

4:30 P. M. The following day it again returned about noon, remaining until dusk. As the mountain ash trees were likewise occupied by upwards of a hundred Western Robins, also feeding on the berries, the supply became exhausted and all the birds left. The Waxwing was entirely unsuspecting, allowing me to approach within three feet, and even then showed no signs of alarm, thus giving an exceptional opportunity for observation.

On February 15, 1911, I noted a flock of about thirty-five of this species in the southern part of the city, and again on March 8, a flock of upwards of forty.

124. *Vireosylva olivacea*. RED-EYED VIREO.—A rare summer resident, partial to certain localities, in such however its characteristic song can be heard each season.

125. *Regulus calendula grinnelli*. SITKA KINGLET.—Regular early spring and late autumn migrant.

126. *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*. ROBIN.—Among the flocks of Western Robins so common during the winter months, occasionally are seen individuals undoubtedly of this species. In my collection is a perfectly typical specimen of *migratorius* taken in this locality.—S. F. RATHBUN, *Seattle, Wash.*

**Professor Whitman's Collection of Pigeons.**—Biological investigators will be glad to know that the large and valuable collection of pigeons and birds which were the basis of nearly a score of years' work of the late C. O. Whitman are being maintained and kept together. The material upon which Professor Whitman's extensive evolutionary and natural history investigations were made will thus be available while his manuscripts and records are being arranged for publication.

Very abundant material is at hand for a continuance of studies on hybridization, sex, fertility, instinct, etc., more than is now utilized to its full advantage.

Mrs. Whitman has arranged, as long as it is utilized, to keep together this material, priceless from its history, some of the birds having pedigrees reaching back for a long series of years. The collection has been gathered from all parts of the world, not only through long years which consecration to the work could alone have made possible, but also at great expense of money which could be made use of only through sacrifice. Those who know best what this has been feel that the collection must be kept to be utilized as long as it will serve its purpose.

It was only in the last months of Professor Whitman's life that facilities for experiments and observation on a much larger scale were secured through the efforts of friends who put at his service the piece of ground adjoining his residence. He at once had built a large number of new cages; and delighted with the prospect of the enlarged opportunities declared that his real work he was just about to begin and that "five years will show."

For these reasons and because Professor Whitman's work became more illuminating as he went on, his family and friends feel that the opportunities so untimely left should be extended to others who wish them. Quarters are also given in the residence alongside the nearly one thousand birds, and Dr. Riddle, now at work with them, will cooperate with the work of others, or assist, or direct, as needed.

The library, which is one of the largest and most complete of biological libraries, is held open for constant use. The volumes are very extensively marked; pencil notes often bringing together from all quarters the various facts bearing on the subject under discussion.—*Science*, N. S., Vol. XXXIV, No. 866, pp. 145, 146, August 4, 1911.

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### RECENT LITERATURE.

**Mathews's Proposed Changes in the Nomenclature of Birds.**—Mr. G. M. Mathews has recently undertaken a revision of the nomenclature<sup>1</sup> of his 'Handlist of the Birds of Australia,' issued in January, 1908. The changes here proposed affect a large number of genera and a considerable number of species, the former including in many instances wide-ranging groups. In the same connection he also discusses incidentally a number of genera that are not Australian. His inquiry has thus a wide scope, and is prosecuted in the hope of increasing stability in nomenclature.

He says (*Emu*, *l. c.*, p. 317): "I have recognized that the only means of attaining finality in the nomenclature is the acceptance of the laws formulated by the International Congress of Zoölogists." In the 'Handlist' he followed Sharpe's 'Handlist of the Genera and Species of Birds,' and thus took the XIIth instead of the Xth edition of Linné's 'Systema Naturæ' as the "commencing point of binomial nomenclature." Many of his present "alterations" are due to this change. Others are due to his rejection of all generic names founded by non-binomial authors, including upward of forty proposed by Brisson. He gives as one of his "general rules": "*Non-binomial authors have been ignored.*" Among

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<sup>1</sup> On Some Necessary Alterations in the Nomenclature of Birds, By Gregory M. Mathews. I. *Novitates Zoologicae*, Vol. XVII, Dec., 1910, pp. 492-503; II. *Ibid.*, Vol. XVIII, June, 1911, pp. 1-22.

Alterations in the Nomenclature of 'Hand-list of the Birds of Australia,' By Gregory M. Mathews, F. R. S. E., etc. *The Emu*, Vol. X, April, 1911, pp. 317-326.

Nomenclature of Australian Avifauna. By Gregory M. Mathews. *The Emu*, Vol. XI, July, 1911, pp. 52-58.