

a hurricane. I have long since stopped trying to predict the 'nature of the day' with a Prairie Falcon and take each day in its stride. On the other hand, the gracious and lovable nature of the Duck Hawk is something to admire. Another rather unusual fact is that near the nest a Prairie Falcon lacks the boldness of the Duck Hawk which is well known for its efforts to thwart man's attempts to ruin its nest. I know of only one instance when a Prairie Falcon actually struck an intruder, but many times when they have come close enough for me to see the fire in their black eyes.

1937 Grape St.
Denver, Colorado

IN MEMORIAM—CARL EDUARD HELLMAYR

BY JOHN T. ZIMMER

Plate 28

CARL EDUARD HELLMAYR, Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Orselina, Switzerland, on February 24, 1944. By his death, ornithology lost one of its notable figures and its most outstanding student of Neotropical birds.

Hellmayr was born on January 29, 1878, in the neighborhood of Vienna, possibly in the suburb of Mödling where some of his early papers were written. There is little on record concerning his early life, but he must have become interested in birds while still a boy, for his second publication, a 'Beiträge zur Ornithologie Nieder Österreichs,' in the *Ornithologische Jahrbuch* for 1899, concerns observations on local birds that were begun in 1894, when he was sixteen years old. In this paper he expresses thanks to von Tschusi zu Schmiddoffen for supplying certain papers that he needed, and it is probable that Tschusi was an early counsellor in his ornithological studies. His first paper, on '*Muscicapa parva* in Wienerwald,' appeared in the *Jahrbuch* in 1898.

He studied at the University of Vienna and possibly Berlin, but there is no immediately available record of his academic accomplishments. The honorary title of 'Professor' was given to him at Munich some years later when he joined the staff of the Bavarian State Museum at that place.

Hellmayr's home remained near Vienna at least until 1902 although he was not always in residence. In October, 1900, he met Count Hans von Berlepsch at the jubilee meeting of the *Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft* in Leipzig—a meeting that bore notable fruit.



C. E. Hellmayr

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Berlepsch was greatly interested in South American birds of which he had a fine collection, and a paper that Hellmayr presented at the meeting, dealing with the genus *Polioptila*, gave them an immediate basis of mutual interest. The close friendship that ripened between Berlepsch and Hellmayr never waned. Hellmayr valued the Count's friendship and advice above all other early influences and always expressed the warmest admiration for his kindly mentor. In his biographical sketch of Berlepsch, published after the Count's death in 1915 (*Journal für Ornithologie*), he said that in Berlepsch's excellent "school" he first learned method, system, and soundness in ornithological work.

Early in 1903, Hellmayr joined the staff of the Zoological Institute at Munich with the task of organizing an ornithological department in the Bavarian State Museum, of which department he became Curator. He promptly set himself to the study of the collection of Brazilian birds obtained by J. B. Spix some eighty years before, and his important 'Revision of Spix's Types of Brazilian Birds' (1905) resulted. In 1903 had appeared his first extensive systematic treatise—the monograph of the Paridae, Sittidae, and Certhiidae that forms the 18th Lieferung of 'Das Tierreich.'

In 1905, with a three-years' leave of absence, he transferred his activities temporarily to the Rothschild Museum at Tring, England, where he came under the further able guidance of Ernst Hartert. Various publications in the 'Novitates Zoologicae' and the wealth of specimens in the Rothschild Collection, now in the American Museum of Natural History, that bear his identifications on the labels, attest to the good use he made of his three years in Tring. The reports on G. A. Baer's collection of birds from Goyaz and on Hoffmann's material from the Rio Madeira and Teffé, Brazil, are his most important contributions based on Tring material. Some equally important papers were later published in the 'Novitates Zoologicae' that were written elsewhere.

In 1908, Hellmayr returned to Munich where he remained until September, 1922. With his usual energy he applied himself to building up the ornithological collection and library and was highly successful in both projects. He became the General Secretary of the Ornithological Society of Bavaria and Editor of its 'Verhandlungen'—a post that he held until late in 1921. He further undertook the preparation of the ornithological section of the bibliographic part of Wiegmann's 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte' which he compiled from 1908 to 1915. This task alone involved a multiplicity of reviews,

abstracts, and notations of new species from world-wide sources but it did not break the flow of publications on his own investigations. Seven numbers of Wytzman's 'Genera Avium,' a report on a collection of birds from southeastern Perú, the 'Critical Notes on the types of little-known species of Neotropical birds,' a study of the birds of the region about the mouth of the Amazon, the 'Nomenclator des Vögels Bayerns' (with Alfred Laubmann), an account of the birds of the Cumbre de Valencia region of Venezuela (with Seilern), and numerous shorter papers mark this productive period.

