

conidae and Picidae, bringing the catalogue down to the Passerine families. The pagination, it will be noticed, is continuous with the first half of the part and the present instalment has an index to all the genera and species listed, as well as addenda and errata to the first part of the publication.

The general style of the work follows closely that of the first instalment but there are a number of new forms described of which there is no list and they could easily be overlooked in a casual examination of the volume. The propriety of publishing new names in this manner has already been discussed in these columns and we shall only add that where the practice is followed there should be a list of the new forms given somewhere in the publication. A painstaking search through the pages discovers the following, though it is possible that some have been overlooked: *Coccyzus minor caymanensis* (p. 336), Grand Cayman; *Nystalus maculatus nuchalis* (p. 398), *Soroplex campestris cearae* (p. 414), *Chrysoptilus melano-chlorus juae* (p. 444), all from Ceara, Brazil; *Celeus elegans approximans* (p. 450), Boa Vista, Amazonia; *Chrysoptilus melanolaemus perplexus* (p. 442), Conchitas, Buenos Aires; *Chrysoptilus punctigula notata* (p. 446), "Colombia" and *Crocomorphus flavus peruvianus* (p. 457), Lagunas, Peru.

The propriety of basing a new name on a specimen with no more detailed locality than "Colombia," in these days of minute accuracy, is certainly open to criticism as it will prove a hindrance to anyone else working upon the genus *Chrysoptilus*. The "provisional" naming of another form (*perplexus*), which is not recognized in the list proper, in case the "differences prove constant," is also against present-day practices. A name that is once published with a description is established for all time, no matter whether it is properly and conspicuously printed or proposed provisionally and buried in a foot-note, and the author who adopts the latter method at once exposes himself to criticism.

Mr. Cory has done an important and tedious piece of work in bringing out this volume and it will be of great use to all who are interested in the avifauna of the New World. We happen to know that he has already made considerable progress on the next part and we trust that it will not be long before it is ready for the press and that the Field Museum will be able to carry on a publication which is of so much importance to all systematic ornithologists.—W. S.

Witherby's Handbook of British Birds.¹—Part 6 of this important work, comprising pages 337–400, was issued January 12, 1920, and covers the warblers and part of the thrushes. One half-tone plate illustrates each group and there are a number of text cuts of wings, tails, etc. The

¹ A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. London, Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. I. Part 6, Jan. 12, 1920. Price 4s, net per part.

standard of treatment is fully up to the preceding parts and the description of the plumages of the warblers very full and detailed. We are informed that the two remaining parts needed to complete Volume I and the order *Passeres*, will be issued together on April 6.—W. S.

A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology.¹—Part 2 of this excellent bibliography, the initial number of which was noticed in our last issue, was published early in January. It covers the county lists and notes from Essex to Middlesex in alphabetical order. The quotation from Gilbert White's *Selborne* which appears on the cover is appropriate and could well be taken to heart by many bird students today who, while lacking time and opportunity for broad scientific work, may produce valuable results by specializing upon a limited locality. The lines referred to are as follows: "Men that undertake only one district are much more likely to advance natural knowledge than those that grasp at more than they can possibly be acquainted with; every kingdom, every province, should have its own monographer." This part is beautifully printed like its predecessor and is a handsome publication.—W. S.

Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies. The fifteenth annual report of the National Association of Audubon Societies,² a pamphlet of over one hundred pages, demonstrates once more the splendid work that this organization is accomplishing. We are becoming so accustomed to hearing of the work of the National Association that we are likely to imagine that we have always had it with us and it would be well if some of those who read the pages of this year's report would turn to the reports of the A. O. U. Committee on bird protection published in 'The Auk' twenty years and more ago, in order to better realize present-day conditions.

Among the leading topics in the report of the Secretary, Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, we may mention just a few: the seizure of \$150,000 worth of illegally imported plumes by the customs authorities at New York; the raising of \$13,000 toward the erection of a Roosevelt memorial bird fountain and the ornithological education in the past nine years of no less than one million children in the schools of the country. The appeal for an endowment fund to further develop and maintain this work is certainly warranted.

The work of the wardens is also well worthy of careful consideration and the reviewer, who enjoyed the privilege of visiting the Breton Island

¹ *A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times to the End of 1918.* By W. H. Mullens, H. Kirke Swann, and Rev. F. R. C. Jourdain. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London, 1920. Part 2, Price 6 s. net.

² *Bird Lore* XXI, No. 6, pp. 395-502.



Witherby, H. F. 1920. "Witherby's Handbook of British Birds." *The Auk* 37, 316–317. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072754>.

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