

pendence, Missouri, May 1, having joined "a Virginia Company of five men, one wagon and eight mules." On June 2 the party overtook a large ox-train on the Platte River, under the command of Captain Boone of Kentucky, which Gambel joined in the capacity of medical assistant. After many months of hardship, Boone's train reached the Sierra, where heavy falls of snow compelled the abandonment of the cattle and wagons, and the men endeavored to cross the mountains with such provisions as they could carry. Most of them perished, "but Boone, Gambel, and a few others succeeded in making their way to Rose's Bar on Feather River," in what is now Plumas County, California. Here, on December 13, 1850, Gambel died of typhoid fever, at the early age of about thirty years.— J. A. A.

Mathews's 'Birds of Australia.'—Part 2¹ of this great work completes the Turnicidæ and includes the Treronidæ and part of the Columbida. In this part fourteen species are figured and described, and both text and plates conform to the high standard set in Part 1, noticed in detail in the January issue of this journal.— J. A. A.

McGee's 'Notes on the Passenger Pigeon.'—In the issue of 'Science' for December 30, 1910, Dr. McGee, in an article of five and a half pages,² gives his recollections of the Passenger Pigeon as observed by him in eastern Iowa "in the sixties and early seventies," and of other pigeons he mistook for this species in 1905 in the "Sierra Gila, seventy-five miles southwest of Yuma and near the Mexican boundary." His recollections of Passenger Pigeons in Iowa form a welcome addition to the reminiscences of a species now probably extinct as a wild bird, but the Arizona notes are unfortunately based on an evident misidentification of a species known locally in the arid Southwest as the "Sonora Pigeon." Although his account of its habits and appearance is detailed, and in some ways conforms to the characters of the Passenger Pigeon, no specimens were saved for positive identification, and in the light of our present knowledge of the habits and range of this species doubtless few ornithologists will be willing to accept his record of the Passenger Pigeon in arid southwestern Arizona as a valid record for the species without the confirmation of actual specimens from the region in question. The pros and cons of the case were considered in a later issue of 'Science.'³— J. A. A.

¹ Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Part 2, January 31, 1911. Royal 4to. pp. 97-136. pll. xxii-xxxv, colored. Witherby & Co., London.

² For full title and conditions of publication see the notice of Part 1, *antea*, pp. 135, 136.

Notes on the Passenger Pigeon. By W J McGee. Science, N. S., Vol. XXXII, pp. 958-964, December 30, 1910.

³ The Arizona 'Passenger Pigeons'. By J. A. Allen. Science, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 217-219, February 10, 1911.