

the parent of 'Bird Clubs' in fact, is always interesting. In this issue we find a full account of the Masque Sanctuary written especially for the Meriden Club by Percy MacKaye, first performed at Meriden on September 12, 1913, and since played in many parts of the country. More than anything else in recent years this play seems to have aroused public interest in bird conservation and it will interest everyone to read this account of its inception and production.

Among many other matters interesting to those engaged in the establishment of bird sanctuaries we find in this report a list of no less than 182 bird clubs which directly or indirectly owe their origin to the Meriden Club—a proud record for Mr. Baynes and his associates.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'Birds of Australia'.<sup>1</sup>**—Part V, of Volume VI of Mr. Mathews' work continues the treatment of the Parrots, figuring ten species of *Psephotus* and allied genera. We notice on p. 391 a new subgenus, *Clarkona*, provisionally proposed for *Psephotus varius*, and on p. 408 two new subspecies, *Psephotus varius thela*, from Central Australia, and *P. v. orientalis*, from Underbool.—W. S.

**Strong on the Origin of Melanin Pigment in Feather Germs.<sup>2</sup>**—Dr. Strong finds that melanin pigment granules occur occasionally in the so-called cylinder and inner-sheath cells of feather germs from the Common Fowl, and obtains further evidence that this pigment is of epidermal origin.

He found melanophores in the dermal pulp of the feather germs, presumably homologous with the dermal melanophores of the skin. While some of these had processes they did not, apparently distribute pigment to other cells.—W. S.

**Bird Conservation in 1917.**—The bulky report of the National Association of Audubon Societies must be read by everyone interested in bird protection. When we read the lengthy lists of persons engaged in this work today we are dazed at the progress of the movement. With hundreds of bird clubs being organized in every part of the country, thousands of school teachers introducing instruction on bird protection in their classes, with bird lecturers on the Chautauqua circuits and exhibitions of bird houses, feeding shelves and other paraphernalia on every side, it will soon be as hard to find a person who is not affiliated with bird conservation in some way or other, as it was some years ago to find one who was willing to sign a pledge to abandon the use of birds in millinery.

The movement has certainly gotten far beyond the ability of 'The Auk'

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VI, Part V. September 11, 1917.

<sup>2</sup> Some Observations on the Origin of Melanin Pigment in Feather Germs from the Plymouth Rock and Brown Leghorn Fowls. By R. M. Strong. Anatomical Record, Vol. 13, No. 2, July, 1917. pp. 97-108.

to properly notice the publications which are appearing in its interests. We can only refer to the regular publications of the various Audubon Societies and Game Protective Associations which are listed in every issue, under 'Publications Received' and limit our notices to the less known or special publications.

Among those before us at present there is a creditable little pamphlet on 'Bird Study' by J. W. Hungate, issued by the State Normal School of Cheyney, Wash., and the attractive 'Year Book' of the Hartford Bird Study Club, Conn., while mention should be made of the Game Laws for 1917, issued by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture which every hunter must have.— W. S.

✓ **Mullens and Swann's Bibliography of British Ornithology.**<sup>1</sup>—

This valuable work has reached completion by the issue of part six. This together with part five which appeared some months ago contain some exceedingly interesting biographies. Gilbert White, Bowdler Sharp, Tristram, Salvin, Saunders, Seebohm and many others, are familiar names to American ornithologists, and it is a satisfaction to find out something about the details of their lives and achievements.

The complete volume forms a necessary work of reference for every ornithological library, while thanks to the efforts of the publishers, it is a piece of book making of which everyone may well be proud.— W. S.

### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XIX, No. 5. September-October, 1917.

The Summer Life of the Virginia Rail. By Verdi Burteh.— With excellent photographic illustrations.

American Egrets in New York City. By Clark L. Lewis, Jr.— Three birds came to Van Cortland Park and remained for a number of weeks, one of them until October 10.

Nesting Habits of the Cliff Swallow. By Manley B. Townsend.— Seem to prefer unpainted buildings but not exclusively.

The plumages of the Barn Swallow and Martin are discussed by F. M. Chapman, with an attractive colored plate by Fuertes.

**Bird-Lore,** XIX, No. 6, November-December, 1917.

Winter Visitors to City Park, Denver, Colo. By J. D. Figgins.— Excellent photographs of the Bohemian Waxwing.

Taming the Evening Grosbeaks. By Edith K. Dunton.

A Remarkable Martin Roost in the City of Washington. By Harry C. Oberholser.

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<sup>1</sup>A Bibliography of British Ornithology from the earliest times to the end of 1912. By W. H. Mullens and H. Kirke Swann. Macmillan and Co., Ltd. London, 1917. Parts V and VI.