimens showing a gradual change from one to the other.

A study of a series of *Tiaris bicolor* from Grenada, St. Vincent and Barbados shows that they represent a distinct race which is described as *Tiaris bicolor expectata* (p. 385), Grenada.

Dr. A. H. Clark's view that the races of *Dendroica ruficapilla* from Cozumel, Curaçao and St. Andrews are not separable from the typical form is endorsed.

The same view is taken of the Antillean races of the Green Heron recently described by Oberholser and Mr. Noble regards all Green Herons from Cuba to Grenada as referable to one subspecies. *Podilymbus podiceps antillarum* is still however, regarded as a valid race.

Mr. Noble's paper is carefully prepared and is a welcome and valuable addition to the literature dealing with the West Indian avifauna.— W. S.

**Cherrie on the Ornithology of the Orinoco Region.**<sup>1</sup>— This is an annotated list of some 571 species and subspecies based on collections made by the writer with the addition of such species as have been reported by Berlepsch and Hartert in their 'Birds of the Orinoco Region' (Nov. Zool. IX, 1902) and other more recent papers. The manuscript was completed some five or six years ago but on account of many complications its earlier publication was impossible. While the author has endeavored to bring it up to date, he states that it is not as complete as might be desired. Nevertheless it forms a very welcome and satisfactory review of the wonderfully rich avifauna of this region and the omissions are not noticeable.

There are keys for the determination of the genera, species and subspecies of each family, while the synonymy of each form gives the original place of publication and reference to Berlepsch and Hartert or to other publications. Valuable notes on habits and distribution are given under various species as well as critical discussion of nomenclature and relationship. Apparently only one new form is described in Mr. Cherrie's paper — *Hypolophus canadensis intermedius* (p. 277) Caicara, Venezuela.

Mr. Cherrie's paper adds one more to the faunal studies of South American birds which are beginning to appear after the bewildering preliminary descriptions of new forms, and he is to be congratulated upon a piece of important work, well done.— W. S.

**Recent Papers by Rothschild and Hartert.**— In the last issue of 'Novitates Zoologicae' Dr. Ernst Hartert has published a number of

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<sup>1</sup> A Contribution to the Ornithology of the Orinoco Region. By George K. Cherrie. Science Bulletin, Mus. Brooklyn Inst., Vol. 2, No. 6. September 1, 1916. pp. 133-374.