As early as 1904, Hellmayr visited Paris for a short sojourn at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, returning for a longer period in the winter of 1905-1906 and on numerous occasions thereafter. One of the great results of his work in Paris was his review of the types of birds collected in South America by Alcide d'Orbigny, of which six parts appeared at intervals from 1921 to 1925. Other papers, however, are enriched by the valuable data he secured on his Parisian visits.

In 1922, Hellmayr left Europe for a long residence in America. C. B. Cory of Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, had died, leaving his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Americas' only begun with the issuance of one volume in two parts. In the search for an ornithologist to continue this great work, the offer was extended to Hellmayr, and results have proved that no wiser selection could have been made. By this time he had studied in all the most important museums of Europe and was familiar with their collections of birds, including all the available type specimens of Neotropical forms. Since 1900 he had had in prospect a comprehensive work on the birds of Brazil which he had never brought to completion, and he had accumulated a vast quantity of notes on synonymy and classification. In America he was to find the important collections that he had not already seen. Certainly no one else was as well prepared for the task in hand.

He reached Chicago on October 1, 1922, was given the title of Associate Curator of Birds, and immediately began on the 'Catalogue.' As volume after volume was finished and published, the importance of this monumental work became increasingly established. The bibliographic citations were at once expanded to embrace nearly all the pertinent references to each species and subspecies, omitting only such as might have been previously quoted by Ridgway in the 'Birds of North and Middle America.' The synonymies thus are so nearly complete that any prior reference that is omitted is likely to prove of only casual interest. All these citations were, or had been, checked

in person—an enormous task in itself and one of inestimable value to the research worker of today.

But it is not alone for the synonymies that the 'Catalogue' is of extreme importance. The author's familiarity with the types of almost all of the described species and subspecies of American birds enabled him to express studied opinions on the validity of proposed forms, the identity of inadequately described species, and the relationships of members of heterogeneous groups, and the footnotes of his volumes are filled with critical notes on these and other taxonomic problems. His views on classification were advanced and he was in the forefront of his colleagues in the matter of postulating conspecific relationships for geographic representatives of obviously common origins. The book is thus more than a mere catalogue and forms a practical handbook for the advanced student of American birds—a *vade mecum* of the highest service. Most of the work is published and it is gratifying to learn that the remaining parts were completed in manuscript form before Hellmayr's untimely death so that eventual publication is assured.

With all the labor involved in the 'Catalogue,' Hellmayr still found time for such collateral investigations as those embodied in his 'Birds of Chile,' 'Contributions to the Ornithology of Northeastern Brazil,' 'Heterogynism in Neotropical Birds,' and the 'Birds of the James Simpson-Roosevelts Asiatic Expedition.'

In July, 1931, he returned to Europe. He had spoken earlier of difficulties with regard to confiscatory taxes on European properties and had been obliged to forego American citizenship because of this economic penalty. He moved back to Vienna and obtained facilities for work at the Museum of Natural History. He was there when the Nazis invaded Austria in 1938. A few days after the local revolution had overturned the government, he was escorted to police headquarters, ostensibly for questioning, but was immediately imprisoned without explanation. The following day he fell ill and was removed to a hospital where he was incarcerated for seven weeks in a distinguished company of university professors, government officials, and others. When finally released, he was obliged to undergo further treatment at one of the university clinics. Afterward, after two months of effort and delay, and at the sacrifice of all his holdings in Austria (his property in Munich had already been confiscated), he succeeded in leaving Austria for Switzerland where he made his home until his death.

The reasons for his mistreatment are not perfectly clear. Hellmayr

was not active in politics and neither wrote nor spoke in public on such topics, but he was a man of decided views and was not in sympathy with the Nazi party. This feeling he, no doubt, had freely expressed in private conversations. There seems little doubt that some such confidential expression of opinion had been picked up by spies and reported to Nazi headquarters with unfortunate results when that party came into power.

After a short period of recuperation in the mountains, he went to London for necessary studies in the British Museum, and then returned to Geneva to continue work on the 'Catalogue,' albeit at a great disadvantage without the benefit of adequate collections or his personal notes which he was unable to have sent to Switzerland although they were in safe storage. The spread of the war began to hamper the free flow of communications and his letters became more infrequent, although still cheerful and informative. His health, however, had suffered and apparently he never regained his former vigor. In September, 1942, he went to the hospital in Coire with apprehensions of an operation, after having lost a great deal of weight in preceding months. In late 1943, he and Mrs. Hellmayr moved to Orselina, near Locarno, for the winter in the hope that the milder climate of the Tessin region would benefit him. Although he was much weakened, he continued to the last his 'labor of love' on the 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Americas,' which he was giving a final revision, but his death from the effects of uremic poisoning came unexpectedly on February 24. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Kate Hellmayr, whose name he had given many years before to the colorful tanager, '*Calospiza gyroloides catharinae*.'

