

A study of a series of the Nicobar Megapode induces Dr Oberholser<sup>1</sup> to recognize two races, *Megapodius nicobariensis abbotti* (p. 400) from Little Nicobar being described as new. It occurs also on Great Nicobar, while the typical form is restricted to the middle and northern islands of the group.

Dr. Abbott's second collection from Simalur Island, Sumatra, consists of 38 species, which are listed by Dr. Oberholser,<sup>2</sup> *Hypotaenidia striata reliqua* (p. 476) being the only novelty.

None of the recent papers from the National Museum 'Proceedings' are dated except with the year, which is likely to cause much trouble in the future. If it was impracticable during war times to print the date on the separates, it surely could have been added with a rubber stamp before they were mailed. So much time is wasted today in ascertaining the actual dates of publication of old works that it is disheartening to find one of our leading scientific institutions reverting to this careless practice.—W. S.

**Captain S. A. White's Explorations in Australia.**<sup>3</sup>— Captain White, who has contributed so many valuable articles to 'The Emu' and other Australian scientific journals, has also published two little booklets, reprinted from 'The Register' and illustrated by many half-tones from photographs, which have just come to our attention.

One is entitled 'The Gawler Range. An Ornithological Expedition' and the other 'Ooldea on the East-West Railway, On the Flooded Murray River and Other Sketches.'<sup>4</sup> They are most interesting accounts of travel in the wilds of the Australian continent and are replete with observations on bird life.—W. S.

**Bangs and Penard's 'Critical Bird Notes.'**<sup>5</sup>— In the process of their studies of the Lafresnaye Collection of birds recently presented by the Boston Society of Natural History to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Messrs. Bangs and Penard have discovered the necessity for various changes in names, recognition of new races, etc., which are presented in the present paper in advance of their general report on the Lafresnaye collection. The new forms described are: *Herpetotheres cachinnans queribundus* (p. 23), Pernambuco, Brazil; *Eupsittula astec vicinialis* (p. 24), Tamaulipas, Mexico; *Synallaxis brachyurus chapmani* (p. 25), Jiminez; Colombia; *Dendrocincla lafresnaye christiani* (p. 25), Pavas, Colombia,

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<sup>1</sup> The Races of the Nicobar Megapode, *Megapodius nicobariensis* Blyth. By Harry C. Oberholser. *Ibid.*, pp. 399-402.

<sup>2</sup> Notes on Dr. W. L. Abbott's Second Collection of Birds from Simalur Island, Western Sumatra. By Harry C. Oberholser. *Ibid.*, pp. 473-498.

<sup>3</sup> The Gawler Ranges. An Ornithological Expedition. By Capt. S. A. White. Adelaide. 1913. pp. 1-58.

<sup>4</sup> Ooldea, on the East-West Railway, On the Flooded Murray River and Other Sketches. By Capt. S. A. White. Reprinted from The Register. pp. 1-88.

<sup>5</sup> Some Critical Notes on Birds. By Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard. *Bull. Museum Comp. Zool.*, Vol. LXIII, No. 2. June, 1919. pp. 21-40.

*Picolaptes affinis lignicida* (p. 26), Tamaulipas, Mexico; *Saltator striatipictus furax* (p. 32), W. Costa Rica, and *S. s. speratus* (p. 33), Pearl Islands, Panama, and *Cissilopha sanblasiana nelsoni* (p. 40), Colima, Mexico. *Tanagera lauta* (p. 35) is proposed for the well-known "*Euphonia hirundinacea*" auct., which proved not to be Lesson's bird, and *T. l. proba* (p. 35) is proposed for *T. gnatho* auct. nec Licht., while the new generic name *Cnemoscopus* (p. 38) is established for *Arremon rubrirostris* Lafr.

Mr. Bangs<sup>1</sup> has also recently separated the Philippine Striated Grass Warbler as a new form, *Megalurus palustris forbesi* (p. 61).—W. S.

**Cassinia for 1918.**<sup>2</sup>—This publication of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club contains an article on the birthplace of John Cassin by F. H. Shelton, with a half-tone illustration of the Cassin homestead, while some additional notes regarding the life of the ornithologist are presented, showing that his interest in natural history, especially botany, had been well developed even during his school days.

Extracts from an old manuscript journal of a Swedish missionary, Andreas Hesselius, compiled some years ago by Charles J. Pennock, form the other leading article and give observations on bird life, etc., in the vicinity of Wilmington, Del., in 1711. This manuscript is one of the very earliest contributions to the ornithology of the Delaware Valley.

The usual migration report is presented as well as the Abstract of Proceedings and Bibliography. The Club had twenty-five of its members in the national service and was forced by war conditions to cancel some of its meetings, but it managed to keep up its regular activities, and is now in a more prosperous condition than before.—W. S.

**Gladstone's 'Birds and the War.'**<sup>3</sup>—Mr. Gladstone's aim in this little book is to present such information as he was able to gather during the four years of the European War regarding its effect upon and relation to bird life. The subject is far more complicated than one would at first imagine, as can be seen from a glance at the chapter headings of the work. These are grouped under four titles: (1) Utility of Birds, as messengers, crop protectors and food; (2) Suffering of Birds in the War, captive birds, sea birds and effect of air craft and air raids; (3) Behaviour of Birds in the War Zone; (4) Effect of the War on Birds, migration and change of habits.

As we glance through the pages of this interesting little volume we learn that during some engagements as many as a thousand homing pigeons were used by the British to carry messages and that the birds frequently flew

<sup>1</sup> A New Striated Grass Warbler from the Philippines. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New England Zool. Club. Vol. VII, pp. 5-6. June 6, 1919.

<sup>2</sup> Cassinia. A Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. 1918 [April, 1919], pp. 1-51. Price 50 cents.

<sup>3</sup> Birds and the War. By Hugh S. Gladstone, M. A., F. R. S. E., F. Z. S., etc. Skeffington & Son, Ltd., 34 Southampton Street, Strand, W. C. 2. London, 1919. 12 mo. pp. i-xviii-1-169. 17 half-tone plates. Price 5s. net.