vertebrates in a similar manner.—JAMES HODGES, *324 West 31st Street, Davenport, Iowa.*

Taxonomic Notes on South American Birds.—When I was at the British Museum of Natural History in London and at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris during the early spring of 1950, I examined a number of currently recognized New World "species" that are not represented in any collection in the United States. The following notes should clarify the status of some of these. But first I wish to thank those in charge of the bird collections in the above institutions for their courtesy and assistance.

Chubbia imperialis (Sclater and Salvin), IMPERIAL SNIPE.—De Schauensee considers that this bird is "perhaps not a valid species" (Caldasia, 5, (23): 444, 1949), but it differs strikingly from *jamesoni* Bonaparte. Upper parts are rufous, broadly barred with black; outer rectrices uniform sepia, not barred; anterior under parts rufous, barred and mottled with black and posterior under parts (posterior to upper breast) white, boldly barred with black. Mrs. Meinertzhagen refers *imperialis* to the genus "*Homoscolopax*" Mathews (Ibis, 1926: 514), but I agree with Hellmayr and Conover that it should be included in *Chubbia.*

Otus ingens (Salvin), SALVIN'S SCREECH OWL.—After examination of the type of *ingens* (from Jima, Ecuador) in the collection of the British Museum of Natural History I have no doubt that it is conspecific with "*Ciccaba minima*" Carriker (from Santa Ana, Río Coroico, Bolivia). These two owls should therefore be known as:

Otus ingens ingens (Salvin)

Otus ingens minimus (Carriker)

The sex of the type of *ingens* is not given, but it may well be a female, which would account for its large size (wing, 210 mm.). The type of *minimus* is an adult male and is somewhat smaller (wing, 196 mm.). Although no direct comparison of the two birds has been made, it may be said that *minimus* is on the whole less rufescent than *ingens* and there are fewer and less conspicuous black shaft-streaks on the upper breast and a greater amount of white on the scapulars. There is also some difference in the markings on the quills, which are rather uniformly barred dull cinnamon and black in *minimus.* In *ingens* the primaries are mostly dusky on the inner webs, the outer webs barred blackish and brown, ochraceous and white.

Carriker stated when describing *minimus* that in some respects this owl resembles a large *Otus,* "except for the absence of ear-tufts" (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 87: 314, 1935). However, short "ear-tufts" are quite evident in the type of *minimus,* the feathers extending over the whitish nuchal collar as in *ingens.*

Pithys castanea Berlioz, RUFOUS-BACKED ANTCATCHER.—The type and only specimen known of this recently described antbird was one of the most interesting specimens that I examined in Europe. The bird differs from the well known *P. albifrons,* the only other species of the genus, primarily in lacking the extraordinary head plumes. In addition, it is larger, has the entire upper parts rufous like the under parts, and has a broad white post-ocular stripe. The bill and feet are similar in both species.

I have no doubt that *P. castanea* represents a primitive *Pithys.* Unquestionably it is properly placed in this genus.

Heterocercus aurantiivertex Sclater and Salvin, ORANGE-CROWNED MANAKIN.—Until recently this species was known from three adult males in the British Museum collected by Buckley at Sarayacu, Ecuador. In 1936, Carlos Olalla and his sons obtained for the Paris Museum six more specimens, including two adult males, at Lago Ciguin, Oriente, Ecuador. I have examined all these.

Females of this species differ from males merely in lacking the bright orange coronal patch. An immature male (now in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia) from Lago Ciguin resembles the adult female in coloration. In comparison with an adult female *flavivertex* from "Pará" the bill is shorter and wider. The much wider primaries are presumably a sign of immaturity. Its wing measures 78.5 mm., the exposed culmen 11, and the tail from base of middle rectrices 46.5. In color the upper parts are duller green (more olive-green) and the under parts, apart from the chin and throat, are ochraceous rather than chestnut.

Hellmayr has stated that an immature male from Chamicuros, Peru, resembles *aurantiivertex* except that "the few bright feathers just appearing in the middle of the crown are golden yellow" (Birds Amer., pt. 6, 1929: 91, footnote 2). This would indicate that there is an intermediate form serving to connect specifically *aurantiivertex* with *flavivertex*.

M. Berlioz informs me that the type and only known specimen of *H. luteocephalus*, formerly in the Paris Museum, is almost certainly no longer extant, and that it was not among the types sent to the country during the Second World War. Fortunately, Hellmayr carefully described this specimen before it was lost.

Tangara arnaulti Berlioz, ARNAULT'S TANAGER.—Known only from the unique type in the Paris Museum. The bird appears to be a hybrid *T. castanonota* by *T. cayana*.

Tachyphonus valeryi (J. and E. Verreaux), "BLACK-SHOULDERED TANAGER."—The two mounted specimens in the Paris Museum labelled "*Tachyphonus valeryi*" are unquestionably referable to the icterid *Lampropsar t. tanagrinus* (Spix) with which M. Berlioz and I compared them.