Dr. Hellmayr was a most charming associate and friend. A true cosmopolite, he knew the European scene in detail, and, of course, knew all the ornithological personages of his time and many things about them that have never found their way into print. He talked little about himself but his conversations were full of interesting facts about a wide variety of topics. He had an exceptionally keen mind and a phenomenal memory of the noteworthy specimens of birds that he had studied and the literature of ornithology that had passed through his hands. Nevertheless, he kept concise but detailed notes on all his important studies and was able to unearth illuminating commentaries on perplexing points in almost unlimited number.

Most genial and kindly, he had little patience with careless work, though he was always ready to give assistance to a serious student or to concede a previous error. The first instalment of one of his papers

appeared with so many typographical errors that he lost interest in it and refused to complete the manuscript. He rarely spoke in public and at A. O. U. meetings was usually to be found, not in the lecture halls, but among the collections of the local museum, examining specimens or conversing with some fellow ornithologist.

In his younger days, Hellmayr was an ardent Alpinist and even in later years enjoyed vacations in the Rockies or in his beloved Alps. He was intensely interested in orchids and had a very fine herbarium collection of the terrestrial members of that group of plants which he and Mrs. Hellmayr had gathered over many years, often travelling far afield in Europe and the United States to secure certain desirable forms. His oft-expressed determination was to retire after the completion of the 'Catalogue' to devote his remaining years, entirely divorced from birds, collecting orchids and writing a history of the French Revolution in which subject also he had long been interested. As noted earlier, his first papers dealt with field work he had done as a youth, and at one time he had a strong desire to visit the American tropics to see in life some of the birds about which he knew so much as museum specimens. His eyesight, however, was better adjusted to the museum than to the field which he found eyeglasses both necessary and inconvenient for bird-watching, and he never fulfilled his hopes in that particular nor lived to concentrate on the avocations to which he had looked forward.

Hellmayr became a Corresponding Fellow of the A. O. U. in 1903 and an Honorary Fellow in 1911. In 1929, he received the Brewster Medal for his work on the 'Catalogue.' He was an Honorary Member of the British Ornithologists' Union and of the Sociedad Ornitológica de La Plata. He joined the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft in 1901 but appears to have left the society in 1908, the year he returned to Munich. No complete bibliography of his publications can be given here, but the titles number over 160, some of which, including the 'Catalogue' comprise various parts. Almost all of the papers are taxonomic studies and, with the exception of several on the birds of Arabia, Timor, and eastern Asia and the early discussions of local birds in Bavaria, almost all of them are devoted to the Neotropical region. Upwards of three hundred species and subspecies and a dozen genera of New World birds and seventeen species and subspecies and two genera of Old World birds were named by him alone or in collaboration, and the great part of his new forms have stood the test of time and critical review. They begin with *Polioptila maior*, described from Perú in 1900. Two genera and some forty-two species

and subspecies have been honored with his name by other taxonomists. The new forms which he characterized are not, of course, the truest measure of his achievements, although their number is impressive. The 'Catalogue,' forming the epitome of his life's work, is a stronger criterion, but it is only a greater and more complete structure than his other publications, all of which were, in their respective fields, prepared with the same rigorous search for fundamental truth. The monument, built with his own hands, needs no further adornment.

American Museum of Natural History
New York, N. Y.

REPORT OF THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE ON BIRD PROTECTION FOR 1943

It is difficult for an inexperienced Committee to assemble in a few months all the information that should go into an annual report of this kind. We have therefore requested each national organization concerned with the conservation of wild life to send us a brief report of its principal activities for the year so far as they concern bird protection, in order that we may put on record a summary for the information of the membership of the American Ornithologists' Union. We have tried to secure information on the present status of endangered species and we are offering the results in Part B of this report. In conclusion, we are recommending such additional studies or protective measures as seem feasible to us to improve the present situations. We have received very courteous replies to our questions from (1) Mr. John H. Baker representing the National Audubon Society; (2) Mr. Albert M. Day and Dr. Clarence Cottam representing the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; (3) Mr. Hoyes Lloyd representing the Department of Mines and Resources of Canada; (4) Dr. H. L. Shantz of the U. S. Forest Service; (5) Mr. G. K. Zimmerman, Chief of the Department of Information of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service; (6) Mr. Victor Cahalane of the National Park Service; and (7) Mrs. Rosalie Edge of the Emergency Conservation Committee. The following are their reports of accomplishments for the year 1943:

PART A

(1) NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

"1. The Audubon Nature Center at Greenwich, Connecticut, has been developed through alterations of an old barn into a nature museum, with exhibits portraying the interrelationships of animals,