

*Psarcolius aeneus* Wagler proves to be a Red-eyed Cowbird instead of a Bronzed Cowbird, as previously supposed, so that the name of the former becomes *Tangavius aeneus aeneus* while the latter is named *T. a. milleri* (subsp. nov. p. 355).

*Tanagra auricollis* Licht. turns out to be a Long-tailed Chat which western race must now be known as *Icteria virens auricollis* (Licht.).

*Cardinalis sinuatus* Bonaparte proves to be the eastern *Pyrrhuloxia* which resumes its old name while the Arizona bird is renamed *P. s. fulvescens* (p. 356) as the type of Ridgway's *beckhami* also proves to be the eastern bird. *Fringilla epopoeae* Licht. and *F. xanthomaschalis* Wagler are both disposed of as synonyms of *Guiraca melanocephala*.

The types of American Crossbill *Crucirostra minor* Brehm and *Loxia pusilla* Gloger cause all sorts of trouble since the former represents our common Red Crossbill which therefore reverts to its old name of *Loxia c. minor* while the latter is the Newfoundland race *percna* of Bent which must now be known as *L. c. pusilla*!

*Ammodramus bimaculatus* Swainson instead of applying to the Western Grasshopper Sparrow is the small dark Mexican form named *A. s. obscurus* by Nelson and the former race returns to its old name of *A. s. perpallidus* Coues.

*Passerella hyperborea* Bonaparte which Mr. van Rossem considers independent nomenclaturally from the unidentifiable *Emberiza hyperborea* of Pallas will supplant *Passerella i. insularis* Ridgw.

We have gone into detail in this notice as the items all affect the next edition of the 'Check-List' and it seems well to have them accessible in 'The Auk,' while they will also stand as an awful example of the danger of accepting names proposed by the older European ornithologists before examining and comparing their types!—W. S.

**New American Birds Proposed by van Rossem.**—Mr. van Rossem has been very active in describing new forms of birds mainly from the rich collections of the California Institute of Technology. Three races of the Black Chachalaca are proposed from Central America;<sup>1</sup> *Piranga bidentata citrea* from Chiriqui; *Passerina versicolor dickeyae* from Sonora; *Pipilo fuscus texanus* from Kerr Co., Texas; *Notharchus hyperrhynchus cryptoleucus* from El Salvador; *Claravis mondetoura inca* from Peru and *C. m. ochoterena* from Vera Cruz; *Ceophloeus lineatus petersi* from Tamaulipas and *C. l. obsoletus* from Sonora.<sup>2</sup> The other forms of the last two genera are also reviewed.—W. S.

**Lid and Meidell on food of Ptarmigan Chicks.**<sup>3</sup>—This is a report on the crop contents of 83 chicks of "Norwegian Grouse" (*Lagopus lagopus*) taken in the field.

<sup>1</sup> Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., VII Nos. 31-34, all May 31, 1934.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, VIII, Nos. 2-4, August 10, 1934.

<sup>3</sup> The food of Norwegian Grouse Chicks. By Johannes Lid and Ove Meidell. Nyt Magazin for Naturvidenskaberne, bind 73, June 27, 1933, pp. 75-114, figs. 1-2, tables 1-3.

This report contains a review of previous work on the subject, a complete list of the contents of each crop, annotated systematic lists of animal and vegetable food items, and a summary by groups with percentage averages of items.

The chicks were divided into five groups according to weight: Group 1, from hatching to 25 grams (up to three days old); group 2, 26 to 50 grams (4 to 9 days); group 3, 51 to 100 grams (10 to 20 days); group 4, 101 to 200 grams (20 to 30 days); and group 5, 201 to 400 grams (more than 30 days).

As the young grow, vegetable matter increases, 47.50, 51.69, 68.11, 64.89, and 94.64 percent, while insect matter decreases, 52.50, 48.31, 31.89, 35.11, 5.36 percent—in groups 1 to 5 respectively. Forty-nine items of plant life and forty of insect life are recorded, the former in all but five cases being identified to species, the latter, in all but one instance, to the family only.

Ecological notes accompanying the annotated lists indicate which plants support desirable insect food for the chicks.

The percentages of foods are computed by weight, while wet, instead of by bulk, thus differing radically from the American method. Gizzard contents are not considered on the ground that the insect matter is too finely ground for determination.

This is the most thorough piece of work in existence on the food of Ptarmigan chicks and one of the best on the food of young of any gallinaceous bird.—LEON KELSO.

**Lockley's 'Island Days.'**—This delightful account<sup>1</sup> of an ornithologist's life on his little mile-long island off the Welsh coast will be especially interesting to American ornithologist because some of his breeding birds are of holarctic distribution, while others are very closely related to species found in North America. It gives us, for instance, intimate views of Manx Shearwaters, Storm Petrels, Oyster-catchers, Great Black-backed Gulls, Kittiwakes, Razor-billed Auks, Atlantic Murres, Puffins, and Ravens, besides casual glimpses of many other birds more or less familiar, by name at least, to Americans. Mr. Lockley's total bird-list for his island numbers 120 species, including migrants and casuals, which seems not bad for a small island boasting only one tree, and that a creeping willow, and lying two miles from the mainland. His Puffins have increased under protection to a population of more than forty thousand. He finds that the old Puffins desert their young after feeding them to the proper size, and that the young live on their own fat for four or five days and then leave their burrows at night and walk along the cliffs till they come to a favorable place to take off for their maiden flight to the sea. In the water they are never found in company with their parents but escape the Great Black-backed Gulls and other enemies by spending about half their time under water. Mr. Lockley keeps on the watch for breaches of the Oil Pollution Act, and one

<sup>1</sup> *Island Days: A sequel to 'Dream Island.'* By R. M. Lockley. With sketches by Doris Lockley and fourteen plates from photographs. London, H. F. & G. Witherby. 1934. Pp. 1-120.