

The half-tone illustrations from the author's own photographs exhibit some of the best of his work and are striking presentations of bird activities as well as works of art.—W. S.

Hartert's 'Die Vogel der palaarktischen Fauna.'—The first supplement to Dr. Hartert's famous work¹ on the birds of the palaearctic region appeared early in the autumn and consists of additional races and species described since the close of the work as well as additional notes on distribution, etc. Everything available has been included up to January, 1923. There seem to be no new forms described in the present supplement.—W. S.

Chapman on Mutation in Buarremon.—This paper² is the outcome of a study of two species of the genus *Buarremon*—*B. brunneinucha* and *B. inornatus* which differ from one another only in the extent of white on the under surface and the presence or absence of a black pectoral band. The former bird is wide ranging and exhibits individual variation in the characters above mentioned while the latter occupies a very limited area in the subtropical zone of western Ecuador where *B. brunneinucha* is unknown, though it is present in western Ecuador to the north and south.

Dr. Chapman maintains that there is a tendency in *B. brunneinucha* to a greater extension of white below and to the disappearance of the pectoral band, and that isolation, in the case of individuals with this tendency strongly present, has resulted in the distinct species *B. inornatus* which is not dependent upon climatic or other observable environmental factors for its origin. In other words it is a mutant of *B. brunneinucha*. Continuing his investigations to other groups of the genus he finds that the races of *B. assimilis* exhibit variations in head markings correlated to a large extent with geographic distribution but so variable locally as to suggest that the several races owe their existence to a tendency to vary in these characters rather than to the direct action of environment. In other words the characters in question are mutations which under favorable conditions become of subspecific value. The potentiality for abrupt variation, independent of environment, is further shown by the occurrence of a black banded individual in the heart of the range of the white breasted *B. assimilis* which so far as color is concerned is identical with *B. poliophrys* of central Peru.

In his summary Dr. Chapman says that in his opinion the presence or absence of a pectoral band, vertical streak or superciliary line does not materially affect a species' chances of success or failure and that natural selection has played no part in their development. It is encouraging to

¹ Die Vögel der palaarktischen Fauna. Systematische Übersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asien und der Mittelmeerregion vorkommenden Vögel. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Nachtrag I (bis Januar 1923) Berlin. (NW 6, Karlstr. II.) Verlag von R. Friedländer & Sohn. September, 1923. pp. 1-92.

² Mutation Among Birds in the Genus Buarremon. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. XLVIII, Art. IX, pp. 243-278. October 15, 1923.

find ornithologists attempting to explain the origin of species instead of resting satisfied with describing a new one. We see no flaw in Dr. Chapman's argument nor do we think anyone seriously considers that external environment ever produced such differences. The recent tendency to regard *all* subspecific differences as due to "mutation" however has received a timely setback by Dr. F. B. Sumner, as noticed below (p. 187).—W. S.

Chapman on New South American Birds.—Continued studies of the Ecuadorean collections of the American Museum obtained under the direction of Dr. Chapman have resulted in the discovery of a number of hitherto undescribed forms which he names and describes in the paper¹ before us. They are from Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia; and belong to the families Dendrocolaptidae and Formicariidae. The following genera are represented, one new form of each being described unless otherwise indicated: *Thamnophilus* (3); *Myrmotherula*, *Microbates*, *Myrmoderus*, *Hylophylax*, *Grallaria*, *Schizoeaca*, *Synallaxis* (2), *Siptornis* (2); *Pseudocolaptes*, *Philydor*, *Xenicopsis*, *Xenops*, *Sclerurus*, *Glyphorhynchus* and *Lepidocolaptes*.—W. S.

Chapin on the Olive Ibises.—A very careful review² of the Olive Ibises of Africa has recently been published by Mr. James P. Chapin. He recognizes three closely related mainland forms *Lampribus olivacea*, *cupreipennis* and *akeleyorum* and two others from islands in the Gulf of Guinea—*L. rothschildi* from Princes Island and a new form *L. bocagei* (p. 5) from Sao Thome, smaller than any of the others. The very distinct *L. rara* also belongs to this genus but forms a group by itself which fact will no doubt induce someone in the near future to do what Mr. Chapin has wisely refused to do, i. e., provide it with a distinct generic name.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Penard.—Mr. T. E. Penard in his studies of Surinam birds has discovered several new forms which he has described from time to time.

One of them *Tanagra chrysopasta nitida* (p. 63) from Lelydorp³ is a representative of the Golden-bellied Euphonia of Peru, a type never before recorded from Surinam or the Guianas. The Surinam race of *Sporophila schistacea*⁴ is also found to be separable and is named *S. s. arthuri* (p. 60) the type also from Lelydorp. The relationships of several other species of *Sporophila* are also discussed in the same paper.—W. S.

¹ Descriptions of Proposed New Formicariidae and Dendrocolaptidae. By Frank M. Chapman. American Museum Novitates No. 86. August 28, 1923. pp. 1-20.

² The Olive Ibis of DuBus and Its Representative on Sao Thome. By J. P. Chapin. American Museum Novitates. Number 84. August 9, 1923.

³ A New Tanager from Surinam. By Thomas E. Penard. Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. 5, p. 63, June 8, 1923.

⁴ Status of *Sporophila schistacea* Lawrence. By Thomas E. Penard. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 36, pp. 59-62, March 28, 1923.