and of Vieillot's contributions to the 'Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle.'

His first-cited paper in 'The Emu' (*l. c.*) gives the results of his nomenclatorial investigations as relating to Australian birds, with, in addition, his views as to the genera to be recognized, and the eliminations of extralimital genera and species. His second paper in 'The Emu' (*l. c.*) gives an explanation of the nomenclature and principles followed by him in the previous papers, for the benefit especially of Australian ornithologists. In this paper he states clearly why the changes he has proposed are necessary. The current nomenclature of Australian birds, being, like his own 'Handlist of Australian Birds,' that of Sharpe's British Museum 'Handlist,' is at many points not in conformity with the now generally accepted International Code of Zoölogical Nomenclature, which he has now adopted. He further makes a strong plea for the recognition of subspecies and the use of trinomial nomenclature, neither of which appear to have yet found much favor with Australian ornithologists. He also explains and advocates the determination of genotypes by "virtual tautonymy," and finally gives his reasons for his extensive reduction in the number of genera he adopts, citing especially *Charadrius* and *Tringa* and their modern subdivisions in illustration. We believe that in this extensive lumping of genera he will not win a large following. A quarter of a century ago the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Nomenclature took the same view, and reduced a large number of then current genera to subgenera, which, some twenty years later, this same Committee began gradually to reinstate as full genera until in 1910, in the third edition of its Check-List of North American Birds, nearly all the previously rejected genera were reinstated. The Committee's action in 1885 in this matter failed to receive the approval of ornithologists at large, and we feel quite sure that in this respect history will again repeat itself, and that Mr. Mathews and his friend Dr. Hartert will find themselves in a small minority not only in the lumping of genera but in the rejection of Brissonian generic names.— J. A. A.

Hancock's 'Nature Sketches in Temperate America.'— As shown by the full title,[1] this book deals with outdoor life from the standpoint of ecology and evolution, as further indicated by the following transcript of the section headings: I. Evolution and Natural Selection (pp. 1–24). II. Adaptations in Animals and Plants, with examples (pp. 25–64). III. Protective Resemblance, with examples (pp. 65–114). IV. Mimicry, with examples (pp. 115–133). V. Warning Colors, Terrifying Markings, and other Protective Devices, with examples (pp. 135–164). VI. Animal Behavior, with examples (pp. 165–267). VII. General

[1] Nature Sketches | in | Temperate America | A series of sketches and a popular account | of Insects, Birds, and Plants, treated | from some aspects of their | Evolution and Ecological | Relations | By | Joseph Lane Hancock | M. D., F. E. S. | [illustration]. With two hundred and fifteen original | illustrations in the text, and twelve colored plates by the author | Chicago | A. C. McClurg & Co. | 1911.— 8vo, pp. xviii + 451. $2.75 net.

Observations and Sketches afield, with examples (pp. 269–314). VIII. Ecology — Interpretation of Environment as exemplified in Orthoptera (pp. 315–433). The author says: "This work consists essentially of suggestive essays drawn from observations afield, and treating of various insects, birds, and plants. In this account there is brought together a series of life histories of many animal forms. I have given more consideration here to the insects than to other groups of animals. I think this is justifiable when it is remembered how many more representatives of these animals populate the earth, as compared with other families of animals."

The work will appeal to the general reader interested in nature study through its wide scope, clear and non-technical descriptions, and evident scientific merit. The author is an entomologist of standing, whose special field is the Orthoptera, from which many of his illustrations and examples are drawn. In discussing general questions of evolution he quotes liberally from standard authors, including not only Darwin, Wallace, and Poulton, but the more recent investigators in the field of experimental biology, and current authorities in ecology. It is on the whole a safe guide, replete with original observations, and with illustrations on a liberal scale from the author's own sketches and photographs, and must prove a useful introduction to the study of the animal and plant life of "temperate America." Much of the work is based on studies and observations carried on for many years at Lakeside, Michigan. The ornithological matter is not extensive, consisting mainly of passing references, in the section on 'Animal Behavior,' to various species in illustration of the general subject, and to the Ruby-throated Hummingbird as an agent in the pollination of flowers.— J. A. A.

Curl's 'Notes on the Digestive System of Hydrocorax.' — In an illustrated paper[1] of six pages, the author gives a detailed account of the digestive system in *Hydrocorax hydrocorax* (Linn.), with special reference to the periodical casting-off of the lining of the stomach. This deciduous membrane "is formed by secretion from the glands of the stomach and after reaching its full thickness, separates spontaneously, leaving the glands to begin at once the formation of a new sac . . . . It seems reasonable to suppose that, at least when the breeding season is past, the food, mixed with, and acted upon by, the secretion of the proventricular glands, passes into the deciduous sac lining the stomach; here muscular action completes the mixing, triturates the food, and prepares the digestible parts to pass over into the duodenum. The refuse is then periodically ejected in the membranous sac. Whether this routine is changed in the breeding season, I cannot say." — J. A. A.

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[1] Notes on the Digestive System of *Hydrocorax*. By Holton C. Curl, Surgeon, U. S. Navy. Philippine Journal of Science, Vol. VI, No. 1, pp. 31–37, pll. i, ii. February, 1911.