

Mr. Swarth's paper is well worthy of detailed study and is a noteworthy contribution to west coast ornithology.— W. S.

**Mathews' The Austral Avian Record.**<sup>1</sup>—This journal is issued at irregular intervals in connection with the Austral Avian Museum, Watford, Herts, England, by Mr. Gregory M. Mathews. It is intended to comprise such notes as require immediate attention in connection with the author's 'Birds of Australia' now in course of publication. Descriptions of new forms, notes on nomenclature and any other interesting matter relating to the Australian avifauna will be included. The present number comprises notes on Australian Cuckoos in which the nomenclature of all the forms is discussed, *Owenavis* and *Neochalcites* appear as new genera and ten new species and subspecies are proposed. A second note is a useful table of the dates of issue of the parts of Lear's 'Psittacidae' and Müller's 'Verhandelingen over de Natuurlijke Geshiedenis. Land-en Volkenkunde.' We do not think that Mr. Mathews' proposal to ignore Lesson's group or "race" names which have always been given recognition as genera will meet with the approval of ornithologists, nor do we consider that the authors of the International Code ever intended that article 2 should be interpreted as rejecting group names not explicitly designated by their proposers as genera or subgenera.— W. S.

**Parkins' Record of Sales of the Great Auk and its Eggs.**<sup>2</sup>— This is an interesting pamphlet containing a record of sales of specimens of the Great Auk or its eggs at public auction in Great Britain from 1806 to 1910. The early history of the specimens is included so far as it is known, and the character of this information will be seen by consulting Col. Thayer's article on p. 208 of this number of 'The Auk.' There are several interesting illustrations.— W. S.

**Jacobs' The American Bird House Journal for 1912.**<sup>3</sup>— Under this title Mr. J. Warren Jacobs proposes to issue an annual publication in continuation of his well known series of papers dealing with the history of

<sup>1</sup> The Austral Avian Record. A Scientific Journal devoted primarily to the Study of the Australian Avifauna. Vol. I, No. 1. Issued in connection with the Austral Avian Museum, Watford, Herts, England. Editor, Gregory M. Mathews. Price 1/6 Net. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. January 2nd, 1912.

<sup>2</sup> The Great Auk. A Record of Sales of Birds and Eggs by Public Auction in Great Britain, 1806-1910. With Historical and Descriptive Notes and five Plates. (Extra Paper to Part 6, of Vol. I., Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist.) By Thomas Parkin, M. A., F. L. S., F. Z. S., (Member of the British Ornithologists' Union). Hastings, Burfield & Pennells Ltd. MCMXI. (Price two shillings.)

<sup>3</sup> The American Bird House Journal for 1912, published by the Jacobs Bird House Co. Waynesburg Pa., pp. 95-141. Price, 25 cents.

the Purple Martin, though the scope will be broadened to include various other species of birds which nest in boxes. The present issue contains many excellent halftones of bird houses and Martins' nests together with much valuable information regarding the economic value of the Martin to fruit-growers and reports from Martin colonies in various parts of the country.— W. S.

**Worcester on Newly Discovered Breeding Places of Philippine Sea Birds.**— In this interesting paper<sup>1</sup> Dr. Worcester describes the Terns and Boobies found breeding upon various Philippine reefs and sandbars visited by him during the summer and autumn of 1910 and illustrates his account by a series of most interesting photographs.

The Terns observed were *Sterna borealis*, *furcata*, *melanauchen* and *gracilis* and *Anous stolidus*. On Bankoran Island were quantities of Boobies; the red-footed *Sula piscator* nesting in the trees, while the brown species *S. leucogastra* nested on the ground; nests of the latter being frequently plundered by the Red-footed Boobies which were seeking nesting material.

On Usong Island was a colony of *Sula cyanops* which like *Sterna gracilis* had not previously been recorded from the Philippines. A female of this Booby was found mated to a male *S. leucogastra* and three evident hybrids between the two were secured.<sup>2</sup>

On Cavilli Island great numbers of a new Tern, *Micranous worcesteri*, described in a recent paper<sup>3</sup> by Mr. McGregor, were found nesting in the trees while the abundance of Frigate-birds, *Fregata aquila*, suggested that they also would be found breeding there at the proper season.— W. S.

**Gunning and Roberts on South African Birds.**<sup>4</sup>— Those interested in studying the various collections of African birds which have lately been brought to America will find this paper with its descriptions of twenty-two new species and subspecies, well worthy of consultation. Some details in the authors' method of treatment are however open to criticism. Instead of citing one type specimen, they cite two, a male and female and often from different localities; while the method of using Roman numerals for the months only adds to the possibilities of typographical errors, as seen on p. 111 where we find "31 IX. 08," surely an error unless September has an extra day in South Africa.— W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> Newly Discovered Breeding Places of Philippine Sea Birds by Dean C. Worcester. The Philippine Journal of Science and General Biology, Ethnology and Anthropology, vol. VI, No. 4. August, 1911. pp. 167-177, pl. i-viii.

<sup>2</sup> Hybridism among Boobies. By Dean C. Worcester, do. p. 179-181, pl. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Record of a Puffinus new to Philippine Waters and Description of a New Species of Micranous. By Richard C. McGregor.

<sup>4</sup> New Records and Descriptions of New Species of Birds in the Transvaal Museum Collection. By Dr. J. W. B. Gunning and Austin Roberts. Annals of the Transvaal Museum. July, 1911. pp. 109-118.