

caves of Porto Rico are some bird bones which are being studied by Dr. Alexander Wetmore and pending the completion of his report he has published descriptions of five new species—*Polyborus latebrosus* (p. 77); *Gallinago anthonyi* (p. 78); *Oreopeleia larva* (p. 79); *Tyto cavatica* (p. 80); and *Corvus pumilis* (p. 81).—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Oberholser.**—In a paper on new forms of *Cyornis*<sup>1</sup> Dr. H. C. Oberholser describes a new subspecies of *C. rubeculoides*, two of *C. banyumas* and two of *C. elegans*, while his ninth instalment of nomenclatural changes<sup>2</sup> comprise *Dendrocitta celadina* (p. 83) a new name for *D. sinensis* (Lath.); *Motacilla rhadinura* (p. 83) for *M. longicauda* Rupp.; *Eremomela griseoflava perimacha* (p. 84) for *E. flaviventris* (Burchell); *Turdoides polioplocamus* (p. 84) for *Crateropus griseus* (Gm.) and *Arrenga glaucina* (Temm.) for *A. cyanea* all being preoccupied.—W. S.

**Todd on New South American Birds.**—Mr. W. E. C. Todd proposes in this paper<sup>3</sup> sixteen new forms from various parts of South America and Mexico. While some of these are adequately described there are seven in which the diagnosis consists of only two or three lines, including the trinomial name of the form with which the new one is compared. Such descriptions will in all probability prove a hindrance to any comprehensive treatment of the groups to which they belong, until Mr. Todd presents adequate descriptions or until the types are borrowed. One diagnosis reads simply "similar [to an already described form] but general coloration obviously darker and blacker" nothing further except the data of the type.

We have commented upon this sort of practice before and feel, with a large number of other ornithologists, very strongly on the subject. We fear it is useless to hope for that millenium when systematic writers will join hands in an effort to advance the science in which they work in every way possible, instead of retarding its progress by publishing these careless and slovenly diagnoses. Meanwhile why does not the Carnegie Museum take some steps to provide means of publication so that the valuable collections which it is constantly securing might be promptly and adequately described?—W. S.

**Chapman on New Birds from South America.**—The American Museum of Natural History has recently established a new publication under the title of "Novitates" for the immediate publication of new species, etc. The second number is devoted to the presentation of descriptions of eight new South American birds by Dr. Frank M. Chapman. As usual his descriptions are full and satisfactory and in marked contrast

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of Five New Species of *Cyornis*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington. 33, pp. 85-88. December 30, 1920.

<sup>2</sup> Mutanda Ornithologica. IX. *Ibid.* pp. 83-84.

<sup>3</sup> Descriptions of Apparently New South American Birds. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington. 33, pp. 71-76. December 30, 1920.

to certain others that we have been compelled to comment upon. Full comparisons are made with the closely allied forms and not infrequently all of the races of a species are reviewed and discussed in connection with the proposed new race.<sup>1</sup>

The new forms described are as follows: *Capito brunneipectus* (p. 1) Rio Tapajoz, Brazil; *Nonnula amaurocephala* (p. 2) Rio Solimoes, Brazil; *Rhopochares cochabambae* (p. 2) Cochabamba, Bolivia; *Microrhopias emiliae* (p. 3) Rio Xingu, Brazil; *Drymophila devillei subochraceus* (p. 4) Rio Curua, Brazil; *Hypocnemis hypoxantha ochraceiventris* (p. 5) Rio Xingu, Brazil; *Siptornis punensis cuchacanchae* (p. 5) Cuchacancha, Bolivia; *Cistothorus platensis caracasensis* (p. 6) Caracas, Venezuela.

Five of these new forms are described from a collection submitted for study by Dr. E. Snethlage of the Museu Goeldi at Para, while the others are from the American Museum collection.—W. S.

**Bangs and Penard on Some American Birds.**—This paper<sup>2</sup> consists of a collection of miscellaneous notes dealing mainly with neotropical birds. *Crotophaga sulcirostris pallidula* (p. 365) is proposed for birds of the isolated colony at Cape St. Lucas; *Muscifur* (p. 376) is proposed for *Myiarchus semirufus* Scl. & Salv.; *Allenia apicalis* is changed to *A. fusca* on grounds of priority; the races of *Dendroplex picus*, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, *Pachyrhamphus polychopterus* and *P. marginatus* are reviewed with the result that the following are described as new: *D. p. bahiae* (p. 369) E. Brazil; *M. c. harterti* (p. 374) Panama; *P. m. nanus* (p. 395) E. Peru. A further study of the Lafresnaye types discloses the fact that the type of *Lophotriccus spiciferum* is really a specimen of *Colopteryx galeatus* which necessitates the changing of the name of the latter species to *Lophotriccus galeatus* while the former, for which there is neither a generic nor specific name available, is renamed *Cometornis vitiosus* (p. 373).—W. S.

**Hellmayr on the Birds of Southeastern Peru.**—This paper<sup>3</sup> is based upon collections made by H. and C. Watkins in the Sierra de Carabaya, province of Puno, Peru, numbering some 250 species and 1200 specimens. It is in the form of an annotated list with very full discussion of the characters of the forms and such questions of relationship and nomenclature as have arisen in connection with them. A few new forms have already been described from the collections in the 'Proceedings' of the Bavarian Ornithological Society 1912-1914 and the following appear in the present paper: *Ramphocelus carbo centralis* (p. 26) Agua Suja, Brazil; *Spizitornis patagonicus* (p. 51) Neuquen, Argentina; *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger carabayae* (p. 81) Sierra de Carabaya, Peru.

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of Apparently New Birds from Bolivia, Brazil, and Venezuela. By Frank M. Chapman. American Museum Novitates. No. 2. pp. 1-8. January 31, 1921.

<sup>2</sup> Notes on Some American Birds, Chiefly Neotropical. By Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., LXIV, No. 4, pp. 365-397. January, 1921.

<sup>3</sup> Ein Beitrag zur Ornithologie von Südost-Peru. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Archiv. für Naturg. 85. Heft. 10. November, 1920. pp. 1-131. [In German.]