

this is only another way of saying that the phenomena classed by theorists as protective adaptations have little or no effectiveness." There is abundant discussion in each section of this paper with quotations from published works and refutation of theories advanced.

While the principle of protective coloration has in many cases been accepted without question we have often felt that there were too many exceptions to the rule. Quite aside from the problem of insects being protected from birds we have the oft quoted illustration of the bark-like coloration of the Brown Creeper as a protection presumably against hawks, but the conspicuously colored nuthatch with almost exactly similar habits apparently gets along just as well!

Mr. McAtee has compiled a most valuable contribution to this much mooted question and we do not see how any flaws can be picked in his argument or conclusions. A good bibliography completes the paper.—W. S.

**deSchauensee on the Birds of Southwestern Africa.**—During the summer of 1930, Mr. R. M. deSchauensee, Research Associate of the Ornithological Department of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, conducted an expedition through southwestern Africa and across the Kalahari Desert to Rhodesia. He was accompanied by his wife and Messrs. A. Reginald Allen and Wharton Sinkler of Philadelphia with Mr. George Saunders as taxidermist. A collection of 558 bird skins was secured representing 254 species of which six proved to be new.

The present paper<sup>1</sup> is a report on the collection consisting of an annotated list with an account of the itinerary and a discussion of the distribution of the birds of southwestern Africa, which seemed to the author to be mainly dependent upon rainfall. There are a number of plates from photographs taken on the trip, illustrating the various habitats, and several maps. Two colored plates represent the bustard *Heterotetrax rupelii*, a hornbill *Lophoceros williaminae* and a flycatcher *Bradornis herero* the last two previously described by the author.

One new form *Zosterops senegalensis quanzae* (p. 198) is described in the present paper from Quanza River, Angola.

This paper is an important contribution to the ornithology of this interesting region and the collections made by the expedition have all been presented to the Philadelphia Academy.—W. S.

**Armstrong's 'Birds of Samoa.'**—This little book<sup>2</sup> is termed a "Hand-list" and its object is to enable visitors and residents to recognize the birds of the islands and record their habits "before the march of time and progress has denuded the hills of bush, thus bringing about the inevitable destruction of its bird life."

<sup>1</sup> A Collection of Birds from Southwestern Africa. By Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila. Vol. LXXXIV, 1932, pp. 145-202, May 21.

<sup>2</sup> Hand-List to the Birds of Samoa. By John S. Armstrong, M.B. London, John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 83-91, Great Titchfield Street, W. 1, 1932. Pp. i-iv + 1-91. Price 8 shillings.