

entering the throat at all." The closing paragraph of the account notes the "tone of gentleness" of these birds, and their "silent dignity," but adds: "True, to be exact, their silence is more a necessity than a virtue, since they are possessed of no true vocal organ, but it so befits their other actions that it may well be laid to their credit without too close examination."

In the home-life of the Common Heron its checkered history is noted. In early times it was protected as royal game, but since the breechloader has ousted the falcon, he is no longer *protected* to be *destroyed*, but *from* destruction, since the angling fraternity are now "clamoring loudly for his blood."

Mr. Beetham's narrative is entertainingly written and adds greatly to our knowledge of the intimate home-life of these shy and interesting birds, while the beautiful photographic plates add a realism that no amount of word-painting can supply.—J. A. A.

Simon on the Hummingbirds of Ecuador.¹—Ecuador is divided into three regions, (1) the low hot region between the Pacific and the western Cordillera, (2) the area between the two Andean ranges, and (3) the basins of the Rio Napo and Rio Pastassa. The characteristic forms of Hummingbirds of each are indicated and the ranges of various genera, as represented in the three districts, are commented upon. The list numbers 152 species, with notes on their ranges, and with pertinent technical comment. *Taphrospilus* is proposed as a new genus, with *Aphantochroa hyposticta* Gould as type; *Prasitis vitticeps* is described as new. The catalogue is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the species of Hummingbirds thus far recorded from Ecuador and of their distribution.—J. A. A.

Gunning and Haagner's 'A Check-List of the Birds of South Africa.'²—The northern boundary of the area here included is approximately latitude 16° S., or "a line formed by the Cunene River on the east and the Zambesi River on the west." As said in the Introduction, Dr. Reichenow's 'Vogel Afrikas' is taken as the basis of the list, this being "the only complete modern work on African Ornithology, and as he has evidently bestowed much time and care on the subject of the nomenclature of South African birds. Where we have cause to differ from Dr.

¹ Catalogue général des Trochilidés observés jusqu'à ce jour dans la République de l'Écuador. Par E. Simon. Revue Française d'Ornithologie, Nos. 17 et 18, Sept.—Oct., 1910, pp. 257–270.

² A Check-List of the Birds of South Africa, Being a record of all the species known to occur south of the Zambezi-Cunene line (the 16th degree of south latitude). By Dr. J. W. B. Gunning, President, South African Ornithologists' Union, and Alwin Haagner, F. Z. S., Colonial Member, British Ornithologists' Union, Honorary Member, Royal Hungarian Bureau of Ornithology, Honorary Secretary South African Ornithologists' Union. Annals Transvaal Museum, Vol. II, July, 1910, Suppl., pp. 84.