

that its tarsi are scutellated while in *Sericornis* they are only obscurely scutellate, yet on account of other characters he considers *keri* only sub-specifically separable from a species of *Sericornis*!

The high standard of both plates and text are well maintained in the present part.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Prof. Stephens.—In the past few years Prof. T. C. Stephens has published a number of papers of interest to ornithologists. In the proceedings of the Iowa Academy (Vol. XXVII, 1920.) is an address on the taxonomic unit, in which the familiar species and subspecies question is taken up, and a protest entered against taking the latter instead of the former as the "taxonomic unit." As in the case of many others who take this stand we fear Prof. Stephens has not had sufficient practise with systematic ornithology or like the rest of us he would find it very difficult to separate the species from the subspecies. What he is really opposed to, we think, is the multiplication of subspecies and in such a protest he will have a large following. Another paper in the same journal records winter bird records in the upper Missouri Valley during 1918-1920. 'Birds and Bird Study' is the title of a series of papers in the 'Iowa Conservationist' which contain many important Iowa records and suggestions for recording data. A paper on the birds of Union County South Dakota also appeared in the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy for 1918.—W. S.

Van Oort's 'Birds of the Netherlands.'¹—The 15th part of Van Oort's Birds of the Netherlands contains the text of Volume I, pp. 153-250, with preface, title page and index, and ten plates of Hawks forming part of Volume II, including the Hobby, Sparrow Hawk, Gerfalcon, Duck Hawk etc. which are excellent representations, showing, as usual, the more important variations in plumage due to sex and age.

Volume I is now complete and covers the Colymbiformes, Procellariiformes, Pelecaniformes Ardeiformes and Anseriformes, illustrated by 87 plates.

Unfortunately for English and American ornithologists the text, which contains a mass of valuable information, is entirely in Dutch, which of course is necessary as the vast majority of readers will come from Holland, and the number from English speaking countries would not be sufficiently great to warrant an English edition. We congratulate both author and publisher upon the high standard of the work.—W. S.

Ribeiro's Vertebrate Fauna of Trinidad Island.²—The fauna of this little Brazilian Island has already been reported by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy (Auk 1915, pp. 332-348) and the present reports list the vertebrates which he recorded and also those obtained by an expedition from the Museu Nacional at Rio Janeiro which visited the island in 1916.

¹ Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. 'sGravenhage, Martinus Nijhof. Aflevering 15. November 1, 1922.

² Arch. do Museu Nacional, XXI, pp. 171-194, 6 pl.

This expedition obtained eight species of birds while Dr. Murphy recorded eleven and only on one the former, *Parasula dactylathra*, is additional to the Murphy list.

The author describes three new forms or color phases which are named in trinomial fashion although they are not apparently intended as geographic races. They are *Piscatrix sula autumnalis*, *Fregata minor januaria* and *P. ariel trinitatis*, the last being mentioned in a list on page 197 and not definitely associated with a description. What to do with these names we leave the nomenclatural specialist to decide.

The curious petrel, *Aestrelata chionophara* described by Murphy was not found by the Brazilian expedition.—W. S.

Murphy on Birds of the Peruvian Coast.¹—In concluding his account of the Seacoast and Islands of Peru, Dr. Murphy in these installments writes entertainingly of the islands of Pacasmayo and Lobos de Tierra and the wonderful bird population of the latter and presents some excellent photographs depicting the colonies of Pelicans and Boobies two of the most prominent producers of the guano. In some of these the nesting birds are packed shoulder to shoulder and stretch away over the ground as far as one can see.—W. S.

McAtee on Local Suppression of Pests by Birds.²—This paper, a contribution to the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution, is a compilation, from various sources, of instances where birds have rendered notable service to agriculture by destroying various insect hordes which in certain localities have become a serious menace to crops. The instances are arranged according to the several groups of insects—Orthoptera, Lepidoptera etc., and the birds which figured in each are enumerated. The report forms an interesting contribution to the literature of economic ornithology.

Incidentally we are glad to see a departure from the practice usual of late in all papers by members of the Biological Survey, of ignoring the nomenclature of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' and adopting "up to the minute" names not yet authorized in any list nor in general use, and hence meaningless to the great mass of readers of agricultural reports.—W. S.

Bangs and Barbour on Birds from Darien.³—In this paper the authors describe a collection of birds obtained by Dr. Barbour, Messrs. W. S. Brooks, and C. F. Underwood, mainly in the Sapo Highlands and the Sambu Valley, Darien, during the spring of 1922.

¹ The Seacoast and Islands of Peru. By Robert Cushman Murphy. The Brooklyn Museum Quarterly. July, 1922, pp. 140-154; October, 1922, pp. 165-183.

² Local Suppression of Agricultural Pests of Birds. By W. L. McAtee, Biological Survey U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. From the Smithsonian Report for 1920, pp. 411-438 (with 3 plates), Publication 2637. Washington. 1922.

³ Birds from Darien. By Outram Bangs and Thomas Barbour. Bull. Mus. Comparative Zoology, Vol. LXXV. No. 6. September, 1922, pp. 191-229.