

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.

The collection, consisting of some 700 skins representing 159 species was obtained during a period of seventeen days with the aid of Indian shooters and is stated to be not fully representative, as ornithology was secondary to other activities, while the illness of Mr. Underwood, who was expected to pay particular attention to this field, prevented further prosecution of bird work. The following forms are described as new: *Jacamerops aurea penardi* (p. 200), Carrillo, Costa Rica; *Phaethornis adolphi nelsoni* (p. 204) for *P. a. fraterculus*, preoccupied; *Threnetes ruckeri dariensis* (p. 204) Mt. Sapo; *Chalybura buffoni micans* (p. 204) Mt. Sapo; *Phaenostictus macleannani choconus* (p. 208); *Sclerurus mexicanus anomalus* (p. 209); *Pipra erythrocephala actinosa* (p. 214); *Craspedoprion olivaceus badius* (p. 216) and *Oxyruncus brooksi* (p. 220) all from Mt. Sapo; *Chlorophanes spiza arguta* (p. 225) Divala, W. Panama. and *Tangara inornata languens* (p. 227) Loma del Leon.

In many cases comparisons are made with allied forms and there are a number of interesting field notes, the whole making a most welcome contribution to the ornithology of a region which appears to have been previously unvisited by zoologists.

While the authors lay particular stress upon the remarkable speed of the field work of the expedition, eighty-seven birds having been shot and prepared in a single day, it would seem that attention might also be called to the rapidity displayed in the preparation of the report, for while collecting was still in progress at the end of April the collection had been transported to Cambridge and the report prepared and published by September.—W. S.

Check List of the Birds of Illinois.¹—This little pocket list of Illinois birds has been prepared by Benjamin T. Gault with the assistance of Robert Ridgway and other ornithologists in various parts of the State. The object was to produce a check-list which should contain a summary of the authenticated data relative to the occurrence of birds in the State and serve as a standard for the recording of bird notes. The result is most satisfactory and rarely have we seen so much information clearly presented in such a small space.

There is an excellent faunal map of the State showing the extent of the three primary zones—the Transition, Upper Austral and Lower Austral and the three minor subdivisions of the last, while an introduction to the list by Robert Ridgway explains the characteristic species of each. Under each species is a brief statement of its relative abundance, time of occurrence etc., with separate statements for the several districts, if its distribution is not uniform. Then by means of various signs before the name the districts in which it nests are indicated.

¹ Check List of the Birds of Illinois. Together with a Short List of 200 commoner birds and Allen's Key to Bird's Nests. Published by the Illinois Audubon Society, 10 South La Salle Street, Chicago, pp. 80. 1922.