

The introduction consists of a historical résumé of work done in the mountains from 1872, when Bendire first entered them, to 1923; a brief account of the more striking physical features, and several lists of species seen or collected by some of those who have worked in the region. Then follows an annotated list of 174 species, with records of specimens taken by earlier collectors, mainly hitherto unpublished and short accounts of habits and abundance from Mrs. Bailey's personal observations. The work forms a valuable record of the bird life of this interesting range which may now be accurately compared with that of the Huachucas and Santa Catalinas which have already been published upon, and in conjunction with Mrs. Bailey's articles on the habits of the species ('Auk', 1922, p. 424 and 1923, p. 373) gives a pretty clear picture of the avifauna.—W. S.

Trotter on the Origin and Relationship of American Song Birds.

—In this paper¹ Dr. Trotter reviews the opinions of various authors as to the difficulty of clearly delimiting the accepted families of the Oscines, pointing out which are clearly defined groups and which are not, as well as which are apparently primitive and which derived types. He also contrasts the classification of the Passeres and the Colubrine snakes noting that the characters used to distinguish families in the former are of about the same rank as those used for generic separation in the latter.—W. S.

Reichenow on a Collection of Birds from the Upper Congo.—

Dr. Reichenow's retirement from his professional ornithological responsibilities has not affected the continuance of his researches as evidenced by the present paper.² This is a report on a collection obtained in the Lualaba District of the Upper Congo by L. Frobenius. Thirty-three forms are listed of which two are described as new; *Colius leucotis congicus* (p. 3) and *Ploceus cucullatus frobenii* (p. 4). *Vanga cristata* (p. 5) from Nossibe Island is also described.—W. S.

Sumner on the Origin and Inheritance of Specific Characters.—

The subject of this recent paper³ of Prof. Sumner's is of interest to the increasing number of ornithologists who are concerning themselves with the broad problems of the origin of species and even if mainly based upon a study of mammals it applies equally to birds and should be read by ornithologists. Many of us will be pleased with his opening statement that "it seems reasonable to suppose that the geographic races or 'subspecies'

¹ An Inquiry into the Origin and Relationship of Certain North American Song Birds. By Spencer Trotter. Transactions of the Wagner Free Institute of Science of Philadelphia. Vol. X, 1923, pp. 29-41.

² Ueber eine Vogelsammlung vom oberen Kongo und eine neue Wurgerart von der Insel Nossibe. Von Ant. Reichenow. Sonderabdruck aus: Mittl. aus dem Zoologischen Staatsinstitut und Zoologischen Museum in Hamburg. XL. Jahr. 1923.

³ Some Facts Relative to a Discussion of the Origin and Inheritance of Specific Characters. By Dr. F. B. Sumner. American Naturalist, Vol. LVII. May-June, 1923.