

Tangara Brisson, 1760, for *Calliste* Boie, 1826, has the same type as *Calospiza* and is not preoccupied by *Callista* Poli, 1791 (Mollusca), under the International Code.

Four new names are proposed as follows: *Tangara imitans* (p. 63) vice *Euphonia gracilis* of authors, not of Cabanis; *Ramphocelus dimidiatus pallidirostris* (p. 256) vice *R. d. albirostris* Griscom, not *Tangara albirostris* Boddaert; *Habia rubica bahiae* (Bahia) (p. 301) and *Neothraupis* (p. 432), to replace *Diucopsis* Bonaparte not applicable.—J. L. P.

Mendall's 'Home-Life and Economic Status of the Double-crested Cormorant.'—Aspiring young ornithologists who look with dismay when a subject of their interest is written up and who feel that there are no opportunities for making worth-while contributions on a subject that is already extensively studied, should take heart at Mendall's recent contribution.¹ In the main, the paper is patterned after Dr. Harrison F. Lewis's excellent study published in 1929 and contains much of the same data, although worthy additions are made. Lewis's work dealt with the entire field of the natural history of the Double-crested Cormorant and was based on observations made on a large number of colonies, while Mendall's field research was largely restricted to a home-life study, made during the summers of 1933, 1934, and 1935, of a single breeding colony on Marblehead Island, in West Penobscot Bay, on the coast of Maine. Lewis and others are quoted extensively in the treatment of systematics, distribution, migration, courtship, and activities of the birds during the breeding season. In general a good summary of current published data on these subjects is given although it would seem that additional information on distribution and migration could have been obtained from the U. S. Biological Survey. Some new data are presented on the nocturnal habits and on the courtship of the bird, particularly those referring to water activities. It was also shown that courtship performances often persist to a degree after nesting duties have ceased. Mendall concludes that the young are dependent on their parents for food long after the ability to fly is acquired. Important information on the rate of growth of developing young is offered along with a careful description of the nest life of the young and of their parents.

Besides summarizing published accounts of the food of the cormorant, the present paper gives original information based on a laboratory analysis of more than 500 regurgitated meals. It is shown that along the coast of Maine, cunners, sculpins, and gunnels, all usually classed as worthless fishes of but little economic importance, constitute the major food items, averaging 42.20, 25.93, and 12.93 per cent, respectively, of the total consumption, while commercial or other valuable fishes, including flounders, herring, and eel, comprised 9.86, 3.73, and 2.74 per cent, respectively, of the total. On inland fresh-water lakes catfish, sunfish, and bass comprised 14, 11, and 3 per cent, respectively.

We can all share the author's feeling that the cormorant is an interesting, and perhaps usually a reputable, avian citizen well worthy of protection, yet in the face of the above figures we have difficulty in following him when he concludes that as a whole it "does little if any damage to man's interests." It would seem far better, and certainly more scientific, to admit, as he does in other parts of the paper, that limited and at least local depredations sometimes occur. The bird's esthetic and recreational worth fully justifies protection. The paper as a whole is a splendid contribution, yet prejudice or preconceived convictions seem to enter in a few in-

¹ Mendall, Howard L. The Home-life and Economic Status of the Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson). The Maine Bulletin, vol. 39, pp. 1-159, 6 tables, 20 illus., October 1936 (University of Maine Studies, second series, no. 38, Orono, Maine).

stances, as when he refers to the superabundant Herring Gulls as "white thieves." It is well to remember that with most birds their economic status is more a result of abundance than of significant differences in food habits. If there were a reversal of the numerical strength of the cormorants and the gulls along the coast of Maine, it is quite probable that there would also be a reversal in the present economic relationships of the two species. When a species is overabundant, it draws attention to itself, and prejudice nearly always is in evidence. This condition of prejudice and condemnation is at present all too evident in the concentrated wintering area of coastal North Carolina, where the cormorants often cause annoyance and loss to gill- or pound-net fishermen.

As the author undoubtedly meant to extend full credit to all persons and organizations who aided him in furthering his researches, it would seem an oversight that no acknowledgment is made for the use of the data so frequently quoted from the files or reports in the Biological Survey, although credit is given to some of its members individually. Likewise, no acknowledgment is made of Mr. F. M. Uhler, although he is repeatedly quoted.—CLARENCE COTTAM.

Rand on Madagascar Birds.—This interesting work¹ is among the first efforts of one of the younger American, or perhaps we should say, Canadian ornithologists, for Mr. Rand was born and had his early education in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Later he studied under Dr. A. A. Allen, at the Graduate School of Cornell University, leaving there before his course was completed to go to Madagascar.

This summary of his notes comprises the result of two years of observation and collecting on the 'great island.' It is, of course, a good deal more of an accomplishment than the modest "summary of field notes" implies. Besides a short preface by Monsieur Jean Delacour, leader, and an introduction with the usual acknowledgments, there is a section outlining the field work of the varied personnel, with a map to show the routes travelled. This section is necessarily complicated for at one time or another there were nine men collecting zoological, palaeontological and botanical specimens under the auspices of the expedition and these men never were all together, but, wisely enough we think, went alone to collect their specialties in the localities that seemed best. Rand has arranged information about these matters into sections with a running description of the country traversed and the collecting stations. These paragraphs are admirably restrained; it is easy to imagine the temptation to flights of descriptive prose and personal anecdote. But at the same time it makes one wish that more space had been allowed for the great, dark trees with the small red flowers where parrots fed, the tortured *Pandanus* and bizarre *Dideiria*, the strange popping and shrieks of the night in those jungles. It will be seen from this section that the island was covered very thoroughly and that the only locality of any importance that was omitted, is the forest of Sianaka from which came the great rarities, *Cochlothraustes*, *Heliophilus* and *Mesoecus unicolor*. Methods of travel, of which there is little mention, are probably very difficult in the country north of the capital and it is likely that porters (light loads are carried fast there) were expensive.

The following sections deal with the topography of Madagascar, the climate, distribution of forested areas, and the faunal regions or districts, with adequate maps. The author, basing his findings solely upon the avifauna, divides the island into three provinces: the oriental, with three districts or subprovinces; the occidental,

¹ Rand, A(ustin) L(oomer). The distribution and habits of Madagascar birds. Summary of the field notes of the Mission Zoologique Franco-Anglo-Américain à Madagascar. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 72, art. 5, pp. 143-499, 48 text-figs., Dec. 30, 1936.