

published a little volume under the above title describing the experiences of 'Hardheart, the Gull'; 'Longtoe, the Gypsy Robin'; 'Jim Crow of Cow Heaven' and other similar celebrities, ten in all, into which he has managed to incorporate a great deal of valuable suggestion regarding bird protection without destroying the interest of the stories. The book should prove a valuable one both as a story book and for school reading.—W.S.

Mathews' 'Birds of Australia.'¹—This attractive number of Mr. Mathews' great work includes the Frogmouths, Rollers and part of the Kingfishers, groups which the author prefers to regard as distinct orders rather than as families of the Coraciiformes. We notice however that through inadvertence the order heading for the 'Coraciiformes' which should precede the account of the genus *Eurystomus* has been omitted so that this genus would appear to be included in the 'Podargiformes.'

The accounts of the life and habits of the Frogmouths are very interesting while the peculiar poses shown in the plates illustrate how much protective coloration and rigidity of posture figure in rendering them inconspicuous. We note the following new forms: *Podargus strigoides centralia* (p. 34), Central Australia; *P. s. capensis* (p. 35), Cape York; *Aegotheles cristata tasmanica* (p. 65), Tasmania; *A. c. olivei* (65), Cairns, N. Queensland; *A. c. centralia* (p. 67), Stevenson's River; *A. c. melvillensis* (p. 67), Melville Island; *Alcyone azurea wallaceana* (p. 94), Aru Isls.; *A. a. distincta* (p. 94), Humboldt Bay, New Guinea; and *Micralcyone pusilla yorki* (p. 103) Cape York.

In considering the Kingfishers five new genera are proposed as follows: *Cyanoceyx* (p. 96), type *Ceyx lepida*; *Ceycalcyon* (p. 97), type *C. cyanopectus*; *Argyroceyx* (p. 97), type *C. argentata*; *Ispidella* (p. 97), type *Halcyon leucogaster* and *Ceycoides* (p. 98), type *C. madagascariensis*. The discussion on the relative value of color patterns and details of structure is interesting and the points brought out are well worthy of the attention of systematists. It might be mentioned in this connection that a similar discussion based largely upon the same group of species was published by the reviewer in 1912, in a paper which appears to have been overlooked by Mr. Mathews (Journal Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., Vol. XV, pp. 313-319).—W. S.

Lincoln's 'The Woodpeckers of Colorado.'²—This little pamphlet is published by the Colorado Mountain Club and is intended to give to the layman concise information on the habits and appearance of the woodpeckers of the state. A preliminary sketch of the habits and structure of woodpeckers in general is followed by detailed accounts of the nine Colorado

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VII, Part I, pp. 1-112. March 4, 1918.

² The Woodpeckers of Colorado. By F. C. Lincoln. Illustrated. Published by The Colorado Mountain Club. Publication No. 6. Denver, Colorado. December 8, 1917. pp. 1-22.

species. The illustrations consist of photographs of specimens and groups in the Colorado Museum of Natural History. A good plan for showing the actual and relative size of the species consists of a photograph of a series of skins, one of each species, arranged side by side on a sheet of paper ruled with horizontal lines one inch apart. The pamphlet is well printed and forms an attractive and useful publication.— W. S.

Cassinia for 1917.¹— The Delaware Valley Club's annual publication appears as usual in April covering the proceedings of the year 1917. The leading article is a biographical sketch of Samuel Wright, one of the active members of the Club who died early in the year, by Witmer Stone, with portrait. Then follows an admirable review of the summer bird-life of Pocono Lake, Pa., by John D. Carter; one of those boreal 'islets' in the mountainous part of the state which for many years past has been a favorite resort for several members of the Club. The nest of the Golden-crowned Kinglet found by Mr. Carter in 1916 was one of the latest discoveries, the first actual nesting record of this species for the state. Samuel Scoville, Jr., writes of the influx of Evening Grosbeaks which marked the winter of 1916-1917 and brought this species within the Philadelphia district for the first time. The usual migration report based upon the schedules of fifty-one observers, and the abstract of proceedings complete the number.

The average attendance at the sixteen meetings held during the year was twenty-one, notwithstanding the fact that twenty-two of the members are in the national service.— W. S.

Bangs and Penard on a Collection of Surinam Birds.²— This paper is based on a collection of 2000 skins representing 301 species which was made for the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy under the direction of Mr. A. P. Penard, of Paramaribo, the greater part of the specimens being obtained in the immediate vicinity of the city.

There is a brief introduction in which the physical features of Surinam are described, the country being divided into three parallel zones, the alluvial lowlands, the savanna lands and the highlands stretching back to the Tumuchumac Mountains of Brazil. Much of the last area is unexplored and according to the authors the extreme difficulties to be overcome make it unlikely that any extensive work will be done there for some time to come.

Under many of the species there is a mere mention of the specimens contained in the collection while under others there is considerable dis-

¹ Cassinia: A Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia. 1917 (issued April, 1918). pp. 1-74. Price 50 cents. Address care of The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

² Notes on a Collection of Surinam Birds. By Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. LXII, No. 2. April, 1918. pp. 25-93.