

'**The Birds of Australia.**'¹—Volume five of Mr. Mathews' great work is to be issued in four instead of three parts as previously announced and the second of these is before us. It continues the treatment of the Raptors covering the Kites, part of the Falcons and a few other species. The same lengthy discussion of nomenclature characterizes this number, which has figured in its predecessors.

The genus *Falco* as presented in the A. O. U. Check-List seems to Mr. Mathews to be a bad case of "lumping" and while he would admit that *Rhynchodon* is perhaps a subgenus, he claims that *Hierofalco*, *Tinnunculus* and *Cerchmeis* are perfectly good genera.

We note *Haliastur sphenurus sarasini*, subsp. nov. (p. 169), New Caledonia, *Lophastur subcristatus kempi*, subsp. nov. (p. 220), Cape York, Australia; and *Falco longipennis samueli*, nom. nov. (p. 232) for *F. melanotus* White and Mellor, Flinders Island, Australia; as new names.—W. S.

Cassinia, 1915.²—The proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for 1915 show a continuation of the remarkable vitality that characterizes this organization. An average attendance of 24 at the 16 meetings held during the year is reported, and no fewer than 53 observers submitted migration records. Upon the material contained in these reports is based Dr. Stone's annual résumé of the spring migration. That of 1915 was characterized by abnormally early arrival of species coming in April or earlier and irregular occurrence of the later migrants. Dr. Stone contributes also another of the series of biographies he has published in 'Cassinia,' the present being that of Titian Peale. Other articles include 'Nesting birds of Pocono Lake,' with excellent illustrations of the nests of 2 species, of Empidonax, by J. Fletcher Street; 'Days with the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the Prothonotary Warbler' by Geo. H. Stuart 3rd, in which no locality is cited, a protective measure no doubt, yet even a county record would have added to the scientific value of the article; 'Eggs and Nestling Destruction' by Julian K. Potter, showing an average loss of 40 per cent, large yet less than some other studies have brought out; and 'Mortality among birds at Philadelphia, May 21-22, 1915,' by Delos E. Culver, an account of migrants striking the City Hall. This issue of 'Cassinia' contains also a bibliography of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware ornithology for 1915, and a list of officers and members of the D. V. O. C.—W. L. M.

Bangs on New American Birds.³—A recent study of the Gallinules of America convinces Mr. Bangs that Hartert's view that they are best re-

¹The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. V, Part II. London. February 29, 1916.

²Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 19, 1915 (March, 1916). 72 pp., 2 pls.

³The American Forms of *Gallinula chloropus* (Linn). By Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. V, pp. 93-99. May 17, 1915.