

in the little pamphlet before us, and wish that others would take steps to gather together their local Wild Pigeon lore before it is too late. A half-tone plate figures the Cincinnati pigeon, the last survivor, shortly before its death, and the last Pennsylvania pigeon shot on October 2, 1895, now in the possession of Mr. George H. Stuart, 3rd.—W. S.

**Peters on Birds from Santo Domingo.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Peters spent about two months (February 6–April 11) in 1916, on an ornithological reconnaissance of the northern coast of Santo Domingo, in the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. A collection representing ninety-two species was the result and it is described in detail in the present paper. No new forms are proposed but the relationship of the San Domingo birds to allied species is discussed, important field notes are presented and by way of introduction there is a comprehensive review of the literature of the ornithology of the island. Altogether Mr. Peters' paper forms one of the most important contributions to our knowledge of the bird life of this rather neglected island.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Gyldenstolpe.**<sup>2</sup>—In the 'Arkiv för Zoologi' of the Swedish Academy, Nils Gyldenstolpe has published an account of collections of birds from Bukit Tangga and Lower Perak in the Malay Peninsula and another important article on the heel pads on the tarsus of various birds—Toucans, Woodpeckers, etc., with drawings showing the extent of their development.—W. S.

**Cary's 'Life Zone Investigations in Wyoming.'**<sup>3</sup>—This report is based upon the field work of the author since 1909 as well as that of numerous other members of the Biological Survey. The greater part is devoted to a detailed consideration of the several life zones of the state; their boundaries, subdivisions and characteristic animals and plants.

The bird matter is restricted entirely to the lists of breeding species under the several zones, but there is an annotated list of the trees and shrubs at the end of the report. An excellent colored faunal map completes what will be a most welcome and helpful publication to anyone undertaking scientific field work of any kind in Wyoming.—W. S.

**Third Report of the Meriden Bird Club.**<sup>4</sup>—The report of this well known club of which Mr. Ernest Harold Baynes is the General Manager —

<sup>1</sup> Birds from the Northern Coast of the Dominican Republic. By James L. Peters. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., Vol. LXI, No. 11. October, 1917. pp. 391–426.

<sup>2</sup> On Birds and Mammals from the Malay Peninsula. By Nils Gyldenstolpe. Arkiv. för Zoologi. K. Svensk. Vet. Akad. 10, No. 26. pp. 1–31. February 8, 1917.

<sup>3</sup> Life Zone Investigations in Wyoming. By Merritt Cary. North American Fauna, No. 42 Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. October 3, 1917. pp. 1–95, map and numerous half-tone illustrations.

<sup>4</sup> Third Report of the Meriden Bird Club. 1916. 8vo, pp. 1–108 + 6.

the parent of 'Bird Clubs' in fact, is always interesting. In this issue we find a full account of the Masque Sanctuary written especially for the Meriden Club by Percy MacKaye, first performed at Meriden on September 12, 1913, and since played in many parts of the country. More than anything else in recent years this play seems to have aroused public interest in bird conservation and it will interest everyone to read this account of its inception and production.

Among many other matters interesting to those engaged in the establishment of bird sanctuaries we find in this report a list of no less than 182 bird clubs which directly or indirectly owe their origin to the Meriden Club—a proud record for Mr. Baynes and his associates.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'Birds of Australia'.<sup>1</sup>**—Part V, of Volume VI of Mr. Mathews' work continues the treatment of the Parrots, figuring ten species of *Psephotus* and allied genera. We notice on p. 391 a new subgenus, *Clarkona*, provisionally proposed for *Psephotus varius*, and on p. 408 two new subspecies, *Psephotus varius thela*, from Central Australia, and *P. v. orientalis*, from Underbool.—W. S.

**Strong on the Origin of Melanin Pigment in Feather Germs.<sup>2</sup>**—Dr. Strong finds that melanin pigment granules occur occasionally in the so-called cylinder and inner-sheath cells of feather germs from the Common Fowl, and obtains further evidence that this pigment is of epidermal origin.

He found melanophores in the dermal pulp of the feather germs, presumably homologous with the dermal melanophores of the skin. While some of these had processes they did not, apparently distribute pigment to other cells.—W. S.

**Bird Conservation in 1917.**—The bulky report of the National Association of Audubon Societies must be read by everyone interested in bird protection. When we read the lengthy lists of persons engaged in this work today we are dazed at the progress of the movement. With hundreds of bird clubs being organized in every part of the country, thousands of school teachers introducing instruction on bird protection in their classes, with bird lecturers on the Chautauqua circuits and exhibitions of bird houses, feeding shelves and other paraphernalia on every side, it will soon be as hard to find a person who is not affiliated with bird conservation in some way or other, as it was some years ago to find one who was willing to sign a pledge to abandon the use of birds in millinery.

The movement has certainly gotten far beyond the ability of 'The Auk'

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VI, Part V. September 11, 1917.

<sup>2</sup> Some Observations on the Origin of Melanin Pigment in Feather Germs from the Plymouth Rock and Brown Leghorn Fowls. By R. M. Strong. Anatomical Record, Vol. 13, No. 2, July, 1917. pp. 97-108.