

Recent Papers by Hartert.—Dr. Hartert has published the fourth part¹ of the list of types in the general series of the Tring Museum, comprising Nos. 1183-1302 and covering the Bee-eaters, Parrots, Kingfishers, etc. Several forms are described as new, viz., *Lorius roratus goodsoni* (p. 123) Manus, Admiralty Islands; *Tanygnathus megalorhynchos floris* (p. 126) South Flores and *T. m. djampeae* (p. 126) Djampea Island. In another paper² he considers the birds of New Hanover, the northernmost of the larger islands of the Bismarck Archipelago. The collection described was made by A. F. Eichorn and comprised sixty-two species of which *Rhipidura rufiventris albertorum* (p. 207) and *Lalage karu albidior* (p. 208) are described as new. A third paper³ describes the birds obtained on Capt. Buchanan's second Sahara expedition which traversed the Sahara to Algeria between Hausaland and Air. Three new forms are described: *Athene noctua solitudinis* (p. 18) Mt. Todera; *Lybius vieilloti buchanani* (p. 23) Tebeig and *Ammomanes deserti geyri* (p. 41) Farak. His 'Notes on Some Birds from Buru'⁴ is based on a collection made by the Pratt brothers who discovered the curious *Madanga ruficollis* allied to *Zosterops* and previously described by Rothschild and Hartert; eighteen species are discussed and there is a revision of the nomenclature of the races of *Porphyrio melanotus*.—W. S.

Dr. Weeks' Bird Poems.—Ornithology is an exceedingly broad subject and we turn from the technical descriptions of new subspecies and evolutionary problems to character portrayals of the various familiar birds without over-stepping its bounds. In this latter field poetry holds an important position and even the hardened closet ornithologist will find recreation and enjoyment in reading good bird poems.

As a contribution to this subject Dr. Leroy Titus Weeks has issued in a little volume of verse⁵ a number of characterizations of common species,—Bobolink, Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, Chickadee, Robin, etc., in which the songs form the chief motif. The syllabification of bird songs has been tried by many, with greater or less success, but we think that some of Dr. Weeks' attempts are the most satisfactory that we have read. Who would not recognize his Robin singing:

"Pillywink, pollywog, poodle, poodle,
Pollywog, poodle, pillywink, pillywink,
Poodle, poodle, pillywink, pollywog,
Poodle, poodle."

¹Types of Birds in the Tring Museum. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zoologicae*. XXXI, pp. 112-134, March, 1924.

²The Birds of New Hanover. *Ibid.*, pp. 194-213, March, 1924. By Ernst Hartert.

³Ornithological Results of Captain Buchanan's Second Sahara Expedition. By Ernst Hartert. *Ibid.*, pp. 1-48, March, 1924.

⁴Notes on Some Birds from Buru. By Ernst Hartert. *Ibid.*, pp. 104-111, March, 1924.

⁵The Poems of LeRoy Titus Weeks. Published by the Author, Second Edition, 1923. pp. 1-242.

Or the Thrasher:

“Pickereel, pickereel, pickereel,
Stickle-back, stickle-back,
Sculpin, sculpin.”

“Kittiwake, kittiwake, kittiwake,
Curlew, curlew
Bobolink, bobolink, bobolink,
Whippoorwill, whippoorwill.”

Many of the other poems too will appeal to the lovers of out-door life and nature. We congratulate Dr. Weeks upon his little volume which can well find a place on the shelves of any naturalist's library.—W. S.

Birds and the English Whitethorn.—Rev. E. A. Woodruffe-Peacock gives¹ a list of 22 species of English wild birds that feed on and disseminate the seeds of whitethorns (*Crataegus oxyacanthus* and *C. oxyacanthoides*). The Hawfinch and Greenfinch open these thick shelled seeds for the sake of the endosperm, hence do not come in the list of distributors. It is stated that seeds which have traversed the alimentary canal of a bird germinate a year ahead of those gathered by man and that formerly they were fed to turkeys before being sown in order to gain this advantage.—W. L. M.

Sapsuckers distributing diseases of trees.—The work of the true Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus*) is of such a character that it must be an important means of transmission of diseases of trees. Little has been recorded on this subject because these diseases themselves have been little studied. In the reviewer's bulletin on Woodpeckers in Relation to Trees and Wood Products (Biol. Surv. Bul. 39, 1911, p. 25) was recorded the occurrence of galls caused by the fungus *Peridermium cerebrum* in connection with Sapsucker work. During the study of the chestnut blight (*Diaporthe parasitica*) in Pennsylvania it was noted that Woodpecker work was associated with about one-tenth of the older lesions of this devastating disease.² Prof. M. B. Waite says³ he has observed several cases where Sapsuckers were responsible for the transmission of the highly destructive pear blight (*Bacillus amyliivorus*). These are the previously recorded instances of the distribution of plant diseases by Sapsuckers, that have come under the reviewer's eye. Now appears another relating to the red stain (*Fusarium negundi*) in the wood of boxelder. This stain which results in wood containing it being relegated to a lower grade also has been found to be carried from tree to tree by Sapsuckers.⁴ In departing from

¹The Naturalist, Nov. 1919, pp. 353-355.

²Fulton, H. R. Proc. Chestnut Blight Conference, 1912, p. 56

³Official Rep. 31st Fruit-growers' Convention Calif., 1906, p. 144.

⁴Hubert, Ernest E. Journ. Agr. Research, 26, No. 10, Dec. 8, 1923, pp. 447-457, ls. 1-3.