

bird of about the Grackle's size but adds "there is no certainty about it whatever" and so wisely refrains from naming it.—W. S.

**Richmond's Third Supplement to Waterhouse's "Index Genera Avium."**<sup>1</sup>—This welcome publication follows the plan of its predecessors except that the types of the genera have been determined according to the rules of the International Code of Nomenclature and derivations of names have been omitted except when furnished by the original authors. Some 600 names are listed of which more than half have been published since 1905 and of these about 175 are credited to Mr. Gregory M. Mathews. Perhaps the most important feature of this supplement is the list of errors in Waterhouse's 'Index.' This consists of vernacular and other names which have no generic status at the citations given, errors in spelling and in statement, all of which are corrected by Dr. Richmond, and *nomina nuda*, for which the proper citations are given. Lists of Linnæan genera which are citable at earlier date than those given by Waterhouse (mainly due to his adoption of the 12th in place of the 10th edition of the *Systema*) are given, as well as original references to Bonaparte's genera which appeared originally in the 'Ateneo Italiano' and corrections to the two previous "Supplements."

With this pamphlet before them systematic ornithologists are for the first time in possession of accurate references to all the genera of birds so far as known. That a few still remain to be unearthed from obscure publications goes without saying, but they will not begin to approach the number included in the present list which latter represents the results of the painstaking researches of both Dr. Richmond and Mr. G. M. Mathews during the past ten years.

When one considers that much of Dr. Richmond's time has necessarily been taken up in searching out the true date of issue of many wrongly dated publications it seems like the irony of fate that his own paper should be antedated. It seems high time that someone in charge of the scientific publications at Washington takes steps to check this unfortunate practice.—W. S.

**Aves in the Zoological Record for 1915.**<sup>2</sup>—Mr. W. L. Sclater is again the author of that section of the *Zoological Record* devoted to birds, and has compiled a list of 934 titles for the year 1915, with the usual rearrangement of references under various subjects — geographic, economic, plumage,

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<sup>1</sup> *Generic Names Applied to Birds During the Years 1906 to 1915, inclusive, with additions and corrections to Waterhouse's "Index Genera Avium."* By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator of Birds, United States National Museum. *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, Vol. 53, pp. 565-636. August 16 (= 25), 1917.

<sup>2</sup> *Zoological Record*. Vol. LII, 1915.—Aves. By W. L. Sclater, M. A. May, 1916. Printed for the Zoological Society of London, sold at their House in Regents Park, London, N. W. Price six shillings. pp. 1-74.

migration, etc., and a list of all new species and genera arranged systematically. This publication is invaluable to the working ornithologist and deserves a much larger sale than it has had in the past. Its continuation from year to year is essential to the advance of ornithology and the Zoological Society should be given every support possible in the good work that it is doing.—W. S.

**Kuser's 'The Way to Study Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>—This attractive little book is another of the numerous publications designed to aid the beginner in identifying the familiar birds of the eastern states. Mr. Kuser's plan is the reverse of that usually advocated in such books as he presents concise accounts of a number of the most abundant species to be found in the vicinity of New York City, and then instructs his readers to familiarize themselves with the appearance of the first one and go out into the field and find it before taking up the second, and so on through the series. That he does not discourage the usual plan of finding your bird first and identifying it from the books later is shown by the fact that he presents a field key to be taken into the field or to be used in identifying descriptions made there. While the two sets of instructions are somewhat contradictory good results may be gotten from each, while the additional information on bird protection, winter feeding, note-keeping, bird books and bird societies will answer many questions for the reader. The well printed color plates from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes add much to the attractiveness of the book.—W. S.

**The Birds of Australia.**<sup>2</sup>—The fourth part of Volume VI of Mr. Mathews' work treats almost entirely of the genus *Platycercus* of which he recognizes seven species including some of the most brilliantly colored of the Australian parrots. Much interesting information concerning their habits and distribution is furnished by the author's Australian correspondents, while he has traced out the history of their discovery and as usual has considered the nomenclature and synonymy of the species at considerable length. We notice only two new names proposed in this number, *i. e.*, *Platycercus caledonicus flindersi* (p. 328) from Flinders Island, and *P. eximius colei* (p. 360) from Ballarat, Victoria.—W. S.

**Brooks on Some Falkland Island Birds.**<sup>3</sup>—Mr. W. Sprague Brooks, who recently spent several months on the Falkland Islands in the interests of Dr. John C. Phillips, presents in the present paper his notes on the forty-three species of birds which came under his observation. Many

✓ <sup>1</sup>The Way to Study Birds. By John Dryden Kuser. With 9 Illustrations in Color. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1917. pp. 1-85. Price \$1.25 net.

<sup>2</sup>The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VI, part IV. June 27, 1917.

<sup>3</sup>Notes on Some Falkland Island Birds. By W. Sprague Brooks. Bull. Museum Comp. Zool., Vol. LXI, No. 7. June, 1917. pp. 135-160, pls. 1-3.