

hardly commend themselves to general usage. Examples of such names are the "Fernando Po Chocolate-backed Kingfisher" and the "Gold Coast Thick-billed Honey Guide."

We particularly endorse the conservatism in the recognition of genera and the frequent use of the convenient sub-genus, which serves all the purposes of the present day "genus" without destroying familiar nomenclature.

The value of a work of this kind which brings together all the forms of African birds under one cover cannot be overestimated. Furthermore we feel that the best and perhaps the only way to produce works of this sort is to place the task in the hands of one man who can consult as many others as he may desire but who can make the final decisions on moot points himself and thus establish a reasonable uniformity of treatment not to be attained by any Committee ruling. While we cannot speak for the B. O. U. Committee, Mr. Sclater, so far as the A. O. U. Committee is concerned, has been absolutely unhampered and we fear that there has been some little misunderstanding regarding the cooperation of the American Committee since the proofs were certainly not approved by this body as stated. Indeed the Committee has held no meetings since they were prepared and the reviewer who happens to be Chairman of the Committee never saw them. We make this statement in no spirit of criticism but simply to give credit where credit is due—namely to Mr. Sclater. We shall look forward with interest to the remaining part of this 'Systema' and trust that others on the same plan may soon make their appearance.—W. S.

Hellmayr and Zimmer on New South American Birds.—Two important papers have appeared in the publications of the Field Museum describing new birds obtained by the Captain Marshall Field Expeditions recently sent to South America, one dealing with Chilean species by Dr. Hellmayr¹ and one on Peruvian forms by John T. Zimmer.² In the former are proposed *Sclerorchilus albicollis atacamae* (p. 71) Caldera, Atacama; *Geositta cunicularia deserticolor* (p. 72) Caldera, Atacama; *Muscisaxicola rufivertex sanborni* (p. 73) Romero, Coquimbo; and *Troglodytes musculus atacamensis* (p. 74), Rio Loa, Antofogasta.

Mr. Zimmer proposes twelve new forms of the genera *Gymnopolia*, *Chalcostigma*, *Siptornis*, *Cranioleuca*, *Xenops*, *Euchlornis*, *Phrygilus* and *Cassicus*.

By a casual mention under one of the descriptions it would seem that specimens were borrowed for comparison from other institutions in the preparation of one of these papers at least. If this is so, by all customs and courtesies, existing among ornithologists, the fact should be stated in the

¹New Birds from Chile. By C. E. Hellmayr. Field Museum of Natural History Publication 219. Zool. Series XII, No. 5, April 19, 1924. Pp. 71-75

²New Birds from Central Peru. By John T. Zimmer. Ibid No. 4, April 19, 1924. Pp. 51-67.

introduction and for the benefit of other students specimens of each form and its allies used in the study might be listed with the names of the institutions to which they belong; the student of the future will then know exactly upon what material decisions were based and can reassemble the series if desired.

These are but preliminary papers and they give promise of most interesting and valuable contributions to our knowledge of the bird-life of southern South America.—W. S.

Bannerman on African Bulbuls.¹—Mr. Bannerman has had occasion to work out the relationship of a number of the African Pycnonotidae and presents a list of the species represented in the British Museum collection arranged in the genera which it seems to him should be recognized—eleven in number. No keys or diagnoses are given. While a little more liberal than some of his predecessors in the recognition of genera Mr. Bannerman exercises a commendable conservatism and we note in footnotes that he finds himself unable to recognize two groups *Eurillas* and *Stelgidillas* proposed by Oberholser for species of *Andropadus*.—W. S.

Poncy on Contents of Birds' Stomachs.²—In two short papers³ M. Poncy presents a list of fish, insects, etc., found in the stomachs of shore and aquatic birds obtained in migration or in winter, on the shores of Lake Lemán, Switzerland, and a list of materials found in a hollow in a beech tree which was occupied successively by a Green Woodpecker, an Owl and a Stock Dove.—W. S.

Richmond and Swales on New Haitian Birds.—A collection of some 200 birds from Gonave Island off the coast of Haiti, obtained for the U. S. National Museum by Dr. W. L. Abbott, contained several forms which differed slightly from the Haitian species and these have been named⁴ by Dr. Richmond and Mr. Swales as follows: *Saurothera longirostris petersi* (p. 105), *Calyptophilus frugivorus abbotti* (p. 106) and *Phaenicophilus poliocephalus coryi* (p. 107). Dr. Abbott's Haitian and San Domingo collections made from 1916 to 1923 total some 1400 skins.—W. S.

¹A Revision of the African Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae) in the British Museum, with a list of all species and subspecies contained in the collection. By David A. Bannerman. Rev. Zool. Africaine, Vol. XII, fasc. I, 1924. Pp. 17-38.

²Contenus Stomacaux d'Echassiers et de Palmipèdes. par R. Poncy.

³Liste des trouvailles faites en Septembre 1923 dans la cavité arbre habité successivement par Pic-Vert, la Chouette Hulotte et le Pigeon Colombin. par R. Poncy. Bull. de la Société Zoologique de Genève, III, fasc. 3, January, 1924.

⁴Descriptions of Three New Birds from Gonave Island, Haiti. By Chas. W. Richmond and Bradshaw H. Swales. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 37, pp. 105-108, March 17, 1924.