

Bannerman on 'The Birds of Southern Nigeria'.¹—This first installment covers all of the passerine birds from Southern Nigeria contained in the British Museum collections; the other families it is proposed to treat in another paper in the same journal. The paper is almost entirely systematic though a few collectors' notes on habits, food, etc., are interpolated. Usually only range is considered with reference to the original description of the form, but there are often a few lines of "distinctive characters" and in complicated cases considerable discussion of the status of the various described forms.

We notice the following new race described:—*Tschagra senegala chadensis* (p. 355), Lake Chad district. Apparently this is the only one but without some list of new forms or some distinctive style of type it is very difficult to locate them in a paper abounding in technical names. Mr. Bannerman has prepared a review which will prove a most important work of reference for students of African birds.—W. S.

Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds'.²—This part of Mr. Witherby's excellent 'Handbook' covers the remainder of the ducks, the Steganopodes and the Tubinares. All the admirable characteristics of the earlier parts are maintained, the descriptions are full and the questions of range and related forms carefully worked out. In this connection many American birds are referred to and the work becomes of importance to American ornithologists in the study of our own avifauna. The American Eider, *Somateria dresseri*, is here regarded as a subspecies of *mollissima* as is the Pacific bird *v-nigra*.—W. S.

Kutchin's 'What Birds Have Done with Me'.³—This little volume consists of a number of popular essays on various aspects of bird life and of bird biographies, with much that is autobiographical and a strong undercurrent of bird protection running through it all. The book will attract many, especially children, and doubtless win many to the cause of the birds. Ornithologists are scored for the killing of birds for any purpose whatever. The obtaining of 271 stomachs of birds for scientific analysis of their food habits is characterized as a "successful drive upon the part of the Allies—Scientists, Plume Hunters and Curators," and the statement follows "back of much of the so-called scientific examination

¹The Birds of Southern Nigeria. Including a detailed review of the races of species known to occur there. By David A. Bannerman, M. B. E., B. A., M. B. O. U., F. R. G. S.; C. F. A. O. U. (British Museum, Natural History). With Notes on the Topography of the Country—By Robin Kemp and Willoughby P. Lowe, M. B. O. U. Revue Zoologique Africaine. 1X, Fasc. 3. pp. 254-426. 1921.

²A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326, High Holborn, London, W. C. 1. Pt. XIII. (Vol. II, pp. 353-448. February 16, 1922.

³What Birds Have Done With Me. By Victor Kutchin, M. D., A Bird Lover. Boston, Richard G. Badger. The Gorham Press. 1922. pp. 1-274. Frontispiece portrait of the author. Price \$2.00 net.