

Islands and *T. tecellatus*, from isolated river valleys in southwestern Peru and northwestern Chile. *T. m. carabayae* (p. 296) allied to *audax*, and found in southeastern Peru is described as new. A number of races described by previous authors are relegated to synonymy.—W. S.

Loyd's 'The Protection of Birds.'—This¹ is a curious publication, being a rather disconnected attack upon the British 'Wild Life Protection Act' and the methods of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, by one who is apparently espousing the side of the egg collector. There are always extremists on both sides in discussing bird protective legislation as it affects the collector, but we can see nothing to be gained by such a vehement attack as this and the heat displayed by the author, especially his characterization of a certain statement of the protectionists as "nothing more or less than a — lie" discount to a great extent the weight of his remarks.

Collectors can gain their points better by cool-headed appeals and constructive suggestions than by such vigorous denunciations.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'²—This great work is rapidly approaching completion, and the two additional parts which have appeared since our last notice continue the consideration of the family Melithreptidae. In Part 6 of Volume XI the genera *Ramsayornis*, *Grantiella*, *Lacustroica*, *Conopophila*, *Certhionyx*, *Zanthoniza* and *Glycichaera* are treated, one new form *Conopophila albogularis mimikae* (p. 390) from Mimika River, S. W. New Guinea, being described as new. There are also a number of descriptions of plumages to be added to the accounts of species treated in previous parts.

In Part 7 the genera *Lichmera*, *Ptilotina*, *Microptilotis*, *Paraptilotis*, *Dorothina*, are considered. The method of treatment is the same as in the other recent volumes, the subspecies being all listed in the synonymy whether accepted or not, with an elaborate history of their nomenclature, etc., in the text.—W. S.

Dr. Lowe on the Presence of Broadbills in Africa.—In 'The Ibis' for 1914, Mr. G. L. Bates, the well-known ornithologist resident in Cameroon, made the interesting announcement that the African genus *Smithornis* hitherto regarded as a Flycatcher possessed characters which showed clearly that it could no longer be retained in the Muscipidae, if indeed it could be regarded as a normal Passerine bird. Although he did not make a definite statement, it was obvious that he considered that the genus might better be grouped with the Oriental Broadbills, Eurylaemidae, a family unknown from Africa.

¹ The Protection of Birds: An Indictment. By Lewis R. W. Loyd. Longmans, and Co., 39 Paternoster Row, London, E. C. 4; New York, Toronto, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. 1924, pp. i-vi + 1-88. Price \$1.25 net.

² The Birds of Australia. By George M. Mathews. Vol. XI, Part 6, pp. 361-416, pls. 9. June 21, 1924. Part 7, pp. 417-472, pls. 6. July 31, 1924.

Now Dr. Lowe,¹ with fresh material, brought from Cameroon on Mr. Bates' latest visit to England, confirms his suspicions and shows conclusively that *Smithornis* is a Broadbill. He also suggests that Rothschild's unique *Pseudocalyptomena graueri* from the bamboo forests north of Lake Tanganyika may also "actually be a Broadbill instead of merely reminiscent of one." Incidentally Dr. Lowe calls attention to the long white-based feathers which overlie the *pteryla spinalis* in *Smithornis* and which are exactly like those found in Oriental *Eurylaemidae* and says "it seems evident that colour pattern in this, as in so many other examples which could be quoted, has a deep seated origin, pointing to similar chromosomal factors and phylogenetic affinities." This is a point which the reviewer has long claimed.—W. S.

Mitchell on the Birds of Saskatchewan.—The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture has reprinted the account of the birds² of the province by H. Hedley Mitchell which appeared as a special number of the 'Canadian Field Naturalist.' It consists of a brief historical and topographical introduction and an annotated list. Six half-tones and a colored faunal map illustrate this excellent publication which will serve to spread interest in the ornithology of the province. The author has added in manuscript three species reported since the publication of the list: Knot, Hudsonian Curlew and Crested Flycatcher.—W. S.

Hatt on Land Vertebrate Communities of Western Leelanau County, Mich.—This paper³ consists of lists of species of vertebrates characteristic of twenty-five different habitats. The value of such minute ecological classification is open to question as it is difficult to correlate the habitats with those of another region, even close by, and many of the associations are self evident. However Mr. Hatt's work is well and carefully done and the criticism is directed to this type of investigation, not to his application of it. An annotated list of the mammals follows which will be of distinct value in working out the more general distribution of the species.—W. S.

Collinge on the Food and Feeding Habits of the Blackbird.⁴—Dr. W. E. Collinge in another of his useful papers on the economics of British birds treats the Blackbird, that homologue of our Robin, and it proves

¹ On the Presence of Broadbills (*Eurylaemidae*) in Africa. By Percy R. Lowe. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1924, pp. 279-291. March 31, 1924.

² Catalogue of the Birds of Saskatchewan. By H. Hedley Mitchell. Govt. of the Prov. of Saskatchewan, Dept. of Agriculture. Regina, May, 1924. Reprinted from the 'Canadian Field Naturalist,' Vol. XXXVIII, No. 6. Special number, May, 1924, pp. 101-118.

³ The Land Vertebrate Communities of Western Leelanau County, Michigan, with an annotated list of the Mammals of the County. By Robert Torrens Hatt. Reprinted from the 'Papers of the Michigan Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters,' Vol. III, 1923, pp. 369-402, pls. XXIV-XXVI.

⁴ Journ. Ministry Agr., 31, No. 2, May, 1924, reprint 5 pp.