

Sparrow, 8.7 per cent; Robin, 6.2; Meadowlark, 4.0; Song Sparrow, 2.8; Catbird, 2.5; and Chipping Sparrow, 1.5.

While no doubt subject to future correction these illustrations show the possibilities of this line of work while a series of yearly counts of a single area will show the increase or decrease of given species, and the tabulation of many such records will show whether this is local or general.

As the author points out, censuses, to be of any value at all, must be made by experienced observers capable of identifying every species in the area. Censuses containing only a few species of those known to be present, unlike similar migration reports, are useless. So while migration work may be undertaken by those familiar at the start with but half a dozen species, census taking is a task for the trained ornithologist. There are many detailed accounts of censuses in various parts of the country which prove interesting reading.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'Birds of Australia.'**<sup>1</sup>—Three parts of this work have appeared since our last issue. Parts 6 and 7 of Volume X complete the Cractidae, and the latter contains the title page, contents and index for the volume. There appear to be no new forms proposed in these parts. Mr. Mathews states in the preface that the close of the work is now in sight, as the manuscript is completed.

The remaining part is entitled "Supplement No. 2," and comprises the second instalment of the author's 'Check-List' of Australian birds covering the Pittidae to Sylviidae inclusive, with four pages of corrections to part one and a bibliographic appendix covering 1907-1921.—W. S.

**Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'**<sup>2</sup>—Part XVII of this excellent work completes the Gulls and covers the Skuas and part of the Auks. The plumages are considered in much detail with the aid of several plates and numerous text cuts, one of the former being devoted to the downy young and another to Gulls in flight, all with wings similarly extended so that a comparison of color pattern can be made.

The pointed and rounded central tail-feathers of the Razor-bill and Brunnich's Murre are well contrasted, an important point since mis-identifications of these birds are frequently made.

The substitution of the name "Wedge-tailed Gull" for "Rozoy Gull" does not seem warranted, as changes in English names should be avoided wherever possible.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews, Vol. X, No. 6, June 5, 1923; No. 7, July 26, 1923; Supplement No. 2. 'Check-List,' Part 2. July 26, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> A Practical Handbook of British Birds Edited by H. F. Witherby. Part XVII, June 28, 1923. Price 4s 6d per part. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn W. C. 1, London.