

reads it, that when this terrible war is over and Dr. Chapman resumes his ornithological work, he may be able to prepare other similar contributions for which much material is already available at the American Museum. Surely no one today is better equipped for the task.—W. S.

**Gee and Moffett's 'Birds of the Lower Yangtse Valley.'**—This little volume,<sup>1</sup> apparently reprinted from the columns of a newspaper, is a well prepared account of the more common birds of the region of which it treats, intended to meet the needs of those who wish to become familiar with the wild bird life of China. There is a good description of each species with an outline of its general distribution, an account of its nest and eggs and some general notes on its habits and history. The material is compiled from various reliable sources and includes as well the observations of the authors and those of the late Dr. Paul D. Bergen.

"The greatest lack in ornithological literature of China," say the authors, "is not the scientific descriptions of species—perhaps few remain yet to be described—but the sort of careful popular study that has taught us so much of the intimate ways of the birds of America and England." As an attempt to fill this want the present work is a very praiseworthy effort, and will be welcomed alike by those who are able to study Chinese birds on the spot and those in far away lands, who wish to know something of the everyday familiar birds of this interesting country.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'Birds of Australia.'**—Part six<sup>2</sup> of volume six of this notable work is now before us, completing the treatment of the Parrots. Eight species of the genera *Neonannodes*, *Neophema*, *Lathamus*, *Melopsittacus*, *Pezoporus* and *Geopsittacus* are figured and described. There is also an appendix giving the description of *Platycercus elegans fleuriensis* Ashby, already published in 'The Emu,' and some supplementary notes by the describer. Also a correction in which the generic name *Suavipsitta* (p. xix) is proposed for *Nannopsittacus* Matthews, preoccupied by *Nannopsittaca* Ridgway.

In the main text of this part we find the following new name proposed: *Neonannodes chrystomus cyanopterus* (p. 446), Victoria.—W. S.

**Kalmbach on the Crow and its Relation to Man.**—The continued demand for information regarding the economic value of the Crow and the exhaustion of the supply of previous bulletins on the subject, have resulted

<sup>1</sup>A Key to the Birds of the Lower Yangtse Valley with Popular Descriptions of the Species Commonly Seen. By N. Gist Gee, Soochow University and Lacy I. Moffett, Kiangyin. Shanghai: Shanghai Mercury Limited, Print. 1917. pp. 1-221, with index (i-xix) and errata (iii-iv).

<sup>2</sup>The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VI, Part VI. December 11, 1917.

in a new investigation by Mr. E. R. Kalmbach,<sup>1</sup> Assistant Biologist of the Biological Survey. A large amount of new and more recent information has been collected through correspondence and the number of stomachs upon which conclusions on the food habits of the bird are based, has increased from 909 at the time of the previous report to 2118.

The matter is clearly and concisely presented under various headings and the results and conclusions summarized at the close of the report. The omnivorous habits of the Crow and the resulting complexity of the problem of determining its worth to man can readily be appreciated when we learn that no less than 656 different items were detected in the stomachs examined. After carefully weighing all the factors in the case, Mr. Kalmbach concludes that while the Crow undoubtedly does much damage in destroying corn and other crops, poultry, nestlings and eggs of wild birds, etc., nevertheless the enormous amount of good that it does in destroying noxious insects, especially in the early spring, when they are at the lowest ebb of their life cycle, constitutes a benefit that we cannot afford to dispense with. Therefore he considers that while the bird should not be protected no efforts directed toward its extermination should be tolerated. In other words it should be kept at about its present abundance and should be allowed to be shot whenever it is found doing damage.

In the Delaware Valley, according to the reviewer's experience, there seems no doubt but that the Crow has decreased considerably during recent years, owing apparently to the molestation of the roosts, and if this condition prevails over other parts of its range, it may be that by the time another report on the bird's economic value appears, it will be necessary to give it some measure of protection. Ornithologists would be sorry to see a bird of such varied interest and historical association, seriously reduced in numbers, when there is no more call for such action than Mr. Kalmbach has shown, and we sincerely hope that his practical recommendations will be accepted throughout the country.

This excellent report is illustrated by an admirable colored plate of the Crow from a painting by the author, a map of the United States locating 174 Crow roosts, and a diagram showing graphically the food of the Crow throughout the year.—W. S.

**Arthur's 'Birds of Louisiana.'**—This list published as a 'Bulletin of the State Department of Conservation'<sup>2</sup> is issued in response to the demands of schools, nature teachers and others interested in extending a knowledge of the wild birds of the state. Mr. Arthur has done his work well, giving us an authoritative list of species according to the A. O. U.

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<sup>1</sup> The Crow and its relation to Man. By E. R. Kalmbach. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 621. February 16, 1918. pp. 1-92.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Louisiana. Bulletin 5, State of Louisiana, Department of Conservation, M. L. Alexander, Commissioner. [By Stanley Clisby Arthur, Ornithologist.] pp. 1-80. New Orleans, January 1918, with several maps and other text figures.