

**Chapman on New South American Birds.**—Dr. Chapman's continued studies of the South American avifauna have resulted in two more contributions since our last issue. The first of these<sup>1</sup> contains descriptions of new forms of *Mecocerculus*, *Ochthoeca* (2), *Platytricus* *Poecilotriccus*, *Euscarthmus*, *Spizitornis* (3), *Mionectes*, and *Phaeomyias*,—all belonging to the Tyrannidae and obtained from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The second paper<sup>2</sup> treats of Tracheophonae and includes two new genera, *Xenornis* (p. 1) for *X. setifrons*, a curious new species obtained at Tacarcuna, eastern Panama, in 1915, but which still remains unique; and *Apocryptornis* (p. 5) for another novelty, *A. lineifrons*, from the Papalacta River, allied to *Grallaria* and *Hyllopezus*. There are also new forms described of the genera, *Dysithamnus*, *Melanopareia*, *Chamaeza*, *Synallaxis*, *Cranioleuca*, and *Xiphorhynchus*.—W. S.

**Chapman and Griscom on 'The House Wrens of the Genus Troglodytes.'**—This paper<sup>3</sup> is a model of its kind. Not only is the taxonomic side of the study admirably presented with full descriptions, synonymy and lists of specimens examined, but there is a general discussion of the distribution of the family and of the special group under consideration, with suggestions as to its origin, lines of dispersal, etc. From this we learn that Wrens are probably of American origin with 289 Neotropical forms as against 48 for the Old World; that the House Wren has a wider distribution than any other American Passerine bird; and that it is a "successful" species in its ecological relations, able to hold its own against enemies, to drive out rivals, and to adapt itself to nesting places provided by man. The very "fluidity" of the House Wren group makes it difficult to trace its center of dispersal. It occupies arid and humid areas, "crosses the Andes where they are highest, and seems as much at home in the Paramo Zone as in the tropics."

The authors are compelled to regard the North American House Wrens as differing specifically from the South American group but feel that they will yet be found to intergrade. The four Central American forms including *peninsularis* which occupies the eastern coast region of most of Mexico, are subspecies of *musculus*, the South American type, but owing to the migratory character of the North American type *aëdon*, it is impossible to fix definitely the relation between the two until the breeding range of the latter in Mexico is determined.

Thirteen South American races of *musculus* are recognized together with two forms which are regarded as of specific rank: *T. cobbi*, of the Falkland

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of New Flycatchers from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Mus. Novitates. No. 118, June 20, 1924, pp. 1-11.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of New Genera and Species of Tracheophonae from Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Mus. Novitates. No. 123, July 2, 1924, pp. 1-9.

<sup>3</sup> The House Wrens of the Genus Troglodytes. By Frank M. Chapman and Ludlow Griscom. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. L, Art. IV, pp. 279-304, July 8, 1924.