

In this connection too we cannot refrain from mentioning the allusions to the nefarious habits of the Cowbird which one sees in the "oölogical" magazines and the satisfaction that the oölogist feels in always removing the Cowbird's egg from the nest of its victim!—W. S.

Clark on Animal Coloration and Flight.—These two papers¹ are full of suggestion for those interested in speculating upon these fascinating subjects. To quote from the former the author says: "It has never seemed quite plausible to me that sexual selection could have a bearing on the coloration of the birds and butterflies. My belief has always been that the differences existing, which are sometimes very great, would eventually be interpreted in terms of differences in the environment of the sexes."

He suggests that in nature the most brilliant living things are the butterflies and the birds of the tree tops. These he contends are protectively colored against bird enemies, since the short focus of the bird's eye renders all images in one plane or nearly so, and the landscape or background appears as a patchwork of various spots of color against which a gaudy butterfly is very hard to see and birds are the only enemies that these free flying or tree top creatures have to contend with. To the eye of the mammal or lizard, sharp vision is only possible in one single plane at a time and a brilliantly colored object would be conspicuous when in focus, hence, he argues, birds of the ground or the underbrush or the back of a female bird sitting on a nest, all of which come within the range of mammal enemies, are dull colored.

The paper considers many other sides of the problem and is well worth a careful study.

The consideration of flight is a full and detailed resumé of this method of progression throughout the animal kingdom. The problem of soaring is explained on the presence of upward currents of air.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Stresemann.—Several important reviews of genera have been published lately by Dr. Stresemann, one treats of the genus *Pitohui*² of which fifteen species or subspecies are recognized, from New Guinea and adjacent islands. The species of *Cyornis*³ are considered in another paper and the forms of *Attila spadicea*⁴ in a third, while an extended article⁵ deals with various birds of prey. These latter have been mentioned in the notice of the journals in which they appear.—W. S.

¹ Observations on Animal Coloration. By Austin H. Clark. The Scientific Monthly, April 1925, pp. 341-344.

Animal Flight. By Austin H. Clark. The Scientific Monthly, January 1925, pp. 5-26.

² Die Gattung Pitohui von Erwin Stresemann January 1925, pp. 413-416, no name of journal appears on the separate.

³ Ueber einige *Cyornis*-Arten. von Erwin Stresemann. Ornith. Monatsberichte, March, 1925.

⁴ Mutations studien *Attila spadicea* Gmelin. Jour. f. Ornith., 1925, Heft 2.

⁵ Raubvogelstudien. von E. Stresemann. Jour. f. Ornith., 1925, Heft 2.