

"Muscapids," and Honey-eaters as "Meliphagids." The coining of such "vernaculars" in the case of insect groups which have no English equivalents may be excusable but their introduction into the already encumbered nomenclature of ornithology should not be encouraged. Moreover if, according to Mathews, we must now use the family name Melithreptidae, we presume "Meliphagid" would have to become "Melithreptid!"

For the naturalist or traveller about to visit either of the countries here treated this volume will prove both interesting and instructive.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'**—The present part<sup>1</sup> of this monumental work completes the eleventh volume, and covers several genera of Honey-eaters (Melithreptidae) which were formerly included in the genus *Ptilotis*. While we note no new subspecies in this part there appears to be a new subgeneric name proposed on page 543—*Territornis* for *Ptilotis albilineata* White, but the name is proposed in such a manner as to leave one in doubt whether it has not been previously published somewhere else.

The author states in the preface that one more volume will finish the work and judging from his 'List' there are about sixty species still to consider. We wish him all speed with the final parts.—W. S.

**Fleming on a New Gull.**—An examination of specimens of *Larus dominicanus* undertaken by Mr. Fleming, while not sufficiently thorough to determine how many races should be recognized, shows that the form inhabiting the South Shetland Islands is distinct and he therefore names it *L. d. austrinus* (p. 139)<sup>2</sup> type from Deception Island.—W. S.

**Miller and Griscom on New Nicaraguan Birds.**—In this paper<sup>3</sup> eleven new forms of Nicaraguan birds are described which were obtained by the authors on their expedition to that country in 1917 or by W. B. Richardson in 1908 and 1909.

The new forms belong to the genera: *Nyctiphrynus*, *Abeillia*, *Hylocistetes*, *Pachyrhamphus*, *Patytriccus*, *Mitrephanes*, *Empidonax*, *Myiochanes*, *Myiarchus*, *Heleodytes*, and *Thryothorus*.—W. S.

**Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York.**—The present number<sup>4</sup> of the 'Abstracts of Proceedings' of the Linnaean Society of New

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. XI, Part 9. December 22, 1924.

<sup>2</sup> A New Form of *Larus dominicanus* Lichtenstein. By J. H. Fleming. Proc. Biological Society, Washington, Vol. 37 pp. 139-140, December 29, 1924.

<sup>3</sup> Descriptions of New Birds from Nicaragua. By W. DeW. Miller and Ludlow Griscom. American Museum Novitates, No. 159, Feb. 16, 1925. pp. 1-9.

<sup>4</sup> Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York, For the Four Years Ending March 25, 1924. Nos. 33, 34, 35, containing Notes on the Winter Bird Life of Southwestern Texas. By T. Gilbert Pearson. November 1, 1924, pp. 1-141.

York like its predecessors is brim full of local notes on natural history most of which refer to birds, and includes also many observations from farther afield made by members of the Society while on collecting trips to various parts of the world. There is matter of interest to students in many fields of research all of whom should consult this volume and fortunately a good index makes it easy to sift out the data that each one may be looking for.

In addition to the notes presented at the meetings, there is a longer paper by T. Gilbert Pearson on 'Notes on the Winter Bird Life of South-eastern Texas' which is in the form of an annotated list of species observed during November and December, 1921, between Brownsville and Point Isabel and as far inland as Kingsville.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Peters.**—In a carefully prepared review<sup>1</sup> of the Limpkins Mr. James L. Peters recognizes two species *Aramus scolopaceus* with two races—*scolopaceus* ranging from N. Colombia to Venezuela, and *carau* from Brazil to Argentina; and *A. pictus* with three races. The name *pictus* is quoted by Meyer from Bartram and replaces the familiar *vociferus* of Latham., while the races are *pictus* from Florida, Cuba and Jamaica; *elucus* from Haiti and Porto Rico and *dolosus* (p. 144) proposed for the race from Mexico, British Honduras and Costa Rica which Mr. Peters regards as distinct. While birds from Cuba and Jamaica are slightly smaller than those from Florida a comparable series shows no other differences and the race *holostictus* recognized by some writers, is therefore not maintained.

In another paper<sup>2</sup> a new race of *Geositta*—*G. cucicularia hellmayri* (p. 145) is described from Argentina.—W. S.

**Grote on Birds of the Grasslands of New Cameroon.**—This is an extensively annotated list<sup>3</sup> with numerous notes on characters, relationship and distribution of the various species. Three new forms are described *Muscicapa (Alseonax) minima neumanniana* (p. 514) Omo Country; *Halcyon chelicuti hyllobius* (p. 90) Loango Coast; *Eremomela pusilla prosphaera* (p. 97) Kano.

A map illustrates the location of the various stations and an appendix by D. A. Bannerman, presents a list of the species obtained in the same region by Dr. Elbert, and now in the British Museum. Altogether the paper forms a valuable contribution to the avifauna of an interesting region.—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> A Review of the Limpkins (*Aramus Viellot*). By James L. Peters. Occas. Papers Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. 5, p. 141-144. January 30, 1925. pp.

<sup>2</sup> A New *Geositta* from Western Argentina. By James L. Peters. Ibid. p. 1, p. 145. January 30, 1925.

<sup>3</sup> Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Vogelfauna des Graslandes von Neukamerun. Von Hermann Grote. Jour. f. Ornith., 1924, pp. 479-517; 1925, pp. 77-98.