

Friedmann on Birds of the Frick African Expedition.¹—It has been a matter of great regret to the friends of the late Col. Edgar A. Mearns, whose tireless energy is responsible for the splendid series of African birds obtained by the Smithsonian-Roosevelt and the Childs Frick expeditions, that no general report on the collections has ever appeared. This failure has now however been partly remedied by the appearance of Dr. Herbert Friedmann's admirable report on the non-passerine birds of the latter expedition. Col. Mearns had already published descriptions of many of the novelties which he obtained on both trips but many other forms undescribed at the time of his death in 1916, have in the meantime been made known and named by subsequent explorers and thus a measure of the credit that really belonged to Mearns has unavoidably been lost to him.

We cannot speak too highly of the admirable way in which Dr. Friedmann has handled his report which we feel sure would realize the ideal that Col. Mearns had in mind and the preparation of which has been aided materially by the author's personal acquaintance with East Africa.

Not only have Col. Mearns' manuscript notes been embodied in the report but the entire literature bearing on the bird life of the region has been exhaustively studied and quoted extensively. The collections of most of the American museums and of some of the European institutions as well have been studied by Dr. Friedmann and material has been loaned to him for comparison with the Frick collection. Naturally this has led to discussions of the relationship of various races with allied forms in other parts of Africa and the publication thus becomes a standard work of reference on African ornithology in general.

In many groups outline maps are incorporated in the text showing graphically the distribution of the various races and there are many tables of measurements. Under each form is given a list of all the specimens collected by the expedition with notes by Mearns on the few that were not obtained but were identified in the field. If our count be correct 259 species and subspecies are represented in that part of the collection covered by the report and fully twice as many are discussed incidentally. Systematically the reference is given for the original description of every form while there is a full discussion of nomenclature and treatment by other authors with convenient foot note references.

Descriptions of the various plumages of a number of species form a valuable contribution to the subject of plumage sequence, while the discussions of distribution of individual species and races incidentally furnish material for the study of the zoogeography of the African continent.

The sequence of genera and species follows Sclater's 'Systema' while that of the higher groups is in accordance with Wetmore's more modern classification. There is a colored plate of Jackson's Barbet by Allen Brooks and a number of half-tones of scenery from photographs.

¹ Birds Collected by the Childs Frick Expedition to Ethiopia and Kenya Colony. Part I. Non-passeres. Bulletin 153 U. S. National Museum. 1930. pp. i-xiii + 1-516. Price \$1.00, apply the Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C.

We wish Dr. Friedmann all speed with the remainder of his task and the report on the birds of the Roosevelt Expedition which we understand is to follow, and feel that we can speak for all students of African ornithology in congratulating him upon an excellent piece of work.—W. S.

Hortling's 'Handbook of Finland Birds.'—Of this pretentious work,¹ entirely in the Finnish language, three parts have appeared, leaving the Shore-birds, Gulls, and other sea birds to be covered by another installment.

Under each species is a description of the male, female and young; a paragraph devoted to song and call notes, presented by the syllabic method, and others on nest and eggs, migration and extralimital races. There is also a list of the names given to the birds in the various languages of the countries in which they occur, with their origins.

Half-tone illustrations are scattered through the text some from photographs of the live birds but mainly from mounted specimens. The work is thoroughly up to date both in the manner of treatment and in nomenclature and is excellently printed.

It will form an admirable handbook for Finnish bird students as well as a work of reference for ornithologists in other lands.—W. S.

La Touche's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.'²—Part V of this important work is before us completing Volume I, the Passeres. It covers the Pipits, Larks, White-eyes, Sunbirds, Flower-peckers, Pittas and Broadbills. There follow eleven pages of "corrigenda and addenda" covering the five parts that have been published and an index.

This last part of the work fully maintains the high standard of its predecessors and the publication should long stand as our authority for the birds of the region it covers.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Chasen and Kloss.—Messrs. Chasen and Kloss have published a review of the puzzling genus of Malay Flycatchers, *Cyornis*³ in which for the most part they accept the treatment of Stressemann (Ornith. Monatsb., 1925, pp. 43-53) as far as it goes and amplify it with the aid of additional material. They recognize seven specific groups to which the various races are assigned. No new forms are proposed but a point well worthy of careful consideration in the fine discrimination of subspecies is emphasized, i. e. the post mortem change in color of the plumage of the under parts of these birds; freshly killed specimens being yellower and less rusty than older skins. Dr. Chapman has called attention to the

¹ Ornithologisk Handbok med beskrivningar öfver alla i Finland anträffade fågelarter och raser jämte avbildningar och enkom utförda ving- och äggmatt m. m. samt namnförklaringar. Utgiven af Dr Ivar Hortling. Helsingfors 1929. pp. 1-200; 201-400; 401-600. Price Fmk. 75 per part.

² Taylor and Francis Red Lion Court, Fleet St. London. E. C. 4. Part V, July 1930. pp. 395-500—title page etc. Price 7s. 6d. net.

³ On some Birds of the Genus *Cyornis*. By F. N. Chasen and C. Boden Kloss. Bull. Raffles Mus. No. 2, July 1929. 23-42.