

The plan of the work was so fully described in our review of the 'Life Histories of the Diving Birds' that it is needless to make further mention of it here except to commend the care and perseverance of the author in bringing together the illustrations and data which have been used to supplement his own wide experience with the gulls and terns. The volume, like its predecessor, will be a work of reference which must needs be constantly within reach of every ornithologist, be he writer or editor, field-naturalist or museum curator. While according the author every praise for his part in the production, we regret to be again compelled to criticize the use of paper so thin that the appearance of the text is ruined, and the frequent unfortunate arrangement of the eggs in the otherwise excellent colored plates, which by presenting them in different positions on the same plate spoils the effect and renders them less easily comparable.

We wish Mr. Bent all speed with his work, and would urge the cooperation of all ornithologists who are in a position to help him.—W. S.

Chapman on New South American Birds.¹—As a result of Dr. Chapman's recent visit to the British Museum he has been able to definitely determine as new several birds obtained by the South American expeditions of the American Museum of Natural History which had to be compared with types preserved in the former institution. He also describes some new forms obtained by the recent Anthony-Cherrie expedition to Ecuador. The proposed new forms are as follows: *Nothocercus fuscipennis* (p. 1), Popayan, Colombia; *Penelope barbata* (p. 3), Taraguacochoa, Prov. del Oro, Ecuador; *Siptornis wyatti aequatorialis* (p. 4), Mt. Chamborazo, Ecuador; *Odontophorus parambae canescens* (p. 4), Alamor, Prov. Loja, Ecuador; *Nyctibius longicaudatus chocoensis* (p. 5), Novita, Choco, Colombia; *Picumnus parvistriatus* (p. 6), Daule, Prov. Guayas, Ecuador; *Thamnophilus zarumae* (p. 6), Zaruma, Prov. del Oro, Ecuador; *Automolus celicae* (p. 10), Celica, Prov. Loja, Ecuador; *Basileuterus fraseri ochraceicrista* (p. 11), Chone, Ecuador, and *Sporophila insulata* (p. 12), Tumaco, Colombia. There are also described from the Museum Goeldi, *Pachysylvia fuscicapilla albigula* (p. 11), Sta. Julia, Brazil; from the U. S. National Museum *Leptasthenura xenothorax* (p. 8), Urubamba Valley, Peru; and from the British Museum *L. s. cajabambae* (p. 9), Cajabamba, Peru.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'²—Part 4 of Volume 9 covers the genera *Karua*, *Sphecotheres*, *Orthonyx*, *Macrorhonyx*, and *Cinclosoma*. Following Pycraft the author removes *Sphecotheres* from the Oriolidae,

¹ Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 18. September 22, 1921. pp. 1-12.

² The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews, IX, Part 4. pp. 145-192. October 19, 1921.

but instead of placing it in the Campophagidae he places it in a new family, Sphecotheridae, next to the latter. This family name would appear to be proposed here for the first time although there is nothing in the text to indicate it, the entire text leading one to infer that he is placing the genus in the Campophagidae. For the two genera of Log-runners he proposes the family Orthonycidae but what disposition he intends to make of *Cinclosoma* is not clear. As the text stands it is included with the Log-runners but the page heading over each species reads "Family Cinclosomatidae." Possibly a section of text covering this family was accidentally omitted. It is unfortunate that such an important work should be marred by such slips as these which leave the reader at a loss to know just what the author's views may be.

Papuorthonyx (p. 177) is proposed as a new genus for *Orthonyx novaeguineae*.

The plates and text are fully up to the standard of the work.—W. S.

Van Oort's 'Birds of the Netherlands.'¹—Part 9 of this notable work consists, like its predecessor, entirely of plates. There are ten in all, six of ducks, one of a shearwater—*Puffinus puffinus yelkonan* and three of Marsh Hawks.—*Circus cyaneus* and *pygargus*. The ducks are the Eider, of which there is besides the one of the nuptial plumages, another showing the eclipse dress and the molting condition leading up to it; the White-headed Ruddy Duck, the European Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser and the Smew. The importance of this work to American ornithologists is evident when we realize that almost all of the excellent plates in the present part represent American forms or those very closely related to them and we do not know where a more satisfactory series of illustrations of duck plumages can be found. The text to these parts will follow later.—W. S.

Howell's 'Biological Survey of Alabama.'²—This pamphlet based upon the field work of Mr. Howell and his assistants in practically all parts of the State, contains a detailed report on the mammals and a brief preliminary consideration of the "Physiography and Life Zones" of the State, with a number of photographs and a colored faunal map.

The report on the birds is reserved for a separate publication but lists of the characteristic breeding species of the Upper and Lower Austral Zones, the only two life zones traversing Alabama, are given in the present connection.

Failure to follow the A. O. U. 'Check-List' in this and other publications of the Biological Survey seems unfortunate. Most readers will be con-

¹ Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Neerland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Af. 9. Martinus Nijhoff. The Hague. 1921.

² A Biological Survey of Alabama. I. Physiography and Life Zones. II. The Mammals. N. A. Fauna, No. 45. U. S. Biological Survey. October 28, 1921. pp. 1-88, pl I-XI.