

hardship on the species. On September 19, 1909, eleven fresh eggs were found near Autaugaville ('The Auk,' 1914, p. 219); again, on September 16, 1923, fourteen eggs were found near Booth. While these records may well be exceptional, it must be remembered that the discovery of the nests was purely accidental as no systematic search is made for birds' nests in the autumn. When due allowance is made for incubation and for the development of the young to a point where they are capable of shifting for themselves, it will be seen that November 1 is none too late to open the shooting season. I am happy to say that recently the Legislature has extended the closed season on Quail to November 20.

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaidura m. carolinensis*).—My latest record for this bird is furnished by two eggs found near Autaugaville on August 25, 1915. As is well known, young Doves are highly altricial and a long time elapses between hatching and flight. Certainly mid-October is as early as such a brood could be expected to survive orphanism.

While not relating to game birds, the following records may prove sufficiently instructive to warrant their inclusion here.

GROUND DOVE (*Chaemepelia p. passerina*).—August 6, 1923, a nest with two fresh eggs, and on September 22, another nest with two eggs, were found near Booth.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus a. americanus*).—Eggs have been found at Booth on August 11, and on August 14, 1923, two eggs were discovered at Barachias. According to Howell ('Birds of Alabama,' 1924, p. 156), McCormack found eggs at Leighton, in the northwest corner of the State, on August 10.

For the Booth and Autaugaville records I am indebted to Mr. Lewis S. Golsan, of Prattville.—ERNEST G. HOLT, 312 Bell Building, Montgomery, Ala.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Cory's 'Birds of the Americas.'—At the time of Mr. Charles B. Cory's death, July 31, 1921, he had completed Part II of the 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas' and was engaged upon Part III; Part I was to follow later. He never relinquished his ambition to complete this work which he had conceived and so ably begun, and it is a great satisfaction to his many friends that, this being impossible, it is to be completed by one whom we are led to believe he would have selected for the task had he to make the choice. It is through the generosity of Mr. Cory's life-long friend, Mr. Charles R. Crane, that the Field Museum was enabled to secure the services of Dr. C. E. Hellmayr to take up the work where Cory left it. Part III¹ which now appears, covering the

¹Catalogue of Birds of the Americas. By Charles B. Cory. Revised and continued by Charles E. Hellmayr. Part III. Pterotochidae—Conopophagidae—Formicariidae. Field Museum of Natural History Publication 223. Zool. Series Vol. XIII. November 20, 1924. pp. 1-vii + 1-369, pl. 1.

Tapacolas, Gnat-eaters and Ant-birds (Pteroptochidae, Conopophagidae and Formicariidae), was left in an advanced stage of preparation at the time of Cory's death, but the large amount of work done on neotropical birds since that time, together with the notes and information possessed by Mr. Hellmayr and not accessible to Mr. Cory, have necessitated a complete revision of the manuscript, and although conforming to the style and typography of the preceding part, all responsibility for detail and authority for the new forms proposed rests upon Dr. Hellmayr. All of which information we gather from the preface by Dr. W. H. Osgood, Curator of the Department of Zoölogy of the museum. The volume is a most welcome one to all systematic workers on the avifauna of South America as the families of which it treats are among the most difficult to deal with, and such information as we have had regarding the relationship of the species and genera has been widely scattered. Dr. Hellmayr's familiarity with the collections in Europe and his copious notes on specimens contained therein, have been invaluable in making this volume of the 'Catalogue' as nearly perfect as our present knowledge of the subject permits.

Dr. Hellmayr deserves the greatest credit for the care which he has exercised in the preparation of the manuscript, while the numerous extended footnotes over his own initials contain helpful descriptions and information of the greatest importance. The new forms described in this Part are listed on p. vii and comprise *Scytalopus latrans*, four subspecies of *Thamnophilus*, one each of *Melanopareia*, *Sclateria* and *Phaenostictus* and a new genus *Sipia* (p. 224) for *Pyriglena berlepschi* Hartert.

Comparing Dr. Hellmayr's arrangement with that of Mr. Ridgway in Part V of his 'Birds of North and Middle America' we find considerable difference, and a number of the genera proposed or recognized by the latter author are placed in synonymy by Hellmayr as for instance *Abalius*, *Erionotus*, *Myrmopagis*, *Lochites*, *Rhopochares*, *Rhopias*, *Hypsibemon*, *Oropezus* and *Hylopezus*. Such radical difference of opinion on the part of two of the best authorities is a good illustration of the extent to which generic subdivision is based upon individual opinion, and the useless confusion that is perpetrated in nomenclature by too radical action in the creation of "new genera."

It is to be regretted that Dr. Hellmayr did not explain more fully his reasons for certain nomenclatural rulings, as the apparent refusal to adopt any of Reichenbach's genera, published in his 'Avium Systema Naturale' in connection with plates but without diagnosis. Such names have always been accepted by Mr. Ridgway.

However, this is a small matter as compared with the careful consideration given to ornithological questions. We wish Dr. Hellmayr all speed in the completion of his task.—W. S.

Kirke Swann's 'Monograph of the Birds of Prey.'¹—Having gone

¹ A | Monograph | of the | Birds of Prey | (Order Accipitres) | by | H. Kirke Swann, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. | Corresponding Fellow of the Amer. Orn. Union.