

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 Then follows an annotated list of 174 species, with records of specimens taken by earlier collectors, mainly hitherto unpublished and short accounts of habits and abundance from Mrs.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 paper<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 paper<sup>3</sup> 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'

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

of mammals and birds represent early stages in the differentiation of species," and also with his reply to the suggestion that since many organisms are differently influenced by different environments within the limits of the individual lifetime, may not this be true of subspecies? To this he says that for the genus *Peromyscus* he has offered detailed disproof of such a contention.

At the conclusion of his paper he says: "The upshot of my discussion is that we are not yet prepared to frame any adequate general hypothesis as to species formation . . . and it is my belief that the facts of geographic variation will bulk as large in the end as those of Mendelian inheritance." This is particularly significant coming from a geneticist who has carried on abundant experiments and is not merely discussing theories and possibilities.—W. S.

**Stoner on the Apteryx.**—In a recent paper<sup>1</sup> Prof. Dayton Stoner describes the habits of *Apteryx mantelli* as observed by him in the zoological park at Wellington, New Zealand, and presents some general information about this interesting bird.

When handled it hisses and kicks forward with its powerful feet. Its nest is a hole in a bank, excavated in part by the female, while the male incubates the single (sometimes two) egg. The young are hatched in a helpless condition but develop rapidly.—W. S.

**Lewis on the Birds of Antigonish, Nova Scotia.**—Mr. Harrison F. Lewis has published a list<sup>2</sup> of the birds of Antigonish County based upon a residence there from August, 1913 to June, 1914. While the title indicates only migration data the paper is really an excellent annotated list of the birds observed. It comprises 91 species with rather detailed discussion of some of them. It should prove a valuable addition to the literature of Nova Scotia birds.—W. S.

**Bannerman on Birds of the Ivory Coast.**—This paper<sup>3</sup> is an account of the collection made by the British Museum expedition to the Ivory Coast of French West Africa under the leadership of Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe, who as it happened did practically all of the work. He has submitted an account of the itinerary and field work while Mr. Bannerman presents a list of the species which is fully annotated and often includes discussion of related forms. In this connection *Nilais minor ruwenzorii* (p. 698) from Mokia, Ruwenzori is described as new.

<sup>1</sup> A Flightless New Zealand Bird. By Prof. Dayton Stoner. The Scientific Monthly pp. 182-184, XVII, No. 2. August, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> Notes on Spring Bird Migration of 1914 at Antigonish, N. S. By Harrison F. Lewis. Transactions Nova Scotian Inst. Science. XV, Part 2, pp. 119-128. June 30, 1923.

<sup>3</sup> Report on the Birds Collected During the British Museum Expedition to the Ivory Coast (French West Africa). By David A. Bannerman. With an Account of the Field Work. By Willoughby P. Lowe. The Ibis, October, 1923. pp. 667-748.