

**Rubow's 'The Sea Gull.'**—This is a brochure<sup>1</sup> of twenty-five beautifully executed half-tone illustrations and three pages of text, devoted to the life-history of the common Sea Gull of Europe as seen in Denmark. The series of illustrations begins with a mated pair of birds shown standing on a sea-girt rock; this is followed by views of a breeding colony on their nests; by single nests with eggs, amid natural surroundings; sitting birds on nests; nests with the eggs hatching; newly hatched young birds with the parent birds in attendance; young birds at a later stage of development; a flock of adult birds in the air over a field, searching for insect larvæ as exposed by a farmer in plowing; the series closing with views of small parties of gulls perched on rocks along a seashore or flying in the air. The text (in Danish) tells briefly the story so fully and beautifully illustrated in the plates. The brochure as a whole is exceedingly artistic, both plates and text being printed on heavy clear white plate paper, and bound in paper of a similar quality but of a pale blue-gray tint; the cover title is bordered with deep blue wavy lines and the title printed in deep blue and black. Rarely have we met with a more pleasing and tastefully made ornithological booklet.—J. A. A.

**Mathews's 'The Birds of Australia.'**<sup>2</sup> — Volume I, Part 1, of this great work on Australian Birds was issued October 31, 1910. The work is published by subscription, by the well-known London publishers, Witherby & Co., and it is announced that "at least four parts will appear each year." The first part contains the Casuariiformes (5 species), the Galliformes (9 species), and the Turniciformes (7 species), or a total of 19 species, each illustrated. The first seven volumes (to form 30 parts), as announced in the prospectus, will carry the work to the Passeres, which, comprising some 450 species, will occupy Volume VIII and the succeeding volumes to the end of the series.

Since the completion of Gould's 'Birds of Australia,' in seven folio volumes (1841-1848, with five supplementary parts, 1851-1869), half a century ago, many species have been added to the avifauna, and a vast amount of new information recorded respecting the life histories and distribution of Australian birds. It is the purpose of the author of the present work to bring together as complete an account of each species as possible, availing himself of all published information as well as the results of his own personal observations, and the assistance of field ornithologists

<sup>1</sup> Dansk Fugleliv | Stormmaagen | (Larus canus) | The Seagull, Die Sturm-möve, La Mouette cendrée | Dens Liv i Billeder. Fotografert efter Naturen | af | C. Rubow | [Seal] Gyldendalske Boghandel | Nordisk Forlag | Forlagets Bogtrykkeri | MDCCCX — Large 8vo, title page, 18 half-tone plates, 3 pp. text (unpaged).

<sup>2</sup> The | Birds | of | Australia | By | Gregory M. Mathews | Member of the Australian Ornithologists' Union and the | British Ornithologists' Union | With hand-colored plates | [Vignette] Volume I. Part 1. | London: | Witherby & Co. 326 High Holborn W. C. | October 31st 1910 — Royal 4to, pp. 1-96, pll. (colored), 1-xix. Edition, 300 numbered copies. Price, £2, 2 s. per part.

in all parts of Australia. Each species will be illustrated from drawings by the best bird-artists available, and the plates will be carefully hand-colored.

An examination of Part I shows that the character of the work as announced in the prospectus has been well sustained. Of the plates, it is enough to say that with one exception, all have been drawn by J. G. Keulemans, and the text is well up to date. The bibliographical references are reasonably complete and the nomenclature modern; there are keys to the genera and species, and the descriptions (in small type) are very full, including those of the downy chick (when known), as well as of immature and fully adult birds, and of the nest and eggs. This is followed (in larger type) by the general account of the species, including its literary as well as its life history, with copious extracts from standard authorities. The account of the Emu thus occupies ten pages, and that of the Mallee Fowl twelve pages, while a couple of pages suffices to tell the little that is known of several of the species of *Turnix*, or so-called quails, the life histories of which are still almost unknown.

Mr. Mathews seems to be well prepared for his great task, having lived all his life in Australia and been a devoted student of its avifauna. In 1908 he published a 'Hand-list of the Birds of Australia' as a preliminary to the present illustrated work, and is in touch with a large number of field ornithologists in various parts of Australia from whom he is constantly receiving valuable observations hitherto unpublished. He also has the hearty co-operation of Dr. Ernst Hartert of the Rothschild Museum at Tring, who will render important aid in the technical and historical aspects of the work.

The illustrations, it is announced, will be by H. Grönvold, J. G. Keulemans, E. E. Lodge, and other noted bird draughtsmen. The part now under notice is a guaranty of the excellent character of the work, and we wish the author every support and the success this immense undertaking surely deserves.— J. A. A.

**Bird Enemies of the Texas-fever Tick and other Ticks.**— Mr. Robert Newstead of Chester, England, who has made numerous specific, hence valuable contributions to economic ornithology, maintains his satisfying standard in some observations<sup>1</sup> on the enemies of Ticks in Jamaica. While Gosse,<sup>2</sup> Taylor,<sup>3</sup> Ober,<sup>4</sup> and others record the fact that the Tinkling Grackle (*Quiscalus crassirostris*), and the Parrot-billed Blackbird (*Crotophaga ani*) feed upon cattle ticks, with the exception of Ober, they content themselves with evidence derived from the testimony of others or from merely watching the birds. Newstead, however, by means of post mortems gives us definite information regarding the species and the numbers of ticks eaten. He briefly treats other items of food also.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. Jamaica Dept. Agr., Vol. I, No. 3, 1910, pp. 161-165.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of Jamaica, 1847, pp. 284-285.

<sup>3</sup> Auk, IX, 1892, pp. 369-370.

<sup>4</sup> Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., (1878) 1879, p. 193.