A new name *Rhipidura flabellifera placabilis* (p. 583) is proposed for *R. f. kempi* Matthews and Iredale of New Zealand, which is preoccupied.

The collection contains representatives of nearly 300 species but many of them represented by only one or two specimens, which as Mr. Bangs says renders subspecific determination not always certain.—W. S.

Miller and Griscom on Central American Birds.—This paper[1] includes descriptions of several new birds mostly obtained by the authors on an expedition to Nicaragua in 1917, and here published in advance of their final report. There are also comments on the status of certain other Central American forms. The new Nicaragua birds are *Ortalis cinereiceps saturatus* (p. 1), Matagalpa; *Creciscus ruberrimus* (p. 2) Jinotega; *Gallinula chloropus centralis* (p. 3) Metapa; *Asturina plagiata micrus* (p. 4) Chinandega; and *Ictinia plumbea vagans* (p. 5) Peña Blanca.

Crax panamensis Ogilvie-Grant the authors find indistinguishable from *C. globicera*, every one of the alleged characters being matched in a series of the latter species.

Commenting on Mr. Bangs' review of the Wood Rails of Central America, they fail to find any intergradation between *Aramides albiventris* and *A. plumbeicollis* and regard them as quite distinct species. On their recent expedition, moreover, they found a new race of the latter at Tipitapa, Nicaragua, which is described as *A. p. pacificus* (p. 11). *Aramus vociferus* they divide into two races, the typical form being restricted to Florida and the other *A. v. holostictus* (Cab.) ranging over the Greater Antilles and Central America.

In discussing the status of *Gampsonyx swainsoni leonae* Chubb. the authors' ideas became somewhat involved and a new edition[2] of this note has been issued to be substituted for the original. As we now understand it they recognize *leonae* and *swainsoni* as separable but on different grounds from those given by Mr. Chubb while *meridensis* Swann is regarded as a synonyom of the former.—W. S.

Grinnell and Storer on Yosemite Birds.[3]—The publishers of Hall's 'Handbook of Yosemite National Park' have done well to secure the service of Dr. Joseph Grinnell and his staff of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology to prepare the chapters on natural history. Too often such work is intrusted to a compiler, with unfortunate results, but in this case the best authorities on the subject have been consulted.

Four chapters have been prepared by Dr. Grinnell and Mr. Storer

---

[1] Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Central America, with Notes on other Little-known Forms. By Waldron DeWitt Miller and Ludlow Griscom. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 25. December 7, 1921, pp. 1–13.

[2] Errata (undated).

[3] Life Zones of Yosemite National Park. By Joseph Grinnell, Director and Tracy Irwin Storer, Field Naturalist, Mus. Vert. Zool. Univ. of Calif., Hall's Handbook of Yosemite National Park, G. P. Putman's Sons, 1921, pp. 123–132.

dealing with the mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians and the life zones of the Yosemite. The last explains very clearly the zonal distribution of life and lists the more conspicuous species of vertebrates found in each zone from the Lower Sonoran in the San Joaquin Valley, near Merced, to the Arctic Alpine of the highest Sierran peaks.

The chapter on birds[1] tells us that the "Yosemite section," about the size of the State of Rhode Island, contains 226 different kinds of birds, about 50 of which are briefly described and their characteristic habits mentioned. The selection is very well made and gives a satisfactory picture of Yosemite bird-life. Several half-tone illustrations and a bibliography complete the sketch.—W. S.

Cherrie and Reichenberger on New Birds from Southern South America.[2]—The forms here described are mainly from the Roosevelt collection made by Mr. Cherrie in 1913–1916. They are *Strix chacoensis* (p. 1), Ft. Wheeler, Paraguay; *Ortalis canicollis pantanalensis* (p. 2), Matto Grosso, Brazil; *O. c. grisea* (p. 2), Santiago del Estero, Argentina; *Nystactes tamatia interior* (p. 3); *Nonnula ruficapilla pallida* (p. 4); *Chloronerpes flavigula magnus* (p. 4), all from Matto Grosso, Brazil; and *Furnarius rufus paraguayae* (p. 5), Puerto Pinasco, Paraguay.

The descriptions are commendably full with discussions of related forms.—W. S.

Murphy and Harper on the Diving Petrels.[3]—In this very carefully prepared monograph the authors reach the conclusion that the Diving Petrels represent but one genus *Pelecanoides* divisible into four subgenera *Puffinuria, Porthmornis* (p. 503), *Pelagodytes* (p. 503)—these two here described as new, and *Pelecanoides* proper. The first three contain but a single species each with no subspecies, but the last contains two species *urinatrix* and *exsul*, the former divisible into five geographic races. The authors are to be congratulated upon their conservatism in the systematic treatment. The habits of these interesting antarctic birds are discussed as well as their probable evolution. Following the principles laid down by Dr. W. D. Matthew for the distribution of mammals, the authors think it likely that the original center of dispersal of these birds was the vicinity of Cape Horn, where we find today the most distinctive species, *P. magellani*. Those on the extremes of the range of the group have many points of resemblance, which would be interpreted by the authors to be due to the retention of primitive nonadaptive characters rather than to close re-

[1] Some Birds of Yosemite National Park. Ibid, pp. 133–152.

[2] Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. By George K. Cherrie and (Mrs.) Elsie M. B. Reichenberger. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 27. December 28, 1921, pp. 1–6.

[3] A Revision of the Diving Petrels. By Robert Cushman Murphy and Francis Harper. Bull. Amer. Nat. Hist., Vol. XLIV, Art. XVII. pp. 495–554. New York, December 23, 1921.