

Laysan Teal occupying one small island with the Old Squaw which ranges over the entire holarctic region.

The extent of Duck shooting has been taken up in connection with legislation in recent years but many will be astonished at the figures presented in this work. In the State of Minnesota, for instance, in 1919, no less than 1,804,000 Ducks were killed and in 1920, 1,800,000. Dr. Phillips estimates that this meant eight or ten millions in the United States and while he admits that shortening the season and other restrictions have reduced this perhaps by half, in recent years, he considers that the increasing number of hunters licensed and the constant draining of marsh land have fully made up for this saving in further reducing the number of birds.

Dr. Phillips has produced a book of the greatest interest to sportsmen and bird students and one which will be our standard of reference for information of the Anatidae—or such as come under the head of Ducks, since the Geese and Swans are not to be considered. Its text is replete with solid information gleaned from personal knowledge and the vast scattered literature on this group of birds which has attracted the serious attention of mankind since the earliest historic time. Naturalists will look with interest for the succeeding volumes, the last of which is to contain a bibliography of the various publications which have been consulted.—W. S.

A Hand List of Japanese Birds.¹—This excellently printed work is issued in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Ornithological Society of Japan and has been prepared by four leading members of this organization, each being responsible for a definite section. Kuroda covers most of the water birds, the birds of prey and the gallinaceous birds; Matsudaira the Limicolae, Lari Alcae, and Columbæ; Takatsukasa, the "Picariæ" and Uchida the Passeres. This is a novel scheme and not without its advantages.

The entire work, with the exception of a few pages of introduction and a postscript, is in English, though a Japanese name for each species (in Roman characters) follows the Latin designation, with an English name below. The reference to the place of original publication and the type locality are given with often another synonym of importance, and the habitat, covering the Japanese islands together with Saghalin, Corea and Formosa. No less than 788 forms, including subspecies, are given.

In the non-passerine groups genera are lavishly used following the lead of Mathews and a few other extremists in this practice. In the Limicolae for instance, there are 50 genera for 65 species, and in the Laridae, 19 for 34, so that most of the genera contain but a single species and the binomial name, as a name, becomes useless. The absurdity of this misuse of the genus is rapidly being forced upon the attention of ornithologists in

¹ A Hand-List of the Japanese Birds. By N. Kuroda, Viscount Y. Matsudaira, Prince N. Taka-Tsukasa and S. Uchida. 1922. The Ornithological Society of Japan, pp. 184-184-2.

general as is evidenced by the protest in the January 'Auk', and its very advocates will soon make its abandonment inevitable. This is however a criticism of a practice, not of the excellent list before us.

We notice that while several of the recently proposed nomenclatural changes are adopted others are rejected, as the continued use of *Merula* for the Thrushes allied to our Robin, while *Bucephala* is brought into use for the Bufflehead Duck, and *Marila*, dating from Reichenbach, is used for the Scaup.

All in all the authors have produced an admirable list of the birds of Japan which will be a most convenient work of reference for ornithologists of other countries as well.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'¹—Two parts of Volume X have appeared since our last notice, practically completing the Sylviidae. The remaining families include, according to the author's 'List,' about 150 species, which at the present rate of progress, should be covered in about twelve more parts, so that the end of Mr. Mathews' monumental work is at last in sight and we learn from another source that the manuscript has been completed.

The plates of the Blue Wrens and their allies which make up a large part of the present issues form some of the most attractive illustrations of the series. The text continues on the same lines as in the earlier parts, containing lengthy discussions on nomenclature and the number and relationship of the subspecies. In the latter connection the author is often far from clear as to his intentions, while his descriptions are unfortunately meager. On page 69 appears "*Malurus melanotus musgravei* subsp. nov. (Described)," but whether it is intended as a new form or not we cannot determine, nor where it is "described," though certainly not here. *M. splendens perthi* (p. 73) is a new name for *pectoralis* Gould while *Hallornis leuconotus wongani* (p. 83) has no diagnosis except that it is the darkest race of the species and comes from the Wongan Hills. Other new forms are: *Rosina comata rogersiana* (p. 129) from Derby, apparently described here although the description is in quotation marks, as in the case of forms previously described elsewhere; *Stipiturus malachurus richmondi* (p. 145) Richmond River; *Sphenura longirostris mastersi* (p. 156) King George Sound; and *Diaphorella modestus obscurior* (p. 185) Broken Hills, New South Wales. Mr. Mathews quotes Gould as to the rarity of the peculiar lilac tint on the head of *Rosina coronata* which that author only recalls elsewhere in the Bower-birds (*Chlamydoderae*). Mathews adds that it also occurs in the Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) and we might suggest that in the Pink-headed Duck (*Rhodonessa*) and in *Nyctiornis* almost the same tint is to be found.—W. S.

¹ The Birds of Australia by Gregory M. Mathews, London; H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W. C. I. Vol. X Part 2, December 12, 1922 (pp. 57-136); Part 3, January 30, 1923 (pp. 137-208).