

Mearns on New African Birds.¹—The birds here described were obtained on the Frick, Rainey and Smithsonian African Expeditions, except one secured by Dr. W. L. Abbott in 1888. They are as follows: *Francolinus hildebrandti helleri* (p. 381) Mt. Lololokui; *Chalcopelia afra kilimensis* (p. 383) Mt. Kilimanjaro; *C. chalcospila intensa* (p. 384), Hawash River, Abyssinia; *C. c. media* (p. 385), Gardulla, Abyssinia; *Cinnyris venusta blicki* (p. 386), Lake Stephanie; *C. mediocris garguensis* (p. 387), Mt. Gargues; *C. reichenowi kikuyensis* (p. 388), Escarpment Sta.; *Chalcomitra senegalensis atra* (p. 388), Thika River; *Anthreptes collaris garguensis* (p. 389), Mt. Gargues; *Estrilda atricapilla keniensis* (p. 390), Aberdare Mts.; *Halcyon senegalensis cinereicapillus* (p. 391), Kisingo, Uganda; *H. malimbicus prenticei* (p. 392), Lake Victoria, Uganda; *Melittophagus variegatus loringi* (p. 393), Lake Albert, Uganda; *Colius striatus jebelensis* (p. 394), Gondokoro.

These forms are very fully described often with remarks upon allied races.—W. S.

Von Ihering on Brazilian Birds.²—Prof. von Ihering has been investigating the life histories, habits and structure of various groups of Brazilian birds in their bearing on the systematic arrangement of the genera. In a recent paper he takes up the cuckoos,¹ arranging them in six subfamilies, *Phenicophainæ*, *Coccyzinæ*, *Centropinæ*, *Crotophaginæ*, *Scythropinæ*, and *Cuculinæ*. Incidentally he discusses the Brazilian birds which lay their eggs in the nests of other birds.

In another paper³ he writes of the ornithological collection of the Museu Paulista and contributes some new observations on the nests and eggs of Brazilian birds, considering some 48 species. There is a fine colored plate of *Phylloscartes paulista* and *Guracava difficilis* and two other plates of nests and eggs.—W. S.

Allen's 'Birds in their Relation to Agriculture in New York State.'⁴—This little pamphlet is a veritable mine of information and its very conciseness will appeal to those who have not time to seek out their information from a number of more formidable publications, while it will undoubtedly carry home the principles of bird conservation to many who could not otherwise be reached.

¹ Descriptions of New African Birds of the Genera *Francolinus*, *Chalcopelia*, *Cinnyris*, *Chalcomitra*, *Anthreptes*, *Estrilda*, *Halcyon*, *Melittophagus*, and *Colius*. By Edgar A. Mearns. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 48, pp. 381-394. January 19, 1915.

² *Biologia e Classificacao das Cuculidas Brasileiras*. Por Hermann von Ihering. Revista Mus. Paulista, IX, pp. 371-410. July, 1914. (In Portuguese and German.)

³ *Novas Contribuicoes para a Ornithologia do Brazil*. Por Hermann von Ihering. Revista Mus. Paulista, IX, pp. 411-488. August, 1914. (In Portuguese and German.)

⁴ *Birds in their Relation to Agriculture in New York State*. By A. A. Allen. The Cornell Reading-Courses, IV, No. 76, November 15, 1914, pp. 17-56.

The half-tones from original photographs are excellent and varied. The common birds are considered under the convenient and rather novel headings of (1) 'bird and mammal eaters'; (2) 'fish, frog and crayfish eaters', including 'stalkers, plungers, divers'; (3) 'insect eaters',—'strainers, probers, scratchers, borers, gleaners'; (4) 'vegetable feeders',—seed eaters, fruit eaters. A convincing colored plate by L. A. Fuertes depicts the Horned Owl, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks devouring respectively a chicken, pigeon and robin, while the Marsh Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Barred Owl are feasting on meadow mice and a rat, and the Sparrow Hawk on a grasshopper. Dr. Allen has produced a valuable addition to the literature of bird protection, which could be reprinted for use in a much wider field with advantage.—W. S.

Simpson's 'Pheasant Farming'.¹—This is a most attractive little brochure, illustrated by half-tones from photographs and drawings, and a colored plate by Bruce Horsfall. The chapter headings give a good idea of the contents: 'Propagation of Game Birds'; 'Varieties of Pheasants'; 'The Chinese Pheasant in Oregon'; 'Equipment for a Pheasant Farm'; 'The Ideal Mother for Pheasants'; 'Food for Young Pheasants'; 'Enemies of the Game Breeder'; 'Advice to Beginners'.

The demand for game and the absolute necessity of preventing the marketing of native species will make this industry of constantly increasing importance and this excellent little pamphlet will be in much demand.—W. S.

Recent Biological Survey Publications.—The ornithological activities of the Survey as set forth in the annual report of the chief, Mr. Henry W. Henshaw,² covered the food of Wild Ducks; the relation of birds to the Boll and Alfalfa Weevils and to the Range Caterpillar; the economic status of the Starling; and the general protection and attracting of birds and enforcement of the migratory bird law.

Mr. W. L. McAtee has prepared a timely report on 'How to attract Birds'³ covering protection of grounds from cats, and the preparations of all sorts of feeding and shelter devices. There is also appended a valuable list of wild fruit and berry bearing trees and shrubs with their fruiting seasons. A report on the food of Robins and Bluebirds⁴ by Prof. Beal sets forth in great detail the animal and vegetable food of these familiar birds as shown by the extended investigations of the Biological Survey.

¹ Pheasant Farming. By 'Gene M. Simpson. Bull. No. 2, Oregon Fish and Game Commission, 1914.

² Report of Chief of Bureau of Biological Survey. By H. W. Henshaw. Advance Sheets from Annual Report of the Dept. of Agriculture for 1914 [Dec. 12, 1914], pp. 1-12.

³ How to Attract Birds in Northeastern United States. By W. L. McAtee. Farmers Bulletin U. S. Dept. Agr. No. 621, Dec. 14, 1914, pp. 1-15.

⁴ Food of the Robins and Bluebirds of the United States. By F. E. L. Beal. Bull. U. S. Dept. Agr. No. 171, Feb. 5, 1915, pp. 1-31.