Barn Owl, a Short-eared Owl, a Crested Flycatcher and a Martin, together with three races of Vermillion Flycatcher, ten of the peculiar Mockingbird, *Nesomimus*, and thirty-seven forms of the Galapagos "finches" which Mr. Swarth has previously established as a separate family, Geospizidae, showing that the slender-billed genus, *Certhidea*, formerly referred to the Mniotiltidae is really most closely allied to the Grosbeak-like *Geospizae*. This last group has always been the outstanding feature of the Galapagos avifauna and the complicated inter-relationship of the species and subspecies and their peculiar occurrence on the different islands have long been a subject for discussion. According to Mr. Swarth "the only consistent handling of the situation would lie in giving a separate designation to the representative of each separate form on every island, whether obviously different or not." Not caring to go to that length he has tried to describe the variation that exists among the birds of each island, "adopting a conservative use of names to distinguish what appear to be the better defined forms." "Intergradation," he adds, "between different extremes occurs to a bewildering degree, so as to render any system of nomenclature more or less of an artificial procedure." Of the sixty-seven species and subspecies that have been described in this family Mr. Swarth recognizes but thirty-seven. In the species *Geospiza fortis* he combines nine described forms; 812 skins were available and after long and careful study of this material he found it utterly impossible to correlate the variations in bill proportions to any feature of distribution or environment. Apart from its interest to ornithologists this monograph will prove of great value to biologists who are interested in problems of variation and the excellent outline drawings of bills, maps of distribution and tables of measurements will furnish important data for specialists in this line of research.

The author finds it necessary to name but three new forms from the vast material before him namely, *Nesomimus parvulus wenmani* (p. 129) Wenman Island; *Geospiza septentrionalis nigrescens* (p. 185) Culpepper Island; and *Cactospiza pallida striatipecta* (p. 245) Chatham Island.

Mr. Swarth's volume constitutes, in our opinion, the outstanding contribution to the systematics of the Galapagos avifauna.—W. S.

Slevin's 'Log of the Schooner Academy.'—In connection with Mr. Swarth's account of the avifauna of the Galapagos it is opportune to have the narrative[1] of the voyage upon which his material was secured. This has been compiled by J. R. Slevin, herpetologist of the expedition, and is based upon the log of the vessel and the diaries of Mr. Slevin and of F. X. Williams entomologist of the party.

[1] Log of the Schooner "Academy" On a Voyage of Scientific Research to the Galapagos Islands 1905–1906. By Joseph R. Slevin. Occasional Papers of the California Academy of Sciences, XVII. Printed from the John W. Hendrie Publication Endowment. San Francisco, February 14, 1931. Pp. 1–162, pll. 1–16, and a map.

This volume is very interesting reading and gives one a vivid account of the islands and the arduous work of the expedition. One of the chief objectives was the securing of a series of the great tortoises for which the Galapagos are famous and naturally there is much about these interesting animals, of which no less than 266 specimens were obtained. There are sixteen excellent half-tones from photographs of scenery.—W. S.

Uchida's 'Birds of Mt. Fuji.'—The second volume of 'Photographs of Bird Life in Japan'[1] is very properly devoted to the species found on the most famous mountain of the Empire. On the northern slope of Mt. Fuji the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 1924 established a bird preserve of some 30,000 hectares (about 75,000 acres) in an effort to protect the native insectivorous birds. These include 176 species of which 7 are permanent residents, 50 summer residents, 56 migrants, 45 winter residents, 16 birds of passage, and 2 stragglers. No less than 116 species remain to breed. The significance of these figures is apparent on comparison with the number found in the vicinity of Tokyo where only about 30 species breed although more than 200 are found at various times, due to the large number of migrants and winter residents. The large list of birds which breed about the base of Mt. Fuji is due to the extensive area of virgin forests and the varied topographic and ecological conditions ranging from steep mountain slopes to swamps and lakes that furnish ideal conditions for various species. On the other hand in autumn and winter when the summer residents and migrants have departed the area is comparatively deserted.

In an attractive series of 58 plates about 40 of the more conspicuous species are illustrated from photographs of the birds with their nests and eggs, each accompanied by a brief description in Japanese and English. The plates are preceded by an introduction of six pages of text describing the several areas of the region and are followed by a nominal list of the 176 species of Mt. Fuji, arranged by families, and accompanied by Japanese and scientific names. The text in the body of the book is entirely popular and in order to ascertain the technical name of a species figured on a plate, it is necessary first to note the English name, compare it with the Japanese name, and then by turning to the list at the back of the book and looking under the proper family, locate the same Japanese characters with the accompanying Latin name. For readers who are not acquainted with Japanese this is something of a puzzle, but the answer may be found in every case.

We know of no preserve in the world whose birds have been illustrated in such sumptuous style. Some of the plates are remarkable not only for their clearness but for the manner in which they have been reproduced,

[1] Photographs of Bird-Life in Japan, Directed by Dr. Seinosuke Uchida, Photographed by Kenji Shimonuira. Vol II, Birds of Mt. Fuji, 1931, Sanseido Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Osaka. Price 4 Yen. For a review of Vol. I, see 'The Auk,' 1930, p. 433.