

II. 'A revision of the Avifauna of the Para district,' comprising a list of collectors, localities, a bibliography and a systematic list of 379 species with localities from which specimens have been recorded. *Dysithamnus mentalis emilae* is described as new from San Antonio do Prata.

III. 'Report on the birds collected on the Island of Mexiana' annotated list of 39 species.

IV. 'Revision of the birds of Mexiana Island' 157 species listed.

V. Report on the birds collected on the Island of Marajo'; annotated list of 40 species.

VI. 'Zoogeographic consideration of the Avifauna of the region about the mouth of the Amazon.'

Such contributions as this are bringing our knowledge of the avifauna of South America nearer and nearer to that state of accuracy which characterizes the ornithology of North America, and this paper of Mr. Hellmayr's will prove of great assistance to investigators of the bird life not only of the Para district but of other more or less contiguous areas.— W. S.

**McAtee's 'Index to U. S. Department of Agriculture Publications on the Food of Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>— So numerous are the publications of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, dealing with the food habits of birds, that an index such as Mr. McAtee has prepared is a practical necessity if we are to readily find the information that we seek. The index covers 131 documents, referring to the economic status of no less than 401 species of native birds and 59 foreign or introduced species. A bibliography precedes the index proper and the latter is remarkably full, with an abundance of sub-headings under each species giving the various items of food and other details, which greatly aid the economist in finding just the information he desires.— W. S.

**Craig's Studies of Bird Behavior.**<sup>2</sup>— Mr. Craig describes in detail the hatching of two young doves (*Turtur risorius*). The birds made a series of strong movements with several seconds rest between; each movement seemed to consist of (1) a pushing lengthwise, (2) a thrusting of the bill through the shell, or sometimes only bulging it, (3) a turning round a few degrees which brought each bill thrust a little beyond the last. Mr. Craig finds only two recorded instances of the observation of the hatching of wild birds *i. e.* by W. H. Hudson, 'The Naturalist in La Plata' and R. T. Moore, 'The Auk' 1912, p. 218, dealing with the Jacana and Least Sandpiper respectively. It would seem therefore that there was opportunity

<sup>1</sup> Index to Papers Relating to the Food of Birds by Members of the Biological Survey in Publications of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1885-1911. By W. L. McAtee. U. S. Dept. Agr., Biological Survey, Bull. No. 4. Washington, 1913. pp. 1-69.

<sup>2</sup> Behavior of the Young Bird in Breaking out of the Egg. By Wallace Craig, Jour. Animal Behavior, July-August, 1912, pp. 296-298.

Observations on Doves Learning to Drink, *do.*, pp. 273-279.

here for some valuable observations and it is strange that a field which lies open to every student of bird life has been so universally neglected.

In another paper the same author discusses young doves learning to drink and concludes that the first drinking is an involuntary reflex act when the bill becomes accidentally submerged and the inside of the mouth is moistened. The difference in the method of drinking in pigeons and domestic fowls is emphasized.— W. S.

**Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on Austrian Ornithological Literature for 1911.**<sup>1</sup>— A bibliography of about 400 titles, many of them local and popular, and many from journals not readily accessible in America. The list is carefully prepared and forms a valuable paper of reference while it impresses one with the enormous amount of ornithological literature that is being put forth in the world today.— W. S.

**Mrs. Myers' 'The Birds' Convention.'**<sup>2</sup>— This attractively printed little book is designed to interest young folk in birds and bird protection. For very little children a book of this sort, in which the birds are personified, will no doubt prove attractive, but as they grow older boys and girls, we think, soon prefer something that is not quite so obviously intended for the young. The half-tones with which the work is illustrated are excellent.— W. S.

**Grinnell on Conserving the Band-tailed Pigeon as a Game Bird.**<sup>3</sup>— Mr. Grinnell treats at length of the distribution, food, nesting, economic status etc., of this valuable bird in California. He concludes from the evidence collected that though widely scattered in the breeding season, in winter all the individuals inhabiting the Pacific coast gather in the valleys and foot hills of west, central and southern California. It is obviously during the latter season that the species is in danger of extermination and Mr. Grinnell considers that the decimation has gone so far that a close season of five years is the only way to bring the birds back to a status that will warrant an annual open season. Up to the present time the Band-tailed Pigeon has been left practically unprotected and its slow rate of increase— only one young being reared by each pair— has failed to keep pace with the winter slaughter, which in 1911-12 was very heavy.

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<sup>1</sup> Ornithologische Literatur Österreich, Bosniens, und der Herzegowina, 1911. Von Viktor Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Verhandl. der k. k. zool.-botan. Gesellsch. in Wien. 1912. pp. 260-289.

<sup>2</sup> The Bird's Convention. By Harriet Williams Myers, Secretary California Audubon Society, with Illustrations from Photographs by the Author. Western Publishing Co., Los Angeles, Cal., 1912, pp. 1-81. 75 cents, postage 6 cts.

<sup>3</sup> The Outlook for Conserving the Bend-tailed Pigeon as a Game Bird of California. The Condor, January, 1913. pp. 25-40.