

RECENT LITERATURE

Chapin's 'Birds of the Belgian Congo,' Vol. 2.—The first part of this great work¹ was issued in 1932 and reviewed the following year in this journal (Auk, 50: 237-240, 1933). The material in the present volume, as in the two still to come, is, of course, the basis of much of the geographical, ecological, and evolutionary discussion so ably developed in the first volume, and continues the treatment of the birds from the rails through the woodpeckers. A colored plate of the Congo Peacock, *Afropavo congensis*, which was not discovered until some years after the appearance of the first volume (where it belongs systematically) serves as frontispiece and not only links the present volume with its predecessor, but also acts as a graphic reminder of the ornithological activity of the intervening seven years.

The present volume contains 632 pages, 21 plates and 38 text-figures, and treats of 526 forms with comparative notes on at least as many more. In each case a full bibliographic synonymy, as far as the Belgian Congo is concerned, is given, followed by a list of the specimens collected by the American Museum Congo Expedition, notes on the colors of the soft parts, a detailed account of the distribution of the species, and terminating with the unusually full field notes and observations made by the author during his long stay in the Congo.

The systematic and distributional treatment is not only full and carefully done, but it is based on practically all the pertinent material in the leading museums of Europe and America and is, therefore, a reflection of all that is known, and not, as is so often the case, of merely a particular part available to an author. The ecological and life-history material are largely data new to the sum of printed information and are in some ways the most valuable part of the work, as it is so much easier to obtain specimens than facts. The accounts of such forms of unusual interest as the Standard-winged and the Pennant-winged Nightjars, the Common and the Lyre-tailed Honey-guides, the White-thighed Hornbill, and others, are veritable papers in themselves.

Of the twenty plates other than the frontispiece mentioned above, two are in color and represent two species of small rails of the genus *Sarothrura*, and are from the brush of the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes; the others show captive or freshly killed birds of species treated in the text, and also some of their nests. A good index completes the volume.—H. FRIEDMANN.

Allen's 'Sex and Internal Secretions.'²—The purpose of the first edition of this work, which appeared in 1932, was to "survey the most important recent researches in problems of sex, especially those concerned with internal secretions, in order that concepts already established by experimental evidence may be clearly stated and made readily available." The enlarged 1939 edition² summarizes and makes available a great deal of the more recent work.

While the major portion of the book deals with other animals, there are here summarized several hundred papers on experimental work on birds. Many of these are not generally available to most ornithologists and therefore this summarizing volume should prove useful to those who teach ornithology as well as to those conducting research. Most of the bird material naturally deals with

¹ Chapin, James P. 'The Birds of the Belgian Congo' / Part II / Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 75, vii + 632 pp., 21 pls., 38 text-figs., Oct. 27, 1939.

² Allen, Edgar [Editor]. Sex and Internal Secretions. A Survey of Recent Research. 8vo, xxxvi + 1346 pp., 3 colored plates, 422 black and white illustrations and many diagrams, April, 1939; The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md. Price \$12.00.