

RECENT LITERATURE.

Mathews on the Birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands and New Zealand.

—Some years after the completion of his 'Birds of Australia' Mr. Mathews published a volume uniform in every way with that great work but dealing with the birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. As a matter of fact it also contained much supplementary matter on the birds of Australia and was in many respects a supplement to this large work. Now there appears another volume entitled a 'Supplement'¹ to the last publication and containing also such of the birds of New Zealand as were not figured by Buller. This too is uniform with the 'Birds of Australia' and contains much supplementary matter on the birds of that continent, so that both of these volumes really belong to the same series and should form part of any complete set. With this publication, Mr. Mathews writes us, that he "says farewell to Australian birds having fulfilled my claim to figure every species in the Australian list and my thirty years constant work on this region is completed." He is now, by the way, busy on his monograph of the Petrels.

The supplement proper covers twelve pages and nine plates (with an additional figure on Plate 83 of the New Zealand section). Two of these are colored plates representing the extinct White Porphyrio and the Gray-headed Blackbird, the others are reproductions of drawings of generic characters. Then follows 'Additions to 'The Birds of Australia' covering fifty-eight pages and twenty plates, nineteen of the latter are colored plates and one a half-tone of two of the Lambert drawings upon which some of Latham's species were based. The text consists of all sorts of additional matter relating to species contained in the original work.

Part two of the volume consists of the supplement to Buller's 'Birds of New Zealand' with 165 pages of text and twenty-eight plates (counting here the one containing a Norfolk Island figure mentioned above). Among the interesting species here figured is the Campbell Island Duck (*Xenonetta nesiotis* Fleming), the original of which Mr. Fleming kindly showed to many of us at the last meeting of the A. O. U. at Toronto. The colored plate is from a painting by T. M. Shortt. We note that on the plate the generic name appears *Zenonetta* thereby adding a synonym to an extinct genus. Incidentally it might be mentioned that there are colored plates of the Red and Northern Phalarope, the Pectoral Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit and Arctic Tern, all birds of the North American list which reach New Zealand in their migrations.

When he had completed the twelfth volume of his great work on the 'Birds of Australia' we had occasion to congratulate Mr. Mathews and to express our appreciation of the splendid contribution that he had made to the ornithology of the Antipodes and we can do no more than refer our readers to that review (*Auk*, 1927, p. 435). We should again emphasize, however, that this and the immediately preceding volume are definitely a continuation of that work and no set is complete without them even if, for publisher's reasons, a separate title had to be used.—W. S.

Ardley on the Birds of the South Orkney Islands.²—During January 1933, the Royal Research Ship, 'Discovery II,' was engaged in a hydrographic survey of

¹ A Supplement | to the | Birds | of | Norfolk & Lord Howe Islands | to which is added those | Birds of New Zealand | not figured by Buller | by | Gregory M. Mathews | Author of "The Birds of Australia" | With Hand-coloured and Monochrome Plates | H. F. & G. Witherby, Ltd. | 326 High Holborn, London | 15th. July 1936. Pp. i-xiv + 1-177. Price £8. 8s.

² The Birds of the South Orkney Islands, by R. A. B. Ardley, R. N. R. Discovery Reports, vol. XII, pp. 349-376, plates X-XII, Cambridge, 1936.