

There are, however, cases where closely related species present marked differences in tongue structure as in the genera *Melospiza*, *Zosterops* and *Dendroica*, possibly due to differences in feeding that we have not yet appreciated.

Lt. Gardner groups bird tongues into eight categories, as follows:

1. Generalized type of birds of omnivorous diet, including most of the passerine forms.

2. Fish-eaters with sharp stiff retrorse spines.

3. Diet of small objects strained from water resulting in the complicated tongue seen in the Anatidae.

4. Flesh-eaters with heavy, rasping tongue.

5. Probers with extensile, more or less barbed tongues—Woodpeckers, Tits and Nuthatches.

6. Seed and nut-eaters, with strong, fleshy tongues as in the Parrots.

7. Flower-frequenting birds with forked, most complicated, split or tubular tongues—Honey-suckers, Hummingbirds, Flower-peckers etc.

8. Rudimentary tongues as in the Gannets, Storks, etc.

The paper is illustrated by beautifully executed drawings of tongues of 200 species of birds, which add very materially to its value.

Lt. Gardner is to be congratulated upon an excellent piece of work, which at once becomes our standard work of reference on the subject.—
W. S.

Dickey and Van Rossem on New Birds from Salvador and Mexico.

—In 1912, Mr. Van Rossem made a collecting trip to Salvador and a study of his material results in the diagnoses¹ of four new forms, *Pipri-morpha assimilis obscura* (p. 133), *Myadestes obscurus oberholseri* (p. 133), *Catharus melpomene bangsi* (p. 135) and *Cyclarhis flaviventris mesoleucus* (p. 135). In another publication² the Red-winged Blackbird from Nyrit, Mexico, is described as new, under the name *Agelaius phoeniceus nyariten-sis* (p. 131).—W. S.

Casey Wood's 'Sketches of Oceania.' While enjoying his travels to remote parts of the world Dr. Casey A. Wood has at times sent back to his friends at home most interesting manuscript accounts of his itinerary and now some of his experiences in Oceania have been published³ by the Smithsonian Institution in the annual report for 1924. This narrative begins with an account of Captain Cook and his voyages and extends to the author's visits to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, etc. All through are interesting comments on the bird life of these far away countries and

¹ Four New Birds from Salvador. By Donald R. Dickey and A. J. Van Rossem. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 38, pp. 133-136. November 13, 1925.

² A New Red-winged Blackbird from Western Mexico. Ibid., pp. 131-132. November 13, 1925.

³ Sketches from the Notebook of a Naturalist-Traveler in Oceania During the Year 1923. By Casey A. Wood. From the Smithsonian Report for 1924, pp. 379-408.

many observations on the habits of Gulls, Parrots, Pigeons, the Lyre Bird and Apteryx, as well as of Flying fish, etc. The "Sketches" are most interesting and instructive.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.' The last part of this great work¹ describes the Australian Pipit and the Bush Lark with their various subspecies and then begins the Weaver Finches covering the genera *Tavistoca*, *Zonaeginthus*, *Taeniopygia* and *Emblema*. There appear to be no new names proposed in this part and the method of treatment of species and subspecies is the same as in previous installments.

Only about forty species remain to be considered so that the author's task is rapidly drawing to a close.—W. S.

Kirke Swann's 'Monograph of the Birds of Prey.' The fourth part of this handsome quarto² is before us bringing to a close the great genus *Astur*, with its thirty-five species and numerous subspecies, and a beginning is made on the genus *Accipiter* while the two monotypic genera *Nisusoides* and *Neonisus* are considered. The former based on Morel's Goshawk of Madagascar and the latter on the Black and White Goshawk of wide distribution in Africa.

The only new form described in this part is *Astur badius klossi* (p. 217), from South Annam. One is impressed with the lack of knowledge regarding the habits of many of the Goshawks from the East Indies and smaller island groups most of the specimens having come from collectors whose object was mainly to secure material. Another point of interest is the doubt expressed by the author regarding the proper generic location of certain species and one is led to wonder whether it is worth while to recognize *Astur* and *Accipiter* as distinct genera when this is the case. As a matter of record it may be mentioned that examples of the very rare South American Hawks *Astur collaris* and *A. pectoralis* are in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy.

There are some interesting notes on the Indian Shikra in falconry and explanation as to the ranges of the White and Gray Goshawk of Australia often regarded as forms of the same species—a problem which is still unsolved.

The plates by Grönvold illustrate respectively four forms of *Astur* on one, and three on another, while a third portrays two species of *Accipiter*. There is also a plate of eggs handsomely reproduced and a photogravure of a Buzzard's nest with eggs. It is a pleasure to handle such a finely printed work as Mr. Kirke Swann's 'Monograph.'—W. S.

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. XII, Part 4, pp. 129-184. August 31, 1925. [Size 14 × 10 ins.]

² A Monograph of the Birds of Prey. By H. Kirke Swann. London, Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd. 2, 3 and 4, Arthur St., New Oxford St., W. C. 2. Part IV, September 21, 1925, pp. 197-276. [Size 12½ × 10 ins.]