

American origin. While we do not presume to disprove Dr. Chapman's argument, nevertheless are we sure that this bird really is a *Zonotrichia*? No one is more anxious than the reviewer to keep down the number of genera but when the lumping involves important questions of zoögeography should we not also consider the possibilities of parallel development of structural characters, especially in the Fringillidae where they are not very emphatically marked at best?

However, theorizing on such problems is fascinating both for the author and the reader and only thus may we reach more definite conclusions. We have again to congratulate Dr. Chapman on a contribution of the first importance to neotropical ornithology, as well as Messrs. Sydney F. Tyler, Jr. and Lee Garnett Day whose support made these explorations possible.

We notice a number of typographical errors missed by the proof-readers which is unusual in the American Museum's publications. On p. 40 the genus *Myrmothera* appears as *Myrmotherula*, in the last line on p. 42 the word "follows" has not been stricken out, the reference to Fig. 24 on p. 46 is wrong and Dr. W. L. Abbott's name appears as "W. J." Abbott (p. 51). —W. S.

**Pickwell on the Prairie Horned Lark.**—This monographic study<sup>1</sup> to use the author's words "attempts to give the history of the Prairie Horned Lark as carefully and extensively as the literature, more than 220 visits to occupied territory, 33 nests and over two years of study at Evanston, Ill., and Ithaca, N. Y., would allow." Although the result seems to have very satisfactorily justified the "attempt," the author nevertheless finds, as have many others engaged in similar studies, that "the things yet to be learned seem more momentous by far than the few things learned."

The bulk of the report deals with reproduction and ecology of the nesting site and these subjects have been treated exhaustively forming a most valuable contribution not only to the life history of this particular bird but to bird behavior in general. Song, song flight, nest location, and detailed continuous observation of nesting birds during incubation and feeding periods, as well as the development of the young are discussed, with tables and graphs to further illustrate the investigations. The section on history is not so convincing and although we do not question the correctness of the general theory of the dispersal of the bird coincident with forest destruction yet we feel that it must have been present in many places long before there was any definite record and in some states, particularly Pennsylvania where we have some personal knowledge, we are inclined to think that lack of observers and ignorance of the existence of a breeding form of Horned Lark were responsible for the apparent absence of the bird in earlier times.

A number of excellent photographs of nests and young illustrate this valuable publication and there is a good bibliography although records of

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<sup>1</sup> The Prairie Horned Lark | Gayle B. Pickwell | Trans. St. Louis Acad. Sci., Vol. XXVII, pp. 153, figs. 1-18, ppl. 1-34. August, 1931. Price \$2.00.

the bird in Pennsylvania published in 'Cassinia' are omitted, one of which shows the birds present in the breeding season in Fulton Co., not far from the Maryland line, as early as 1905.—W. S.

**Bowen's Catalogue of Sudan Birds.**—In 1926 while still Deputy Curator of the Sudan Government Museum, Mr. W. Wedgwood Bowen published the first part of a 'Catalogue of Sudan Birds' carrying the subject as far as the Passeres. More recently the birds of this group have been listed and the second part appeared in August, 1931, the author having meanwhile removed to America and become Assistant Curator of Birds at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

The "Catalogue"<sup>1</sup> is more than the title would imply as there are keys for determination of the families and for the species under each family; also a very brief statement of character of occurrence, habitat and relative abundance of each species and subspecies, and data for all specimens in the Sudan Government Museum. Seven hundred species are listed and a number of subspecies, while in part II there is an appendix supplying additional information, changes in names and twelve additional species with several subspecies. A second appendix consists of a list of type localities, in Sudan, from which birds have been described and a list of the species with references. There is an excellent faunal map published in each part. Mr. Bowen has furnished a very handy list not only for those interested in studying Sudan birds in the field but for ornithologists in general who have to deal with birds from this part of Africa.—W. S.

**La Touche's 'Birds of East China.'**—Part II of Vol. 2 of this valuable work<sup>2</sup> has appeared covering the Goatsuckers, Owls, Ospreys, Vultures and part of the Falconidae.

The method of treatment follows that of the preceding parts and in the discussion of habits etc., there is much about the nesting of the eagles and also their capture for purposes of falconry and for their feathers, while several halftones from photographs show the method of netting them as well as falconers carrying eagles at the railroad stations. We congratulate Mr. La Touche on the progress of his work which we can assure him from personal experience is of the greatest aid to those working up Chinese collections.—W. S.

**Chisholm's 'Nature Fantasy in Australia.'**—Many of our readers are doubtless familiar with the writings of Alec Chisholm who has probably

<sup>1</sup> Catalogue of | Sudan Birds | Based on the Collection in the | Sudan Government Museum | (Natural History) | By | W. Wedgwood Bowen, B.A. (Cantab.). [etc.] | Part I—Struthionidae to Picidae | Sudan Government Museum Publ. No. 1, May 1926, pp. 1-120.

Part II. Alaudidae to Fringillidae. Sudan Govt. Mus. Publ. No. 2, August 1931, pp. 1-163. Price P. T. 20 (= 4 shillings) per part.

<sup>2</sup> A Handbook | of the | Birds of China | [etc.] By | J. D. D. La Touche. Vol. II, Part II, Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Pp. 97-192, January 1932. Price 7s. 6d. net per part.