

the foundation. Color preference in this weaver was studied by placing equal numbers of straws of seven different colors in the cage with the result that red was found to be the favorite followed by orange and yellow. In the summary it is stated that the birds built normal nests after a lapse of two years but no statement of this sort occurs in the body of the text.

Very little seems to be known of the details of the weaving of Weaver Birds and Mr. Friedmann's paper is a welcome contribution to a neglected subject.—W. S.

Cherrie and Reichenberger on New South American Birds.¹—

This is the third report on the Roosevelt collection made by Mr. Cherrie in 1913 and 1916. The new forms are as follows: *Tangara cyaneicollis melanogaster* (p. 1) Utiarity, Matto Grosso, Brazil; *Eupsittula aurea major* (p. 3) Puerto Pinasco, Paraguay; *Manacus manacus subpurus* (p. 4) Tapirapoan, Matto Grosso, Brazil; *Nystalus maculatus pallidigula* (p. 6) Urucum, Matto Grosso, Brazil. Lists of specimens of allied races examined and tables of measurements are presented along with the descriptions, the paper being a model in this respect and a relief from the all too brief "preliminary diagnoses" so prevalent today.—W. S.

Dwight on a New Gull.²—An examination of a series of *Larus fuscus* from the Azores shows that they constitute a distinct race which Dr. Dwight described as *Larus fuscus atlantis* (p. 1). The suggestion is made that the birds recorded as *Larus cachinnans* from the Canaries and Madeira may have been this form, and that the latter really does not breed much west of the Black Sea region.—W. S.

Todd on South American Forms of Myiarchus.³—In this careful review with its key to the species and subspecies and its exhaustive synonymy Mr. Todd seems to have satisfactorily straightened out another puzzling group of the Tyrannidae.

Eleven species are recognized; *crinitus*, a migrant from North America, *tyrannulus* with 3 subspecies, *pelzelni*, *sordidus*, *phaenotus*, *ferox* with 4 subspecies, *cephalotes*, *apicalis phaeocephalus*, *atriceps*, and *tuberculifer* with 3 subspecies, none of which are new.

In preparing these studies in the Tyrannidae, Mr. Todd is doing an excellent service in systematic ornithology.—W. S.

Extracts from the Diary of Otto Widmann.⁴—This little brochure consists of eight essays written in Mr. Widmann's clear and attractive

¹ Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Brazil and Paraguay. By George K. Cherrie and (Mrs.) E. M. B. Reichenberger. American Museum Novitates. No. 58. Issued February 13, 1923, pp. 1-8 with a table.

² Description of a New Race of the Lesser Black-backed Gull, from the Azores. By Jonathan Dwight. American Museum Novitates. No. 44. Issued September 6, 1922, pp. 1-2.

³ The South American Forms of Myiarchus, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. Vol. 35, pp. 181-218. October 17, 1922.

⁴ Extracts from the Diary of Otto Widmann. Transactions of the Academy of Sciences of St. Louis. Vol. XXIV, No. 3. Issued December 1922, pp. 1-77.

style, setting forth his careful observations without ornamental embellishment. The first three treat of the Purple Martin, its nesting habits; the feeding of the young; and the roosting place near St. Louis, Mo. The latter is in a willow thicket along the Mississippi, the birds assembling at first on a sand bar, thus differing materially from the habit of the species as we know it at Cape May, N. J., where they roost in a grove of rather tall maples with no previous place of assemblage except on rooves of buildings or telegraph wires.

There is also an account of a Crow roost at St. Louis; a sketch of the winter bird life of that region as well as a review of the bird life of the Ozarks and of parts of Taney County, Mo.; and an account of the Chimney Swift.

In the Ozark paper attention is given to a much neglected species, the Bewick's Wren, which here, as in the mountain foot-hills of south central Pennsylvania, occupies the rough country to the exclusion of the House Wren.

Mr. Widmann's sketches are delightful reading and form a contribution of no little importance to the ornithology of Missouri.—W. S.

Figgins' 'Additional Notes on *Branta canadensis*.'¹—Mr. Figgins after a lapse of several years returns to the controversy with Mr. Harry S. Swarth on the status of *Branta canadensis hutchinsi* and *occidentalis* which he still contends are hybrids, while the forms *canadensis* and *minima* he thinks should be regarded as species. The old points of difference are gone over again at some length and some additional data presented, notably measurements of specimens from the Arctic Coast and Hudson Bay supplied by Dr. R. M. Anderson. Such questions are purely matters of personal opinion until adequate series of breeding birds are secured, a condition which does not, in the present case, seem to have been reached. Meanwhile the varied interpretations of older writers and the question of what measurements shall and shall not be used does not seem to get us nearer to a solution. Hybridism however, we might add is a very difficult thing to prove.—W. S.

Abbott's 'What Comes from What.'²—This little pamphlet consists of charts representing graphically the relationship between all groups of plants and animals from the lowest moulds and bacteria to the flowering plants, and from the infusoria to the vertebrates. They are of course mainly compiled and while ingenious, cannot be taken too seriously because individual opinion as to lines of descent differ so greatly.

¹ Additional Notes on the Status of the Subspecific Races of *Branta canadensis*. By J. D. Figgins. Proc. Colorado Museum of Natural History. Vol. IV, No. 3. December 15, 1922, pp. 1-19.

² What Comes from What, or the Relationships of Animals and Plants. By Charles L. Abbott. Published by the Author. 600 Ivy Street, St. Paul, Minn. pp. 1-48, Price \$1.00.