

Of the 190 birds whose life histories Mr. Hudson has traced for us and which comprise the most characteristic and most abundant species of the La Plata avifauna, it is interesting to note that of the eighty-five Passerine birds only forty-two are song birds, while forty-three are non-oscine. In one of our eastern United States the figures would stand 132 to nine showing the far greater proportion in La Plata of non-oscine species, notably Tyrant Flycatchers, of which there are 28, and Woodhewers with 22 species. The song birds of Mr. Hudson's country comprise 6 Thrushes, 6 Swallows, 13 Finches, 13 Troupials, 2 Wrens, a Tanager and a Pipit. The birds other than Passerine are 2 Woodpeckers, 2 Cuckoos, 2 Parrots, 2 Owls, a Hummer, a Goatsucker and a Kingfisher, 14 Hawks, a Vulture, 5 Pigeons, 4 Tinamous and a Rhea together with 56 "water birds."

The introduction contains a brief history of the work and comparison of Argentine bird-life with that of the rest of South America, besides a little personal touch describing an early incident in the author's life.

Mr. Hudson's bird biographies are delightful reading and like all of his accounts of this far away land and its wild life he manages to bring in the atmosphere of the Pampas, and as we follow his pages we are able to picture many birds in their native haunts and in all the vigor of their everyday life, which have hitherto been to us merely stuffed specimens or denizens of the cages at the Zoo. Those who have read and re-read the more recent works of Mr. Hudson will be glad of the opportunity of familiarizing themselves with this earlier product of his pen, and lovers of beautiful books will wish to add the two volumes of 'Birds of La Plata' to their libraries. The work is clearly printed in large type on extra heavy paper with broad margins and attractive title pages, while the excellence of the plates has already been referred to. It is a gratification, when a book is found worthy of reprinting, to have the work done well; and the publishers have certainly fulfilled their part in bringing out these volumes.—W. S.

New Genera by Ridgway.—It is gratifying to realize from the appearance of this little paper¹ that Mr. Ridgway is at work on the final volumes of his 'Birds of North and Middle America.' The seven new genera which he proposes are for Eagles and Rails and are for species which his researches show are to be separated from those with which they are usually associated. The differences pointed out seem however to be of unequal value and it seems unfortunate that subgenera cannot be more frequently used to indicate the lesser differences; in which case the genera would not only denote the greater differences between groups but also the relationships between minor groups.

The new names proposed by Mr. Ridgway are: *Oroaetus* (p. 1) for *Falco isidori* Des Murs; *Phaeoactus* (p. 2) for *F. limnaetus* Horsf.; *Morphnar-*

¹ Birds of La Plata. By W. H. Hudson. With twenty-two colored illustrations by H. Gronvold. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London & Toronto. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1920. 2 Vols., 8vo., pp. i-xviii, 1-244; and i-x, 1-240. Edition limited to 3200 copies, 200 on large paper. Price \$15.00 net per set.

² Diagnoses of Some New Genera of Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Smithsonian Misc. Coll., Vol. 72, No. 4, Publ. 2588. December 6, 1920, pp. 1-4.

chus (p. 2) for *Leucopternus princeps*; *Percnohierax* (p. 2) for *Falco leucorrhous* Q. & G.; *Hapalocrex* (p. 3) for *Rallus flaviventris*; *Linnocrex* (p. 3) for *Porzana cinereiceps* Lawr. and *Thryocrex* (p. 4) for *Corethrura rubra* Sel. & Salv.—W. S.

Murphy on the Peruvian Guana Birds.—In the third of his series of papers¹ on 'The Seacoast and Islands of Peru,' Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy describes his trip from Callao to the Guano Islands. He also outlines the history of the Guano industry and describes its present condition, concluding with a brief account of the several birds which form the great colonies on the islands. Quoting from Dr. F. A. Lucas who visited the islands in 1869, Mr. Murphy states that even at that time they had been swept clear of guano birds and that no sign of the streaming flocks was to be seen. By the close of the nineteenth century the birds had been so reduced that it was hardly thought possible that they could be saved and the industry revived. Happily however during the past twelve years, thanks to an intelligent administration and the expert advice of two foreigners, Dr. Henry O. Forbes and Dr. Robert E. Coker, the wonderful colonies have been restored and a most valuable industry has been placed upon a permanent basis. A large number of excellent illustrations from photographs by the author accompany the account.

In another recent paper² Mr. Murphy has described the Zoological garden at Lima, Peru and presented a number of illustrations of the birds and mammals which are there exhibited.—W. S.

Dr. Shufeldt's Bibliography.—The ninth and final instalment of the list of Dr. Shufeldt's published writings³ has appeared bringing the total number of titles, up to the time of going to press, to 1565. He states, however, that his production of papers is going on as rapidly as ever, which, judging from the bibliography, means from thirty to fifty per year, so that in order to keep the list up to date he proposes to issue the first supplement about March, 1921.—W. S.

Aves in the Zoological Record—1918.—Once more we are indebted to Mr. William Lutley Selater for the compilation of this invaluable bibliography of ornithology, without which systematic work on birds would be involved in hopeless complications.⁴ The titles which he has collected number 937 as against 707 for 1917. A number of titles not available during the past few years on account of war conditions are incorporated here so that the record may eventually be complete. Ober-

¹ The Seacoast and Islands of Peru—III. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Brooklyn Museum Quarterly. October, 1920.

² The Zoological Park of Lima, Peru. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Zool. Soc. Bulletin. September, 1920.

³ Complete List of My Writings with Brief Biographical Notes. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Ninth Instalment. Medical Review of Reviews, September, 1920. pp. 495-498.

⁴ Aves [in the Zoological Record]. By W. L. Selater, M.A. Vol. LV, 1918, pp. 1-75. Printed for the Zoological Society of London; sold at their House in Regent's Park, London, N. W. 8. Price 6s. October, 1920.