

fused to find *Quiscalus quiscula quiscula* which is the Purple Grackle of the 'Check-List' applied to the Florida Grackle and the Florida Red-wing called *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*. Some departures from current nomenclature have the 'Check-List' equivalents in the foot notes but by no means all of them, and even then the misleading expression "formerly known as," is used, while as a matter of fact they *are still* the current names so far as any standard exists. If everyone is going to exercise his own preference in the matter of names why should we have a check list or strive for uniformity? It is discouraging to find the Biological Survey, which has done so much to advance American Ornithology, so easily led into this mad rush to be "up to the minute" in nomenclatural technicalities without waiting to see whether the proposals are going to receive general acceptance, and thereby rendering their publications ambiguous to the general reader.

For this, however, Mr. Howell is probably not responsible. He has furnished us with an authoritative and much needed treatise on the distribution of life in a much neglected State, while his report on the mammals is so admirable that we look forward with impatience for the appearance of that on the birds.—W. S.

Holt on the Avery Bird Collection.¹—This little brochure consists of a catalogue of the specimens contained in the collection of birds formed by the late Dr. Wm. Cushman Avery and now in the Alabama Museum of Natural History. To these data Mr. Holt has added excerpts from Dr. Avery's field notes and from publications of his which appeared in the 'American Field' and the 'Ornithologist and Oologist,' the whole forming quite a complete catalogue of the bird life of Greensboro and vicinity where his investigations were carried on. No less than 216 species are listed.

There is a biographical sketch of Dr. Avery by his sister Miss Mary E. Avery and a portrait.—W. S.

Chapin on Congo Birds.²—In studying his Congo collection Mr. Chapin has come upon a number of interesting things which are here placed on record in advance of his main report.

A new species of *Buphagus* is described from Zambi, Lower Congo as *B. langi* (p. 4), and the subgeneric term *Buphagoides* is proposed for *B. erythrorhynchus*. *Nectarinia congoensis* he considers to be restricted to the region above Irebu on the forested banks of the Congo where he rediscovered it. *Neolestes* he regards as a Pycnonotid confirming Gadow's view and considers *Nicator* "as near to the Pycnonotidae as to any member

¹ Annotated List of the Avery Bird Collection in the Alabama Museum of Natural History. By Ernest G. Holt. Museum Paper No. 4. Alabama Mus. Nat. Hist., 1921. pp. 1-142.

² Notes on a New Ox-pecker and other Little-Known Birds of the Congo. By James P. Chapin. Amer. Mus. Novit. No. 17. Sept. 16. 1920. pp. 1-16.

of the Malaconotinae." The juvenal plumage of *Sigmados* is discussed and another locality, on the river Dungee, for the Cliff Swallow *Lecythoplastes preussi* is recorded. A number of extreme eastern records for West African birds are also listed.—W. S.

Phillips on Species Crosses in Birds.¹ The present paper is a summary of Dr. Phillips' experiments in hybridizing ducks and pheasants up to the year 1917, when the work was abandoned on account of the exigencies of the war. He states that there has been "an impression that there is seldom anything approaching a Mendelian phenomenon in species-mating among birds." "But" he says "definite types of segregation do occur, dependent upon the degree of relationship of the genetic constitution." Dr. Phillips had already suggested in 1915 that in closely related forms there is, under experimental conditions, a closer approach to orthodox Mendelism than in crosses between more widely separated species.

The Mallard × Florida Duck crosses he says "constitute the most extreme example of segregation thus far discovered in species crosses" in either ducks or pheasants. Genetically the Florida Duck represents substantially a Mallard with the male secondary sex characters not expressed, and by the breeding test is more closely related to the Mallard than either the Black Duck or the Australian Duck.—W. S.

Mailliard on the Birds and Mammals of Siskiyou County, California.²—The present paper is based upon field work conducted by Mr. Joseph Mailliard and two assistants in the interests of the California Academy of Sciences, in Siskiyou County, California, May 10–June 16, 1920. The main portion consists of an itinerary with notes on various species and comments on records in earlier publications.

In conclusion there is a table of all of the species of birds observed by the party with records at seven localities. The whole forms a valuable contribution to the ornithology of northern California.—W. S.

Aves in the Zoological Record.³—Mr. W. L. Sclater has again compiled the bird section of the 'Zoological Record' for 1919, which appeared in August 1921. The list follows the same plan as its immediate predecessors and is characterized by the painstaking care which marks the author's work. We find 837 titles listed of which no less than 39 are by Oberholser. Chubb with 13 and Witherby with 11, are the only other authors who have published more than 10 papers within the year.

¹ A Further Report on Species Crosses in Birds. By J. C. Phillips, *Genetics*, VI, pp. 366–383, July, 1921.

² Notes on the Birds and Mammals of Siskiyou County, California. By Joseph Mailliard. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences*, XI, No. 5, pp. 73–94, July 11, 1921.

³ *Zoological Record* Vol. LVI, 1919. XVII Aves, W. L. Sclater, M. A. Zool. Soc. London. Sold at their House in Regents' Park, London, N. W., 8. Price 6s. August, 1921. pp. 1–71.