

U. S. National Museum, is a report on the collections of birds made for the museum by Mr. H. C. Raven, mainly in 1916, while carrying on explorations under the patronage of Dr. W. L. Abbott, who in 1912 was compelled to abandon his personal researches in the far East on account of ill health.

The report covers 202 species and contains lists of specimens with full data, discussions of relationships and plumages and some brief field notes by Mr. Raven. Mr. Riley has from time to time been describing the new forms contained in the collections which number eighteen, two of them, constituting new genera—*Coracornis* and *Celebestia*, while two others belong to genera not hitherto found in Celebes. Two species already known from elsewhere were also added to the Celebesian fauna. The large number of novelties illustrates the thoroughness of Mr. Raven's work, while the care that Mr. Riley has taken with the preparation of the paper makes it one of the most important contributions to the ornithology of the island.

Mr. Riley has also published, recently, a description¹ of a new Babbler from Koh Chang island, Siam, obtained by Dr. Hugh M. Smith while visiting that country. He has named it *Pellorneum smithi* (p. 129).—W. S.

Chapman on New Neotropical Birds.—In two papers, which have appeared since our last issue, Dr. Chapman continues to describe new birds obtained on the various South American expeditions of the American Museum of Natural History.

In the first of these,² eighteen forms are described belonging to the genera: *Tyranniscus*, *Myiozetetes*, *Myiobius*, *Myiochanes*, *Machaeropterus*, *Chloropipo*, *Piprites*, *Manacus*, *Heliochera*, *Neochelidon*, *Petrochelidon*, *Pheugopedius*, *Catharus* and *Cichlopsis*.

His consideration of the genus *Neochelidon* is particularly interesting, as it shows that in spite of the discovery of several new forms of this Swallow no specimen yet obtained can be referred to the true *N. tibialis* of Cassin, the type of which therefore remains unique with its locality still unknown.

Dr. Chapman's second paper³ contains descriptions of twelve new forms of *Pachysylvia*, *Cyclarhis*, *Compsothlypis*, *Basileuterus*, *Catamenia*, *Volatina*, *Sicalis* and *Mimus*. A review of the *Sicalis arvensis* group is also included, and a synopsis of the *Basileuterus tristriatus* group, with the usual full lists of specimens examined and helpful measurements of all allied forms.

The titles of Dr. Chapman's numerous papers dealing with new South American birds are so similar that it will be confusing to refer to them in future and it seems unfortunate that they could not have been numbered

¹ A New Spotted Babbler from Siam. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. Vol. 37, pp. 129-130, October 21, 1924.

² Descriptions of New Birds from Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Museum Novitates. No. 138. October 18, 1924. pp. 1-16.

³ Descriptions of New Birds from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Museum Novitates. No. 143. November 6, 1924.

consecutively under a uniform title. The number of the 'Novitates' will answer the same purpose, of course, if it is always quoted.—W. S.

Hellmayr on the Birds of "Silla de Caracas."—This paper¹ deals with the birds of a section of the coastal mountains of northern Venezuela supplementing a contribution by Hellmayr and Seilern, published in 1912, on the avifauna of the "Cumbre de Valencia" which lies a little to the westward. The principal basis of the present report is the extensive collection made by S. M. Klages, who also procured the material for the former study.

This paper is entirely technical in character, consisting of an annotated list of species with a catalogue of the specimens, discussions of their plumages and relationships, and in many cases a synopsis of all of the forms belonging to the group under consideration. The new forms seem all to have been described in previous papers in other periodicals. The author apparently did not have an opportunity to see the proof sheets as the text abounds in typographical errors which have been largely corrected, in manuscript, in the copy sent for review. This important paper forms the second of a series entitled "Beitrage zur Ornithologie von Venezuela" and the present installment covers only the families Turdidae to Tanagridae, in essentially the order of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.'—W. S.

Recent Papers by Griscom and Dwight.—A recent paper² by Mr. Ludlow Griscom describes sixteen new birds obtained by the author and his associates on an expedition to western Panama undertaken under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History during the spring of 1924, and a few from Costa Rica, which a study of the Panama series showed to be undescribed.

The new forms belong to the genera, *Trogonurus*, *Aulacorhynchus*, *Scytalopus*, *Margarornis*, *Pseudocolaptes*, *Atalotriccus*, *Troglodytes*, *Catharus*, *Planesticus*, *Phainoptila*, *Emberizoides*, *Atlapetes*, *Pseliophorus*, and *Chlorospingus*.

In another paper³ Mr. Griscom gives an account of the expedition upon which this material was obtained, illustrated by excellent halftones from photographs of the country. His associates were Messrs. Rudyerd Boulton, George A. Seaman, J. Manson Valentine and R. R. Benson. The reports throw much light on the avifauna of a hitherto unexplored mountain region lying between Volcan de Chiriqui and the Pico Calovevora.

A paper⁴ on new birds from Costa Rica by Dr. Jonathan Dwight and

¹ Beitrage zur Ornithologie von Venezuela, Von C. E. Hellmayr II. Die Vögel der Silla der Caracas. Arch. für Naturg. 90 Jahrgang, May, 1924, Abt. 1, Heft. 2. pp. 132-204.

² Descriptions of New Birds from Panama and Costa Rica. By Ludlow Griscom, Amer. Museum Novitates, No. 141, October 31, 1924, pp. 1-12.

³ Bird Hunting Among the Wild Indians of Western Panama. By Ludlow Griscom. Natural History, Vol. XXIV, No. 4, 1924, pp. 509-519.

⁴ Descriptions of New Birds from Costa Rica. By Jonathan Dwight and Ludlow Griscom. Amer. Museum Novitates, No. 142, November 3, 1924, pp. 1-5.