

RECENT LITERATURE

Mayaud's 'Catalogue of the Birds of France.'—This well-prepared check-list of the birds of France has been published by the Société d'Études Ornithologiques and the author has had the coöperation of Henri Heim de Balsac and Henri Jouard. The classification of families proposed by Wetmore is adopted while Dwight's 'Gulls of the World' is followed in the arrangement of the gulls and Lowe's studies of the Charadriiformes in that of the waders. The plan follows that of the third edition of the A. O. U. Check-list in which there is a separate paragraph for the binomial name with the trinomial forms below. This of course involves such species as *Tetrastes bonasia* with its French subspecies *T. b. rupestris*, since the typical *bonasia* does not occur within the range of the work. The inclusion of the binomial in a distinct paragraph led to much confusion as many readers thought that two different races were intended and the A. O. U. Committee adopted a plan of listing only the actual forms occurring in North America in the fourth edition of its list, a plan which was also followed by Peters. There have been many advocates, however, of the other scheme which is adopted by Mayaud. Full references to genera, species and subspecies are given and a statement on character of occurrence and distribution in France.

We find several instances of recognition of intermediate forms on the same basis as subspecies, a rather novel innovation in a check-list.

M. Mayaud and his associates deserve the thanks of all ornithologists for the preparation of such a satisfactory and up to date list.—W. S.

Fuertes and Osgood's 'Artist and Naturalist in Ethiopia.'—The series of color plates of African birds and mammals published several years ago by Field Museum and representing the last work of the talented Fuertes now appears in illustration of the journal¹ of the two naturalists who undertook the expedition to Ethiopia upon which the paintings were made.

Dr. Osgood explains how Fuertes' untimely death prevented the preparation of the account of the expedition which they had planned and the fact that neither of their diaries tells the whole story. "Fuertes," he truly says, "was an artist, sensitive, ardent, impetuous and, despite his fifty years, full of almost boyish enthusiasm; on the other hand I find myself offering some contrast, for although I would not admit immunity to beauty of form and color, it seems I am seldom able to 'let go' until the hard cold facts have precedence." The result is that we have before us under the initials "F" and "O" the verbatim extracts from each journal for each day. Nothing could be more satisfactory since the unedited first-hand impressions of a traveller are always more interesting and impressive than a later more conventional account. The difference in the attitude of the writers as explained by Dr. Osgood lends itself to this method of treatment, each journal supplementing the other without loss of personality.

As a memorial to Fuertes, which was one of the objects of publication, the book is fully adequate. While many will find it an interesting account of a country which has been much in the public eye of late, Louis Fuertes' friends will find in it all of the

¹ Inventaire des Oiseaux de France, par Noel Mayaud avec la collaboration d'Henri Heim de Balsac et Henri Jouard. Société d'Études Ornithologiques. viii + 211 pp. André Blot, 12 avenue de la Grande-Armée, Paris.

² Artist and Naturalist in Ethiopia. By Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Wilfred Hudson Osgood. Illustrations painted from life by Louis Agassiz Fuertes and reproduced in this volume by special permission of Field Museum of Natural History. Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1936, viii + 249 pp., pls. 1-16. Price \$5.00.