

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. Bangs¹ has also recently separated the Philippine Striated Grass Warbler as a new form, *Megalurus palustris forbesi* (p. 61).—W. S.

Cassinia for 1918.²—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.'³—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

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

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

³ 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.

through gas clouds and barrage after all other means of communication had failed. Few, we imagine, realized the extent of the 'Pigeon Service' or that the United States had a similar organization with which at least one ornithologist, Mr. F. C. Lincoln, of the Colorado Museum, was connected. Mr. Gladstone also describes the use of Canaries, which are much more sensitive to poison gases than man, as a means of detecting the presence of gas in tunnelling operations at the front, while singing Canaries were used extensively on ambulance trains to cheer up the wounded soldiers. The controversy between the farmers and the bird protective societies as to whether birds, especially pheasants, were of more value during war times as food or as crop protectors, was hotly waged and resulted in some temporary modifications in the game regulations.

Mr. Gladstone's evidence is that air raids terrified some birds but not others, while sea birds that were at first frightened by the air planes soon became accustomed to them. Neither of these factors seems to have caused any actual destruction of bird life, but the sinking of oil ships by the submarines was a source of real danger, and large numbers of ducks and other sea birds perished from their plumage becoming hopelessly caked with the oil, so that flight was impossible. On the actual battlefield in France the most reliable testimony is to the effect that the birds were but little affected by the terrific upheaval going on around them, and returned again to nest in the most devastated spots. Of course local conditions affected them to some extent, but generally speaking they seemed indifferent to the noise of battle. Mr. Gladstone in this connection cites Charles Waterton to the effect that the noise of a gun is the one sound to which birds never become accustomed, a theory which the war has pretty well disproved.

Upon migration and habits the war seems to have had little or no effect, although the destruction of large forest areas has, as in all cases of deforestation, affected the presence or abundance of species dependent upon such environment for their existence.

Mr. Gladstone has done a good work in collecting the information presented in this volume, which is not only an important record but a valuable contribution to bird behavior and an exceedingly interesting book for the general reader.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'¹—The latest part of Mr. Mathews' sumptuous work concludes the fifth volume and also completes the treatment of the non-passerine birds, and the author takes this opportunity to add several species omitted from various preceding parts as well as several appendices, etc.

The part opens with the completion of the account of the Coucal, which includes a description of *Polophilus phasianinus melvillensis* (p. 391), and is followed by a consideration of that typically Australian group, the Lyre-

¹The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Volume VII, Part V. July 10, 1919. pp. 385-499. + i-xii [Introduction, etc., to Vol. V].