

three more forms making sixteen in all which he now recognizes and which occur at one time of the year or another within the state. The "thick-billed Sparrow" of the Sierra Nevada proves to be different from *P. i. megarhynca* and is therefore named *mariposa* (p. 161), type from Yosemite Park. The breeding locality of the true *megarhynca* is unknown, the specimens being all winter examples from southern California. The Warner Mountain bird is named *fulva* (p. 162) and that breeding in the White Mountains, *canescens* (p. 163).—W. S.

**Annual Report of the State Ornithologist of Massachusetts.**—Mr. E. H. Forbush's last report<sup>1</sup> contains some novel features besides the usual account of activities in the interest of bird protection. There is a list of collections of mounted birds and skins in Massachusetts with the hours and conditions under which they may be consulted, a most valuable piece of information. These collections number no less than forty-eight.

A census of the Heath Hens on Martha's Vineyard showed 155 birds present, an increase of forty per cent over the year before, while a number of interesting photographs of this bird in its mating dance form a frontispiece to the report. Mr. Forbush has also issued an excellent circular on "Food, Feeding and Drinking Appliances and Nesting Materials to Attract Birds"<sup>2</sup> which contains more information in a small space and conveniently arranged than any similar publication that we recall.

**Noble on the Birds of Newfoundland.**<sup>3</sup>—Mr. Noble spent a portion of the summer of 1915 collecting specimens in Newfoundland in the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and presents notes on 61 species. Special permission is required to collect in Newfoundland and a definite limit placed on the number of specimens of each species secured.

Mr. Noble ascertained that Newfoundland was evidently a region in which a dark coloration was beginning to develop in nesting species and he endorses the various recently described races from this country, but regards Howe's *Hylocichla fuscescens fuliginosa* as indistinguishable from the western *salicicola*.

An analysis of the avifauna shows thirteen species in Newfoundland which are unknown in Labrador, and twenty which occur in Labrador but not in Newfoundland, while six others are common in Newfoundland and rare in Labrador.—W. S.

**Chubb on New South American Birds.**<sup>4</sup>—In the January number of

<sup>1</sup> Eleventh Annual Report of the State Ornithologist. By Edward Howe Forbush. For the Year 1918. From the Annual Report of the State Department of Agriculture. December 20, 1918, pp. 1-21.

<sup>2</sup> Circular 2, Mass. State Department of Agriculture, pp. 1-31, September, 1918.

<sup>3</sup> Notes on the Avifauna of Newfoundland. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. LXII, No. 14, pp. 543-568.

<sup>4</sup> Notes on Collections of Birds in the British Museum, from Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina. Part I. Tinamidæ—Rallidæ. By Charles Chubb. The Ibis, January, 1919, pp. 1-55.

'The Auk,' mention of the new species described in this paper was made in noticing the number of 'The Ibis' in which it appeared. An examination of the paper in detail is somewhat disappointing and exhibits an element of carelessness that is quite unexpected when we consider the author and his opportunities. It is regrettable in the first place that Mr. Chubb has seen fit to consider such a wide extent of country in one paper. It is almost impossible to keep in mind the details of distribution and the literature of the subject unless we consider one region at a time. In this way too, we learn better what are the probable areas in which differentiation may be expected.

In this paper, although the fact is not indicated in the title, the author describes some new birds from Colombia, and, doubtless because this was somewhat incidental, he apparently forgot Dr. F. M. Chapman's painstaking work upon the avifauna of that country. The result is that he was not aware that Dr. Chapman had shown that most of Goudot's specimens came from the region of the Quindio Pass and not from Bogota, so that in describing his new form of *Chamaepeles* he has apparently redescribed the type race, that from Bogota being the unnamed one, if the two are really distinct.

In his treatment of *Odontophorus*, while still failing to refer to Chapman's work, his results are decidedly more nearly in accord with it. So much so, in fact, that he recognizes the Panama race of *O. guianensis* as distinct, just as Chapman did, and in naming it as a new form he uses the same name as Chapman had previously employed for the same purpose (!) and based his name upon one of McLeannan's skins just as Chapman had done. Too much care cannot be taken in the description of new South American birds, as has been previously pointed out in these columns. So many different authors are engaged in the work that unless exceptional care is exercised it will take a great deal of painstaking research to straighten out the synonymy and correct the slips that have been made.—W. S.

### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XXI, No. 2. March-April, 1919.

The Warblers of Central New York. By Arthur A. Allen.—Photographs of the Cerulean, Mourning, Chestnut-sided and Blackburnian Warblers and the Chat and an interesting account of their habits.

Notes from a Traveller in the Tropics. III. From Panama to Peru. By Frank M. Chapman.—Describes the abundant sea bird life off the coast of Peru.

Purple Martins on Stuart Acres. By F. A. Stuart. Gives the results of five years of bird protection on a Michigan Farm. 1400 bird boxes have been erected. For Martins there were ten boxes in 1914 occupied by 46 pairs of birds, while in 1918 there were 222 pairs of these birds. One hundred and eleven species of birds have been noted on the estate, either as residents or transients.