Rhynchothraupis mesoleuca Berlioz, BRAZILIAN BLACK-AND-WHITE TANAGER.—I examined the unique specimen of this interesting bird in the Paris Museum and thought it probable that it should be considered congeneric with the Peruvian *Conothraupis speculigera* (Gould), although I felt it necessary that the two birds should be compared. Accordingly, I sent an adult male of the much larger *C. speculigera* to M. Berlioz and have received the following information from him. He states that "*Rhynchothraupis*" *mesoleuca* may "be considered quite reasonably congeneric" with *Conothraupis speculigera*. Both are of the same tanagrid type, and the slight differences in the shape of the bill are not of generic significance. The shape of the tail is distinctly different in the two birds—more elongated and graduated in *speculigera*, and much more shortly rounded in *mesoleuca*. The feathers of the crown are more elongated in the male *speculigera* and there is a large concealed white patch on the nape. The bird thus appears to have a rudimentary crest. In *mesoleuca* the feathers of the pileum are not elongated and there is no trace of white on the nape. On the other hand, *mesoleuca* has a small concealed white patch on the throat, lacking in *speculigera*. There is more white on the under parts in the male *speculigera* and the under tail-coverts are entirely white, not largely black as in *mesoleuca*. The white alar speculum is also more extensive in *speculigera*. Finally, the rump is gray in the male *speculigera*, not black like the remainder of the upper parts as in *mesoleuca*. M. Berlioz concludes that the two birds "are perfectly distinct species of the same genus, showing a close parallelism in color-pattern." Therefore, it appears that "*Rhynchothraupis mesoleuca*" Berlioz is an excellent species, but should be known as *Conothraupis mesoleuca* (Berlioz).

I think it likely that the type of *C. mesoleuca* is a male, although no sex is indicated on the label. M. Berlioz informs me that Dr. Vellard, who collected the specimen, said that the species was common at the type locality ("Juruena, northeast (= north-

west?) of Cuyaba, Matto Grosso, Brazil").—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Penna.*

Notes on Birds of Islands in Great Salt Lake.—During the summer of 1949, I had the opportunity of briefly revisiting two islands in the Great Salt Lake, Utah. Although the time was devoted almost entirely to collecting mammals, some brief notes were made of birds observed. Several additions to the lists from 1938 (Marshall, W. H. and Leatham, L. J., "Birds of the Great Salt Lake Islands" Auk, 59 (1): 35–45, 1942) were noted.

For the period June 22–24 birds seen on the "Benchlands" of Stansbury Island were the same as those reported for 1938 except for one Nuttall's Poor-will, *Phalaenoptilis n. nuttallii*, at the north end of the island, and several Ash-throated Flycatchers, *Myiarchus cinerascens*, and two Barn Swallows, *Hirundo r. erythrogaster*, at the cabin built near the sheep corral at the south end of the island. The corral and cabin had been added to the environment since 1938 and may explain the addition of these two species. We did not visit the "original island" areas.

On June 29 while approaching Dolphin Island on foot across the salt flats, two Snowy Plovers, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, were observed along the edge of the lake waters. Later that evening a lone California Gull, *Larus californicus*, was seen soaring in the wind currents at the low cliffs on the north end of the island.—WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, *University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.*

Ocean Vessels and the Distribution of Birds.—On November 14, 1950, the S. S. Steel Surveyor of the Isthminan Steamship Company left Colombo, Ceylon, for the United States. I was a passenger, returning from Calcutta, India. The vessel was a C3 type, Dry Cargo, with a loaded tonnage of 18,000 tons. Her length was 492 feet overall and beam was 69.2 feet. She made an average of 17 knots an hour.

We cleared the port of Colombo at five a. m. and about one hour later a wind squall arose from the mainland of Ceylon and engulfed the ship. The disturbance was of a short duration and when the skies cleared, Captain Burton Green pointed out to me four crows on the ship. They were the Common House Crow, *Corvus splendens*, and were perched on the foremast of the ship. This species is a common form of India and Ceylon. This crow is found always in the company of man. These four birds apparently had been blown from the mainland and had taken refuge upon our cargo ship. As we were well out to sea the birds remained aboard, making themselves at home, and devouring the food and water offered them. For six days the crows remained aboard; on November 18, the ship came within eight miles of Cape Guardafui, Somaliland, Africa, and the Socotra Islands. The sea was smooth and land clearly visible. The crows left the ship and flew towards the Cape. Through binoculars it appeared that they made a safe landing upon the rugged cliffs. The crows had been transported about 3,000 miles over the Indian Ocean.

On the afternoon of November 19, while the ship was in the Gulf of Aden, a Hoopoe, *Upupa epops*, in pursuit of a dragon fly terminated its flight on the radar mast of the ship. For five days this bird alternately circled the ship and rested upon its deck. I did not observe the bird feeding during its sojourn aboard. At Suez where we dropped anchor prior to entering the Suez Canal, the Hoopoe flew to the African shore. Its flight appeared to be strong despite its lack of finding food aboard. I had observed Hoopoes upon the Indian lawns, in groups of three to five, as they probed the soil in search of insects. On the ship the bird appeared out of its usual habitat, although it seemed to enjoy circling the ship and flying alongside as the ship moved at 19 knots an hour.