

Stoner on Bird Banding and Incidental Studies.¹—The author calls attention to the fact that in hunting for young birds to band one discovers many things that might escape notice without some definite object in view, and his incidental observations, as in some other similar papers, have really nothing to do with bird banding.

There are notes on nests and young of Black-billed Cuckoo, Kingfisher, Whip-poor-will, etc. Counts of the calls of the Whip-poor-will showed 294, 396 and 446 repetitions with three to five brief intervals. The author also comments on the high mortality of young birds even in localities far removed from man's influence.—W. S.

Hartert et al on the Birds of Northern Africa.—Several important papers² appeared in Volume XXX of 'Novitates Zoologicae' on the birds of northern Africa. Lord Rothschild and Dr. Hartert have an interesting account of their journey to Algeria in the autumn of 1920 with an annotated list of 58 species.

Dr. Hartert has also an account³ of his trip to Cyrenaica in the spring of 1922, with a list of 115 species, including those reported by previous visitors to this neglected province, about the bird life of which almost nothing was known until Dr. Festa's visit in 1921.

Dr. Hartert with the assistance of Mr. Jourdain has prepared a list⁴ of the birds known to inhabit Morocco based on the collections and records of previous explorers. The list comprises 340 species and subspecies of which *Phalacrocorax graculus riggenbachi* (p. 132) is described as new, from Cape Blanco. A full bibliography completes this valuable paper.—W. S.

Rothschild on Birds from Yunnan.—Lord Rothschild presents an annotated list⁵ of a second collection received from Mr. George Forrest, which comprised 195 species and was particularly rich in Pheasants and large Woodpeckers.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'—Two parts of this work⁶ are before us the first of which completes the Sylviidae, treating several species of Grass-wrens (*Magnamytis*), and covers most of the *Artamidae* or Wood Swallows. The latter part completes this family and covers the genera

¹ Bird Banding and Incidental Studies. By Dayton Stoner. Iowa Acad. Sci. vol. XXVIII, 1921. pp. 151-159.

² An Ornithological Autumn Journey to Algeria. By Lord Rothschild and Ernest Hartert. Novitates Zoologicae, XXX, pp. 79-88. March, 1923.

³ On the Birds of Cyrenaica. By Ernst Hartert. Ibid, pp. 1-32.

⁴ The Hitherto Known Birds of Morocco. By Ernest Hartert assisted by F. C. R. Jourdain. Ibid, pp. 91-152.

⁵ On a Second Collection sent by Mr. George Forrest from N.W. Yunnan. By Lord Rothschild. Novitates Zoologicae, XXX, pp. 33-58, March, 1923.

⁶ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. X, Part 4. March 19, 1923, and Part 5. April 24, 1923. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W.C.

Colluricincla and *Grallina* for which the author retains Sharpe's family *Prionopidae* because it was impossible to include them in the place to which he would refer them next *Pachycephala*, and *Piezorhynchus* respectively. In this part also begins the treatment of the Australian Magpies (*Gymnorhina*) better known in our Zoological Gardens as Piping Crows. The following appear to be new names (in Part 4) *Magnamytis alligator* (p. 212) Alligator River, N. Territory, and *Austrartamus melanops normani* (p. 255) Normanton; (in Part 5) *Colluricincla harmonica kingi* (p. 289). King Isl.—W. S.

Economic Ornithology in Recent Entomological Publications.—

Bird enemies of certain insects have been considered in recent publications devoted to entomology and the points made are briefly summarized and commented upon below.

Corn earworm (*Heliothis obsoleta*).—"The most destructive insect enemy of corn in the United States is the corn earworm" and its ravages cause a loss to growers of \$40,000,000 or more annually. Preying upon this pest is therefore especially creditable to birds. Records of the Biological Survey quoted in a bulletin¹ prepared by the federal Bureau of Entomology show that "17 species of birds feed on the corn earworm and that the most important of these seem to be the Brewer's and California Red-winged Blackbirds, the Boat-tailed Grackle, and the Downy Woodpecker. As many as 10 larvae of the earworm have been found in a single stomach of the Cardinal and more than 50 in one of the Boat-tailed Grackle."

The clover-leaf weevil (*Hypera punctata*).—This is a European insect that has thrived and spread in the United States and which regularly takes an important toll from our clover crops. Our birds have shown their eustomary lack of prejudice in the matter of food items by feeding freely upon this immigrant. Quotation by authors' of a recent bulletin on the pest of results published by the Biological Survey in 1916 serve to emphasize the fact that knowledge of the enemies of practically every insect constantly increases. In 1916 we knew of 25 species of birds which preyed upon clover-leaf weevils, now the list has grown to 43. The most important of these avian enemies is the Starling, in 1125 stomachs of which these weevils have been identified; 206 stomachs of Crows, and 100 of Crow Black-birds also yielded this insect. Largest numbers of adult weevils were recovered from stomachs of the Starling (26), Night-hawk (24) and Crow (20); and of larvae from stomachs of the Starling (49) and Vesper Sparrow (31).

European corn borer (*Pyrausta nubilalis*).—Another unwelcome immigrant from the old-world, the corn borer, threatens to become a pest of the first magnitude. The insect is now established in localities scattered

¹ Farmers' Bul. 1310, by W. J. Phillips and Kenneth M. King, Jan., 1923, p. 12.

² Herrick, G. W. and Hadley, C. H., Jr., Bul. 411, Cornell Agr. Exp. Sta., July, 1922, p. 10.