

in which all papers dealing with ornithology would appear, instead of merely those published under an independent title or those contained in a particular library. By this means the needs of ornithology would be served as well as that of bibliography.

Let us hope that some patron of American ornithology will some day make it possible for a properly equipped compiler to carry on the work of Coues and aid the research of every student by placing before him in chronological order all the papers on American birds from 1878 to date.—W. S.

Meinertzhagen on the Genus *Corvus*.—This is a very timely paper¹ since the Crows and Ravens have had no comprehensive revision since that by Bowdler-Sharpe in the 'British Museum Catalogue,' in 1877. In his attempt to subdivide the large genus *Corvus* Sharpe proposed to adopt twelve genera. All of these have been abandoned in the review before us and we think those ornithologists who have tried to follow Sharpe's arrangement will agree on the logic of Col. Meinertzhagen's views, unless possibly in the case of *Corvultur*. His remarks upon the subject too are refreshing. He says: "Genus-splitting has of late become a source of confusion to students," a confusion which he later alludes to as "the hopeless and final abandonment of the principle of applying to nature classical names so that the world can understand what we are all talking about."

Our author recognizes 86 races of Crows and Ravens distributed among 33 species which is probably very conservative treatment although a good basis from which to make a fresh start. Doubtless some races here suppressed should be restored to recognition on the evidence of local students and in the same way certain forms regarded as subspecies will prove to be full species. It is impossible for anyone to cover practically the whole world in a study of this sort without making some errors since he cannot know all local conditions.

So far as North American forms go, the author recognizes: (1) *C. brachyrhynchus*, divided into *brachyrhynchus*, *paulus*, *pascuus*, *hesperis* and *caurinus* although he is doubtful as to the distinctness of the first three; (2) *cryptoleucus*; and (3) *ossifragus* which however he considers a subspecies of *mexicanus*. He recognizes only two forms of Raven in America (1) *C. corax sinuatus* to which are referred as synonyms, *clarionensis*, *euophilus* (in part) and *richardsoni*, and (2) *C. corax tibetanus* of which *principalis* is considered a synonym and *euophilus* (in part). We have always doubted the existence of so many "kinds" of Ravens and are inclined to think that his treatment of these forms is correct.

There is appended to the main text a list of specific and subspecific names that have been applied to Crows numbering 233; a table of wing formulae for the species recognized and a list of types, with measurements,

¹ Introduction to a Review of the Genus *Corvus*. By Colonel R. Meinertzhagen. *Novitates Zoologicae*, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 57-121, October, 1926.

of the twelve forms of Australian Crows admitted by Mathews which Col. Meinertzhagen reduces to two, as well as a detailed summary of variation in 211 Australian Crows that he has examined. There are twelve plates depicting the heads of 40 forms of the genus; excellent drawings from numbered specimens in various collections.

Col. Meinertzhagen is to be congratulated upon an admirable contribution to a complicated subject.—W. S.

Rothschild on the Avifauna of Yunnan.—Lord Rothschild's fifth contribution¹ to our knowledge of the birds of the Chinese province of Yunnan comprises not only a list of Forrest's 1925 collection but of all the forms of birds hitherto reported from the Province making an annotated list of no less than 671 species and subspecies, six of which are described as new. In addition there are several discussions of the geographical races of a species which extend beyond the limits of Yunnan, and a list of sixteen species which have been found just across the Red River in Tonkin and will undoubtedly eventually occur in Yunnan.

Lord Rothschild has given us a very helpful list which will be of great aid to those engaged in the study of Chinese birds. We think that he must have confused Dr. Oberholser and Mr. Riley as he refers to the later as "H. C. Riley."

In a short supplementary paper² Lord Rothschild reviews Mr. Riley's report on the Rock collection and lists eleven species there recorded as new to Yunnan.—W. S.

Aves for '1925.'—We are once more indebted to Mr. W. L. Sclater for compiling the 'Aves'³ for the 'Zoological Record.' He has presented a list of 971 titles for the year 1925 and these are rearranged in the usual convenient way under various headings—geographical, subjective, etc., with a systematic list of new species and revisions of groups. We have frequently mentioned that this list is indispensable to the working ornithologist just as other sections of the 'Record' are to other specialists, and have urged all zoologists and scientific institutions to come to the aid of the Zoological Society of London in maintaining the 'Zoological Record' The cost of the yearly volume is 60 shillings while the 'Aves' section may be had for 7s. 6d.

Every active ornithologist should have a complete set of these yearly bibliographies as without them intelligent work is well nigh impossible.—W. S.

¹ On the Avifauna of Yunnan, with Critical Notes. By Lord Rothschild. *Novitates Zoologicae*. Vol. XXXIII, pp. 189-343. December, 1926.

² Supplemental Notes on the Avifauna of Yunnan. Corrections and Criticisms of the Article on the Avifauna of Yunnan, pp. 189-343. By Lord Rothschild, F. R. S. *Novitates Zoologicae*, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 395-400, February, 1927.

³ Aves. By W. L. Sclater. *Zoological Record*, Vol. LXII, for 1925. pp. 1-70. Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N. W. 8. Price 7 shillings and six pence. August, 1926.