

The basis of this report is a collection of 2000 specimens collected by Mr. Wilhelm Hoffmanns in 1906, 1907, and 1908, for the Tring Museum. In addition to this material the author has had access to the Natterer collection in the Vienna Museum, and to specimens in Count Berlepsch's collection. The collector, Mr. Hoffmanns, suffered much from malaria while forming this important collection, and unfortunately died from pneumonia soon after his return to his home in Germany.

The specimens are listed under their respective species, with the dates and localities of collection, while measurements are given of wing, tail and bill, and the collector's notes on the color of the iris, feet and bill from the freshly killed specimen. References are given to previous pertinent records, and there is much technical comment relating to the geographical ranges and affinities of the forms recorded, and on points of nomenclature, etc. The ranges of allied forms and their distinctive points are given in synoptical form for many groups of subspecies, this rendering the report of special convenience and value to future workers in South American ornithology. The critical notes and references are of special importance in connection with previous records. The first reference in the synonymies is to the place of first description, and includes the type locality, if definitely given originally or since assigned, and now assigned if not previously fixed. In short, the report is made up in the same careful and critical manner that has characterised the author's previous faunistic papers.

A geographical summary at the close of the account states that only species that have actually been taken in the Madeira district have been included. The avifauna is said to show a mixed character, with some 30 species peculiar to it, while not a few are found on one bank of the river that do not cross to the other.— J. A. A.

'Feathers and Facts.'— Under this title¹ The Royal Society of Great Britain for the Protection of Birds has issued a statement on the subject of the trade in the plumage of wild birds, giving a brief history of its growth and of the protest and condemnation that have arisen against it. Its main purpose is to disprove various misstatements and allegations put forth by the feather trade defense in their organ 'The Feather Trade.' Among these are: the old story that 'osprey' or egret plumes are not feathers at all, thus deceiving thousands of women into buying egret plumes by the false assertion that they were not egret feathers but an artificial product; and, this having been proved false, the story that the plumes sold were moulted feathers 'picked up' by hunters, and that egrets were "protected by law and custom throughout countless miles of the South American continent," while the condition of the country concerned, and the jungles

¹ *Feathers and Facts: A Reply to the Feather-Trade, and Review of Facts with Reference to the Persecution of Birds for their Plumage.* 8vo, pp. 74. London: Printed for The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 23 Queen Anne's Gate, S. W., by Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. Price sixpence.

and swamps where the birds breed, render the enforcement of such a law, even if it really existed, simply impossible.

The pamphlet deals also with the reckless destruction of Humming-birds, Goura Pigeons, Himalayan Pheasants, Paradise Birds, Lyre Birds, Storks, Pelicans, Grebes, etc., and exposes the false assertions of the feather dealers regarding the limited extent and slight importance of the feather trade in diminishing the numbers of any of these species.

The subject of the prohibition of the importation of plumage and of international laws to prevent it, is also presented at length. The paper has thus a broad scope, and is especially important in its analysis of the feather trade defense. It is a strong document that should have the widest possible circulation.

Another recent brochure dealing with misleading statements of New York milliners engaged in the Heron plume traffic is entitled 'Confessions of a Plume Hunter,' and forms Special Leaflet No. 23 of the National Association of Audubon Societies. It is in the form of a sworn statement, addressed to the Secretary of the Association, by Mr. A. H. Meyer, formerly in business as a plume collector in Venezuela and Colombia for twelve years (1896-1905, inclusive). After citing the fact that certain commercial interests in New York City are circulating stories "to the effect that the aigrettes used in the millinery trade come chiefly from Venezuela, where they are gathered from the ground in the large garzeros or breeding colonies of white herons," he goes on to state, from his own personal knowledge, that "It is the custom in Venezuela to shoot the birds while the young are in the nests," and that after the breeding season the plumes are virtually of no commercial value, "because of the worn and frayed condition to which they have been reduced." A few of the plumes of the large white herons are picked up about their breeding places, but they are of small value and are known as 'dead feathers.'

The impossible stories circulated by the millinery interest in New York are stated to be based on a letter written by "Mayeul Grisol, Naturalist and Explorer of the Honorary Mission of the Museum of Natural History in Paris." The absurdity of these statements led Prof. Henry Fairfield Osborn, President of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, to cable an inquiry to the Paris Museum of Natural History regarding Mayeul Grisol. The reply, dated April 22, 1911, was: "Mayeul Grisol inconnu." — J. A. A.

Boas on Rooks and on Damage done by them in Denmark.¹— The writer treats his subject under the following headings: Food of Rooks; Rooks useful or injurious? How shall we estimate the economic significance of Rooks? Distribution of Rooks in Denmark; Experience with injury by Rooks in Denmark; Summary of damage; Comparison of injuries and benefits; Means against Rooks, and Legislation against Rooks.

¹ Boas, J. E. V. Raagerne og raageskade i Danmark. Tidssk. f. Landbrugets Planteavl. XVIII, 1911. Separately paged [1-29], 1 map.