

of their peculiar environments or spread beyond the barriers as Mr. Swarth tells us that the Fox Sparrows do. Quite likely, however, it is some other factor that has played a part in differentiating the Fox Sparrows and not immediate physical barriers.

Messrs. Griscom and Nichols have recognized nine forms of the Seaside Sparrows, two of which, *Passerherbulus mirabilis* from Cape Sable and *P. nigrescens* from Merrit Island, Florida, are recognized as species while the others are considered as subspecies of *P. maritimus*. Two are described as new, *P. m. howelli* (p. 22), ranging along the Gulf coast of Alabama and Mississippi, and *P. m. juncicola* (p. 25), from East Goose Creek, Wakulla County, Florida.—W. S.

Silloway on the Birds of the Palisades Interstate Park.—This pamphlet,¹ intended as a guide-book to the bird life in certain sections of the Palisades Interstate Park begins with an account of its physical features and the prominent points of interest, with numerous excellent photographic illustrations. The ornithological portion consists of two annotated lists, one for the vicinity of Bear Mountain, containing sixty species; the other for the vicinity of the Guest House, with sixty-one species, both based upon field studies made during the year 1918, with a supplementary list of nineteen species added during 1919.

The annotations consist of notes on nests and breeding birds observed by the author, and some general information regarding the habits of the various species. With some of the author's statements we can hardly agree; as when he says that the Chat "is a mocking warbler, and owing to the character of its noisy imitations the hearer usually refers the calls to the species imitated and does not suspect the presence of the Chat." We think that anyone at all familiar with the notes of the Chat will recognize them instantly and will not be likely to take them for the imitation of any other species, much less be misled by them. Sometimes, too, the habits mentioned by the author as characteristic of a certain species gain unmerited importance from the fact that he omits all mention of them in writing of a closely related species. The Louisiana Water-Thrush, for instance, is described as a "walker," while there is no mention of walking in connection with the Ovenbird. The color of the back of the latter species, moreover, we should hardly describe as "brown." Much information is duplicated in the two lists and it would seem to have been better to have combined them, adding separate nominal lists, if desired, of the few species peculiar to the two regions. The reversal of the order of the species, throwing the list out of harmony with all of the modern standard works, is regrettable.

¹ Guide to the Summer Birds of the Bear Mountain and Harriman Park Sections of the Palisades Interstate Park. By P. M. Silloway, M.S., Investigator in Forest Zoology, N. Y. State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, Bull. No. II, Vol. IX, No. 21, March, 1920, pp. 1-105, numerous text cuts and map.

In spite of these minor defects, some of which may after all be merely matters of personal opinion, Mr. Silloway's little pamphlet will prove of great value to all who camp in or visit the park—and they are already numbered by the thousands—while it will also be a record of present-day conditions for comparison with those of future years.—W. S.

Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'—The last part of this work¹ which we have received covers the Swifts, Nightjars, Roller, Kingfisher, Woodpeckers, Cuckoos and most of the Owls.

Among the nomenclatural points that we notice is Dr. Hartert's advocacy of the use of *Apus* for the Swift, saying that we "must suppose" that Scopoli purposely made the two names *Apus* and *Apos* different. Others, however, are privileged to take an opposite view of the matter and an arbitrary ruling is necessary, if we are to have uniformity in such cases. Such a rule we find in the A. O. U. 'Code' which regards such names as the same. On much the same grounds *Agolius* Kamp is used in place of *Cryptoglaux*, as in the 'Hand-List' of Hartert et al., but the specific name *funerea* is now used as in the A. O. U. 'Check-List.'

There is an excellent half-tone plate of Owls' heads and numerous line drawings, while the general high standard of the work is fully maintained. We congratulate the author and his associates upon the excellent progress that they are making.—W. S.

Bangs and Kennard on the Birds of Jamaica.—Messrs. Bangs and Kennard have contributed the list of birds² to the 1920 edition of 'The Handbook of Jamaica.' The list is entirely rewritten and is a distinct improvement upon the Sclater list of 1910, adding a number of species there omitted and bringing the whole subject up to date.

There are now 219 species and subspecies recorded from the island, of which, however, 26 need confirmation. Three species have been introduced, 81 are migrants or winter visitants from the north, five are summer visitors from the south, while 104 are resident—exactly half of this number, including one family (Euneornidae) and eleven genera, being endemic.

The authors seem to lack the courage of their convictions in one case of nomenclature or are anxious to secure all possible "subspecific" credit, since they propose a new name, *Charadrius vociferus ternominatus* (p. 8) for *Oxyechus vociferus rubidus* Riley, which, as they say, would be pre-occupied by *Charadrius rubidus* Gmel. if we refuse to recognize *Oxyechus* as a distinct genus. But the authors show no sign of rejecting it and hence

¹ A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Part IX (Vol. II, pp. 1-80), September 20, 1920. Price 4s, 6d. per part.

² A List of the Birds of Jamaica. By Outram Bangs and Frederic H. Kennard. Excerpted from 'The Handbook of Jamaica,' 1920. Jamaica, 1920, pp. 1-18.