

the extent of his observations. No factor that could possibly affect flight seems to have been overlooked and data have been collected in regard to meteorology and along other side lines with as much care as in studying the actions of the birds. A clever method of plotting the track of a bird soaring high in air was devised by tracing the movements of the bird on the surface of a horizontal mirror, with copying ink, from which impressions could readily be transferred to paper. A series of dots, instead of a continuous line, each dot corresponding to the tick of a metronome, gave in addition, the speed of the bird when the altitude had been ascertained.

The book is well worthy of the attention of every one interested in bird flight, whether or not he be inclined to supply the explanations which Dr. Harkin refrained from attempting, and unlike most treatises on flight it will be found entirely free from technical terms or mathematical formulæ.— W. S.

Sneathlage's 'Catalogue of the Birds of Amazonia.'¹— Dr. Sneathlage's contributions to the ornithology of the Amazon region are well known to students of neotropical birds and her knowledge of the entire avifauna as well as her familiarity with many parts of the country fit her admirably for the task which she has just brought to a conclusion.

The catalogue consists of the technical and vernacular name of each species with references, a statement of range, a list of the specimens in the Museu Goeldi, with localities, and a description of the male and female. Under each genus is a key to the species, and under orders and families, keys respectively to the families and genera. Plates of the heads and feet of representatives of the principal groups accompany the general key to the orders. The work is, as will be noticed, intended to serve two purposes— as a manual for resident bird students and as a work of reference for ornithologists in other parts of the world.

The text is naturally in Portuguese, but this does not detract from its value to foreign ornithologists, since to them the descriptions are of the least importance, and the localities and ranges are easily made out.

There are 1117 species included in the Catalogue which forms a most valuable contribution to South American ornithology. The recent activity in the study of South American birds has reached a stage where faunal works of this sort are badly needed to bring into systematic order the scattered work of numerous writers.

Dr. Sneathlage writes us that the work was published in Germany and the copies intended for the American correspondents of the Museum were held in Hamburg when the war broke out. She requests us to announce that these will be forwarded as soon as possible.— W. S.

¹ *Catalogo das Aves Amazonicas contendo todas as especies descritas e mencionadas até 1913 pela Dr. Emilia Sneathlage (com 6 estampas e 1 mappa). Boletim do Museu Goeldi (Museu Paraense) de Hist. Nat. e Ethnogr. Tomo viii, 1911/12. Para, Brazil. 1914. pp. 1-530.*