

plates represent *Urubitornis solitarius* and *Harpyhaliaetus*; *Aquila rapax raptor* and *A. r. culleni*, *Bussarellus nigricollis* and *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*; another figures the eggs of several of the Eagles and still another presents a photogravure of a nest of Bonelli's Eagle.—W. S.

Mathew's 'The Birds of Australia.'—Part 8 of Vol. XII¹ has appeared since our last issue, completing the Bowerbirds, and leaving only the Paradise Birds and the Crows and Crow Shrikes to complete the work.—W. S.

Dickey and VanRossem on New Pigeons from Salvador.²—A recent expedition to Salvador by Mr. A. J. VanRossem resulted in the collecting of a number of birds among which are two new races of Pigeons here described as *Columba fasciata letonai* (p. 109) from Mt. Cacaguatique and *Leptotila fulviventris bangsi* (p. 110) from Volcan San Miguel. All of the specimens are in the collection of Mr. Dickey.—W. S.

Barbour on a Remarkable New Bird from Cuba.—Bird life in the West Indies seem still to hold out possibilities of surprise for the ornithologist. A few years ago we were astonished at Dr. W. L. Abbott's discovery of a Crossbill, allied to the White-winged, in the mountains of San Domingo and now comes Dr. Thomas Barbour with the description of a new Wren from Cuba.³ It is not only a distinct species but constitutes a new genus, unlike anything hitherto known, with wings so short and weak and feathers so soft as to suggest that its powers of flight are very limited.

The bird is an inhabitant of the dense shrubbery of an almost inaccessible part of the Zapata peninsula on the south coast directly across from Matanzas. Here it is in song only in the summer time when torrential rains make the region almost impassable. Dr. Barbour had heard reports of this unknown song and induced Sen. Fermin Z. Cervera to try to identify its author. Through his perseverance five specimens of the bird were finally secured and it is appropriate that it should bear his name both in the specific and generic appellations which Dr. Barbour has given it—*Ferminia cerverai*.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Wetmore.—Pursuing his studies of American fossil birds Dr. Wetmore has recently made a careful examination of *Palaeospiza bella*, the curious unique specimen from the Florissant beds of Colorado,⁴ and finds that, as suggested by Dr. J. A. Allen, its describer,

¹ The Birds of Australia.. By Gregory M. Mathews, Vol. XII, Part 8. September 6, 1926.

² Two New Pigeons from Salvador. By Donald R. Dickey and A. J. Van Rossem. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 39, pp. 109-110. November 3, 1926.

³ A Remarkable New Bird from Cuba. By Thomas Barbour. Proc. New England Zoological Club. Vol. IX, pp. 73-75. October 21, 1926.

⁴ The Systematic Position of *Palaeospiza bella* Allen, with Observations on Other Fossil Birds. By Alexander Wetmore. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. LXVII, No. 2, pp. 183-193, pl. 1-4. May, 1925.

it is an oscine passerine, though much lower in the scale than the Fringilidae with which Dr. Allen associated it. Lacking the skull it is very difficult to place it definitely though from the structure of the feet and the size of the wings and tail Dr. Wetmore regards it as belonging among the most primitive of the song birds and erects a new family, *Palaeospizidae*, for it. In this connection he also discusses the upper mandible of a bird from the Miocene of Kansas which was described by Dr. Shufeldt as *Palaeospiza hatcheri*. This Dr. Wetmore finds to be a true Finch of the *Zonotrichiae* group, in no way closely related to *Palaeospiza*, and in order to give its proper position he proposes a new genus for it, *Palaeostruthus*.

In another paper¹ he discusses fossil birds from the Green River deposits of eastern Utah in the collection of the Carnegie Museum. A new genus *Nautilornis* is proposed for two Auk-like birds *N. avus* (p. 392) and *N. proavitus* (p. 394) while another bird somewhat like an Avocet is called *Presbyornis prevetus* (p. 396) both species, genus and a family *Presbyornithidae* being proposed as new.

A third paper² has to do with a fossil Hawk from the Miocene of Sioux Co., Nebraska, also in the Carnegie Museum, which is described as *Gera-noaetus ales* (p. 403).

Of an entirely different character is a most interesting account³ of Dr. Wetmore's visit to the smaller less known islands of the Hawaiian group, profusely illustrated with excellent photographic reproductions from his own camera and that of Mr. Donald R. Dickey who accompanied him.—W. S.

Helms on the Birds of Angmagsalik.—The colony of Angmagsalik on the east coast of Greenland was established in 1894 with Johan Petersen, well known as an explorer of this bleak shore, as its superintendent. During his long residence dating to 1915 and a subsequent visit of a year, 1923-24, he studied the bird life of the vicinity and sent back collections and field notes to the Zoological Museum at Copenhagen.

In the paper⁴ before us Mr. O. Helms has reported on these collections and data, presenting an interesting summary of the ornithology of this remote spot with an account of the country and a brief historical outline of its exploration. The list of birds numbers 73 species—16 Ducks and Geese, a Ptarmigan, 2 Grebes, 2 Loons, a Fulmar, 3 Rails, 15 Shore-birds

¹ Fossil Birds from the Green River Deposits of Eastern Utah. By Alexander Wetmore, *Annals Carnegie Mus.*, XVI. No. 3-4. April 10, 1926 pp. 391-400, pl. XXXVI-VII.

² Description of a Fossil Hawk from the Miocene of Nebraska. *Ibid.* pp. 403-406, pl. XXXVIII. April 10, 1926.

³ Bird Life Among Lava Rock and Coral Sand. *Nat. Geogr. Mag.* July, 1925, 77-108.

⁴ The Birds of Angmagsalik. By O. Helms. Based upon the Collections and Notes of Johan Petersen. With a Map. (Særtryk af Meddelelser om Groenland, LVIII) Copenhagen. Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri. 1926. pp. 207-274.