

chelidon nilotica is *G. n. aranea* (Wilson), *Sterna caspia* becomes *Hydroprogne tschegrava imperator* (Coues), and *S. anathetus* becomes *Melanosterna anathetus recognita* Mathews. *Phæbastris*, *Thalasseus*, *Hydroprogne*, *Onychoprion*, *Sternula* and *Melanosterna* are regarded as genera, while in *Hydrochelidon leucoptera*, *Sterna dougalli*, *S. fuscatus* and *Anous stolidus* the specific name must be repeated on account of the recognition of extralimital races.

In the substitution of *Hydroprogne* for *Thalasseus* and *Thalasseus* for *Actochelidon*, Mr. Mathews has the writer's hearty support.—W. S.

Bickerton's 'Home-Life of the Terns.'¹—This attractive volume constitutes the fourth of the 'Bird Lover's Home-Life Series.' In it Mr. Bickerton tells us of his visits to several Tern colonies on the English coast and his experiences in studying and photographing the five British breeding species — the Arctic, Common, Sandwich, Lesser and Roseate Terns. One chapter is devoted to Terns' habits in general, and one each to the species here especially considered while some additional notes on the Common Tern are given in chapter VII. The accounts are written in an attractive style and contain much information of value to the ornithologist as well as to the bird-lover.

We learn from Mr. Bickerton's pages that the Arctic Tern is by far the most abundant breeding species in Great Britain today, one colony numbering at least ten thousand pairs; the Common Tern comes next, the Lesser Tern is not so numerous, the Sandwich decidedly rare and the Roseate extremely so.

The protection afforded these birds during the breeding season is yielding encouraging results. In the case of the Sandwich Tern in the Ravensglass 'Gullery', which is carefully guarded by Lord Muncaster, the number of eggs recorded by the warden has increased from 120 in 1900 to 403 in 1912. As a protection against the unscrupulous raids of collectors the freshly laid eggs are each day marked by the warden with an indelible purple pencil so as to make them valueless as specimens. An idea of the rarity of the Roseate Tern may be gained from the fact that the only breeding colonies that could be found were located on rocky islets, inhabited by Arctic and Common Terns, and numbered all told not over 15 or 20 pairs while the other two species numbered respectively 10,000 and 1000 pairs. Mr. Bickerton found the Roseate Terns laying but a single egg in every nest examined, due possibly to this being on the northern limit of their breeding range.

American readers of this interesting volume will find in it a reminder of what might have been, on the New Jersey coast and elsewhere on our shores,

¹The Home-Life of the Terns or Sea Swallows Photographed and described By W. Bickerton, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. Vice-President of The Hertfordshire Natural History Society and Field Club, with thirty-two mounted plates London Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn W. C. MCMXII, pp. 1-88, plates 1-32.

where the once countless hosts of breeding water birds have been practically exterminated.

Mr. Bickerton's excellent photographs are reproduced in half-tones of high quality which are mounted upon dark brown paper making a very effective series of illustrations.— W. S.

Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'¹— The publication of this important work has been resumed after an interval of six years. Soon after the appearance of the first part of Volume V the author suffered a stroke of paralysis which resulted in his death in 1910. Arrangements were then made with Mr. W. L. Sclater to continue the undertaking and under his able direction it is hoped to bring it to an early completion.

The present volume is mainly edited from manuscripts already prepared by Capt. Shelley and covers the Shrike-like birds *Dicruridæ*, *Vangidæ*, *Campophagidæ*, *Laniidæ* and *Prionopidæ*.

Two hundred and nine species are included, some of which have several subspecies. Eight colored plates similar in style to those of previous parts illustrate the volume.— W. S.

Horsbrugh and Davies on The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa.²— Part 3 of this excellent work is now before us comprising the remainder of the Gallinaceous birds, mainly Guinea-Fowls; the Sandgrouse, Pigeons and some of the Anatidæ. The plates, sixteen in number, are fully up to the standard of the previous parts.

Major Horsbrugh finds that contrary to the statements of some authors the Common Guinea-Fowl of South Africa breeds readily in captivity and crosses freely with the domestic birds.— W. S.

Thayer's Concealing Coloration, an Answer to Theodore Roosevelt.³— Mr. Thayer here defends his views against the criticism of Col. Roosevelt published in the American Museum Bulletin⁴ a year ago. He emphasizes the inconspicuousness of white at night, and reiterates several of the statements set forth in his book, which he claims his critics have entirely failed to understand. Those interested in this controversy should read Mr. Thayer's paper in full.— W. S.

¹ The Birds of Africa, comprising all the species which occur in the Ethiopian Region. By G. E. Shelley, F. Z. S., F. R. G. S., &c. Completed and Edited by W. L. Sclater, M. A., F. Z. S. Vol. V, Pt. II. London: Henry Sotheran & Co. 1912. Roy 8vo., pp. 165-502, plates L-LVII.

² The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa. By Major Boyd Horsbrugh and Sergeant C. G. Davies. London: Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. Part 3. September 30, 1912.

³ Concealing Coloration, an Answer to Theodore Roosevelt. By Abbott H. Thayer. Bulletin American Museum Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXI, pp. 313-321. New York, September 14, 1912.

⁴ Vol. XXX, pp. 119-231.