

Swarth on the Birds of the Skeena River Region, B. C.—This is a report¹ on the results of another of the field explorations conducted by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California under the patronage of Miss Annie M. Alexander during the summer of 1921. The region covered lies on the east of the Coast Range, with a flora and fauna related to the interior country and similar in a general way to that of the Upper Stikine River district, already reported upon by the same author. Mr. Swarth found the fauna of the valleys to be Canadian while a well defined Hudsonian belt was present on the mountains and the treeless peaks showed Alpine-Arctic characteristics. We note in the portion of the report relating to the birds that the Rock Ptarmigan of the region proved to be quite distinct from *Lagopus r. dixonii* of the Aleutian Islands and probably represents a new sub-species. Material obtained seems to show that *Dryobates p. glacialis* Grinnell, of Alaska, is identical with the Rocky Mountain Downy Woodpecker *D. p. homorus* which however should be known by the earlier name *leucurus* Hartlaub. The specimens of Pigeon Hawks obtained show pretty clearly that the three forms, *columbarius*, *suckleyi* and *richardsoni* are all subspecies of a single species, *Falco columbarius*. Mr. Swarth also considers that *Parus hudsonius columbianus* Rhoads is a valid form, while he gives some interesting data on the molt of the Pipit. The report is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the fauna of the north-west.—W. S.

Sclater's 'Systema Avium Ethiopicarum.'²—The first part of this important work is before us, covering the families from the Struthionidae through the Picidae, essentially in the order adopted by A. H. Evans in the bird volume of the 'Cambridge Natural History.' The plan of treatment follows that of the A. O. U. and B. O. U. 'Check-Lists' in practically all details, a binomial group name appearing at the head of each series of subspecies, the usual generic headings, with references and type localities, etc. In addition there are foot notes referring to certain changes from current nomenclature and references to revisions of groups. The nomenclature follows the International Code as nearly as possible, but, as the author truly says, there is a certain amount of ambiguity in the application of some of the rules which leaves the correct names for certain species still in doubt.

Common names are given to all recognized forms but some of them are so cumbersome that they are little better than Latin trinomials and will

¹ Birds and Mammals of the Skeena River Region of Northern British Columbia. By Harry S. Swarth, Univ. Calif. Publications in Zoology. Vol. 24, No. 3, pp. 315-394, pls. 9-11, January 24, 1924.

² Systema Avium Ethiopicarum. A Systematic List of the Birds of the Ethiopian Region. By William Lutley Slater, M. A., M. B. O. U. Prepared in conjunction with Special Committees of the British and American Ornithologists' Unions, Part I. Pp. 1-304. Published 30th April, 1924. Published by the British Ornithologists' Union and sold by Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd., 2-4 Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W. C. 2. 1924. Pp. i-iv + 1-304. Price £1.1.0 (\$4.89).