

A third paper¹ by Mr. Chapin describes a new Crested Guinea Fowl, *Guttera edouardi schoutedeni* (p. 3) from the Belgian Congo.—W. S.

Chapman on the Distribution of the Motmots.—The first portion of this paper² consists of a careful systematic review of the genus *Momotus* with maps illustrating the distribution of the species and the description of a new form, *Momotus momota simplex* (p. 44) Santarem, Brazil. The concluding portion considers the origin and spread of the family Momotidae and throws interesting light on the geographical origin of South American bird-life.

Briefly summarized Dr. Chapman's conclusions are that the family originated in Central America, *Hylomanes* and *Aspatha*—the latter related to the Todidae—being the most primitive genera. *Momotus*, with its many intergrading forms and wide range is the most recently evolved group. He considers that there were three invasions of the family into South America. First, in pre-Andean time, came *Baryphthengus* which reached southeastern Brazil where it became isolated. Then, twice came incursions of the genus *Momotus*, first along the subtropical zone which then extended unbroken across Panama to the Andes and southward to Peru; and second, after the Panama subsidence, an influx into northern Colombia and Venezuela, north of the Andes, to Trinidad and Tobago which were then connected with the mainland.

Dr. Chapin has presented a most interesting study in zoogeography and his conclusions seem to be well supported by his evidence.

In a later paper³ Dr. Chapman describes thirteen new birds from Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.—W. S.

Cockerell on the Plumage of Diatryma.⁴—In the Green River Eocene, on Roan Creek, western Colorado, well known for its deposits of fossil insects and plants, Mrs. T. D. A. Cockerell has discovered some long strands identified by Dr. Cockerell as bird plumage similar to that of the Cassowary. These he considers must have belonged to *Diatryma* and they are named *Diatryma (?) filifera* (p. 4), as the horizon is higher than any known for that genus and therefore the probability is that they do not belong to any of the described species. After his preliminary reference to *Archaeopteryx* and the impossibility of identifying the type feather with either of the skeletons which have been referred to the genus, we wonder what is to be gained by giving these interesting filaments a technical name and referring them to a genus known only from the skeleton.—W. S.

¹The Crested Guinea Fowl of the Southern Congo Basin. By James P. Chapin. Rev. Zool. Africaine, XI, fasc. 1, 1923.

²The Distribution of the Motmots of the Genus *Momotus*. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XLVIII, pp. 27-59. March 15, 1923.

³Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 67. April 11, 1923. pp. 1-12.

⁴The Supposed Plumage of the Eocene Bird *Diatryma*. By T. D. A. Cockerell. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 62, March 16, 1923, pp. 1-4.