Goshawk seems to be much less migratory than the American form.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

A new swallow-shrike.—The material of the Whitney South Sea Expedition indicates that the New Hebrides and Banks Island are inhabited by an undescribed subspecies of *Artamus leucorhynchus*. It may be described as follows.

Artamus leucorhynchus tenuis, new subspecies

Type.—No. 214,076, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; Gaua, Banks Is.; September 10, 1926; Whitney South Sea Expedition.

Diagnosis.—Similar to *Artamus l. melaleucus* (New Caledonia), but considerably smaller.—wing, ♂, 123.5–133 mm. (128.0); ♀, 122.5–131.0 (127.8); tail, ♂, 63.0–68.0 (65.7); ♀, 62.0–68.0 (65.4). In *melaleucus,* wing, ♂, 132.0–139.0 (135.1); ♀, 132.5–138.0 (135.3); tail, ♂, 68.0–73.0 (70.0); ♀, 66.0–71.5 (69.0).

Range.—New Hebrides (Efate, Leleppa, Mataso, Makura, Epi, Lopevi, Ambrym, Malekula, and Santo) and Banks Island (Gaua). Forty-five specimens examined.

A small series from the Loyalty Islands (Maré, Lifu) is somewhat intermediate, but is apparently closer to *melaleucus* (wing, ♂, 134.5; ♀, 130, 131, 132, 135, 135.5; tail, ♂, 68; ♀, 65.5, 66, 66, 68, 70). The smaller size and probable distinctness of the northern birds has already been discussed by Stresemann in his revision of the species (Novit. Zool., 20: 293, 1913).

That the lumping of specimens from the entire range of *tenuis* is justifiable is borne out by the statistics of the measurements of wing and tail. The standard deviations (δ) are: Wing, ♂, 2.28 (n = 17); ♀, 2.02 (n = 22); tail, ♂, 1.14 (n = 19); ♀, 1.41 (n = 23). The coefficients of variability (C. V.) are: Wing, ♂, 1.78; ♀, 1.58; tail, ♂, 1.73; ♀, 2.16. This variability is greater than we would find at a single locality, but not large enough to force us to call *tenuis* a collective race. Remarkable is the small C. V., considering the heterogeneity of the sample. Birds certainly show extremely little individual variability as compared to most other animals.—ERNST MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History.*

The name of the Sumatran Crested Olive Bulbul.—In a recent issue of 'The Auk' (59: 313, 1942), Deignan has shown that several genera of bulbuls should be united under the name *Microscelis.* He further designates *charlottae* as the specific name for the Malayan and East Indian bird formerly known as *Iole olivacea.* For the race from the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra there does not seem to be any name available unless *brunnescens* Finsch can be applied. However, this was a nomen nudum at its first appearance. Since then it has appeared only as a synonym (Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., 6: 55, 1881) and consequently is unacceptable except as a synonym of *olivacea* Blyth [= *charlottae*].

Fortunately the United States National Museum possesses the type and unique specimen of *Iole olivacea crypta* Oberholser (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 31: 197, 1918) from Djimaja Is. in the Anamba group. This specimen is a male collected September 22, 1899, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. It measures: wing, 92 mm.; tail, 80; culmen, 17. It is inseparable in color from September birds from Trang and Bandon, Peninsular Siam, and Sumatra.

The National Museum also possesses the type of *Iole olivacea perplexa* Riley (Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci., 29: 40, 1939). This and one other specimen mentioned in the original description were taken by H. C. Raven at Labuan Klambu, east

Borneo, June 28, 1913. Both birds are small with pale bills and pale margins to the wing-coverts and secondaries and are unmistakably immature specimens of *M. c. charlottae*.

Thus the Malaysian races of this species should be as follows:

1. *Microscelis charlottae crypta* (Oberholser)

Range: Malay Peninsula, Anamba Isls., North Natuna Is., Rhio Archipelago, Sumatra, Banka, Billiton, Tana Massa Is. (Batu Isls.).

2. *Microscelis charlottae charlottae* (Finsch)
[= *Iole olivacea perplexa* Riley]

Range: Borneo, Banguey Is.—S. DILLON RIPLEY, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Chimney Swifts at play?—During the summer of 1937 at Grande Grève, Gaspé, Quebec, near the northern breeding limit of the species, I repeatedly witnessed what appeared distinctly as play behavior on the part of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*). Two pairs of these birds inhabited the vicinity, and were observed daily in their routine feeding flights above the fields and dooryards.

My dwelling stood upon a steep slope a hundred yards from the shore of Gaspé Bay and 150 feet above it. Favorite perch of many species of birds was a dead and barkless willow tree twenty feet high, whose many whitened branches were in plain view from the veranda, twenty-five feet away. All the finer twigs had been broken off, leaving few less than five millimeters in diameter. These branchlets were rather long and resilient with a general upward sweep at the ends.

My first observation of *Chaetura's* interest in this tree was on July 2, a bright calm day. Two swifts had been circling about together over the house and seaward slope. Suddenly one bird swooped noiselessly at the tree, veered slightly upward, and struck one of the branches an inch or so below the tip, bounding backward and upward. After completing a hundred-foot circle to seaward it repeated the performance, striking another branch. The second swift then joined the first, and for several minutes the pair continued circling and twig-striking. I could not see whether the birds struck with the feet or with the body near the feet; it definitely was not with the bill. Not once was a twig broken. Indeed, it was apparently not an attempt to obtain nesting material, for, without attacking any of the finer dead twigs in the dooryard, the birds soon swept off high above the lower slope in their feeding maneuvers. After circling about for a time over the fields, and even above the bay waters, but always visible through binoculars, they returned to the willow. One bird struck twice and the other once, then both resumed their aërial evolutions.

Throughout July and August, on a dozen occasions, swifts were seen thus playing at the willow. Usually only one or two birds took part, but twice I saw four associated. Although it is assumed that this group comprised the two pairs of adults known to have passed the summer at Grande Grève, the possibility exists that two of these birds were the offspring of the first pair seen performing on July 2. When three or four birds were thus engaged, their playful behavior was emphasized by their vocal exuberance while circling about between feats of twig-striking.

The behavior of a swift as it approached the tree consisted of (1) a direct glide at full speed, (2) a slight upward swerve toward the particular twig selected, (3) a barely visible braking motion of the wings as the bird assumed the upright position