

and the continent of North America. His conclusions agree with those already advanced by Mr. Chapman and Mr. Riley.

A number of new records are established for several of the islands visited, and a new warbler, *Dendroica flavescens*, already described by Mr. Todd (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XXII, p. 171) was discovered on Abaco.—W. S.

**Mathews's 'The Birds of Australia.'**—Part 5<sup>1</sup> bears date October 31, 1911, and completes the first volume, except the introductory matter and index, which will form Part 6, and when ready will be sent to subscribers without extra charge. The first volume warrants the liberal praise bestowed upon Part 1 (Auk, XXVIII, p. 135, 136), as regards the character of both the text and plates; and the Parts have thus far appeared with commendable promptness and regularity. The present Part concludes the Ralliformes, and includes also the Podicipediformes and the Sphenisciformes, the species treated being numbered 64–74. In addition to the technical and biographical matter usual to works of this character, the relations of the Australian forms to their congeners are considered, the genera, species and subspecies being critically revised from the author's viewpoint in respect to status and nomenclature. In the present Part the new genus *Mantellornis* is established, with *Notornis hoeckstetteri* Meyer as the type. Two new subspecies of *Porphyrio* are described as *P. melanotus fletcheræ* (Tasmania) and *P. m. neomelanotus* (Northwest Australia), and the little known *Fulica alba* White is considered at length. The only two specimens known to be extant came probably from New Zealand. Three other new forms here described are *Podiceps cristatus christiani*, *Aptenodytes patagonica halli*, *Eudypula minor iredalia*. We regret that we are unable to agree with Mr. Mathews in the use of *Podiceps* in place of *Colymbus*, and of *Penguinus* in place of *Catarractes*, for reasons already given (Auk, XXVIII, 1911, p. 496). Mr. Mathews now designates as type of *Penguinus*, *Aptenodytes chrysocome* Forster (1781), instead of *Phaethon demursus* Linné, formerly designated by him or the type. Contrary to most previous authors, he now considers Linné's species indeterminate. He states that it, "though undoubtedly a 'Crested Penguin,' is obviously a young bird, and unfortunately must be regarded as indeterminate. Brunnich's genus was certainly founded on the characters of this bird, but as no species was named by him, I herewith designate *Aptenodytes chrysocome* Forster as the type of Brunnich's genus,"—a species, by the way, not described till eleven years after Brunnich's genus was founded! Yet he adds: "The course I now advocate I consider better,

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews, Member of the Australian Ornithologists' Union and the British Ornithologists' Union. With hand-coloured Plates. Volume I, Part 5, London: Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. October 31st, 1911. Roy. 4to, pp. 325–286, pll. 59–67, with 3 full-page text cuts. Price, £2. 2s. per part.

as tending to give more stability to our nomenclature."<sup>1</sup> This is certainly a new departure in type designation, it generally being held that in the case of speciesless genera the type must be some species described before the founding of the genus on which the genus was obviously based. If *Penquinus* was founded on an indeterminable species, the genus itself must necessarily share the fate of the species on which it was founded. Such action is antagonistic, in spirit if not in letter, to Article XXX of the International Code of Nomenclature, which provides that the type selected must be one of the originally included species. Although the characters of *Penquinus* might fit several then undescribed species none of them, when later described, can be properly available as its type.—J. A. A.

**Abbott's 'The Home-Life of the Osprey'.**—In a little volume<sup>2</sup> of 53 pages of text and 45 photographic illustrations, Mr. Abbott is able to give an account of the home-life of the Osprey, or Fish Hawk, in minute detail, from long study of the species at various points on the coast of New Jersey, at Gardiner's Island, New York, and at Great Lake, North Carolina, beginning with its arrival in the waters near New York about the end of March and ending with its departure early in October. Although the subject is not a new one, Mr. Abbott has made excellent use of his opportunities and, aided by the camera, has given us a thoroughly complete history of the 'home-life' of this interesting species, as studied particularly at Gardiner's Island and along the coast of New Jersey. Every feature is beautifully illustrated in the accompanying photographs, mostly taken by himself. The varied character of its nesting-sites and nests, its manner of fishing, the care of its young, their development and behavior while in the nest, the devotion of the parent birds to their young and to their homes, its manner of fishing and carrying its prey, are all sympathetically told in the text and effectively illustrated in the excellent plates. The work is a worthy successor of the similar monographic studies that have preceded it in the 'Bird-Lovers' Home-Life Series' of its enterprising publishers, Witherby and Co. of London. In concluding his excellent monograph Mr. Abbott says: "There is a nobility and dignity about this bird, an industry and inoffensiveness of life, a tender affection for its mate and young, that can only bring increasing admiration with acquaintance."—J. A. A.

**Publications Received.**—**Abbott, Clinton G.** The Home-Life of the Osprey. Crown 4to, pp. 44, 32 photographic plates. London, Witherby & Co. 6s. net; special ed., 10s. 6d. net. New York, Brentano, \$2 post-paid.

<sup>1</sup> Not italicised in the original.

<sup>2</sup> The Home-Life of the Osprey | Photographed and Described. | By | Clinton G. Abbott, B. A. | Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union | With some Photographs by Howard H. Cleaves, Associate of | the American Ornithologists' Union | With Thirty-two mounted plates | London | Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. | MCMXI.— pp. 54, 32 photographic pl. Cloth, 6s. net; special edition, 10s. 6d. net. For sale also at Brentano's, 229 Fifth Avenue, New York. \$2 post-paid.