

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'¹—The last part of Mr. Mathews' work that we have received covers the families Caprimulgidæ and Micropodidæ and begins the Cuculidæ. There are nine plates and while most of them are up to the standard of the previous parts that of the Swiftlets appears particularly crude in comparison with the present-day standard of ornithological illustrations.

In the treatment of the Nightjars we note two new genera, *Rassornis* (p. 234), type *Caprimulgus macrurus* Horsf., and *Eximiornis* (p. 235), type, *C. eximius* Temm., and three new races: *Rassornis macrurus coincidens* (p. 241), Cairns, Queensland; *R. m. rogersi* (p. 242), Melville Island; and *R. m. aruensis* (p. 242), Aru Islands. The views of various recent students of the geographic races of this species as quoted by Mr. Mathews seem so irreconcilable that we question whether when subdivisions are carried to the present limits, where individual opinion is in many cases the most important factor in the discussion, we shall ever have any generally recognized results.

In connection with his treatment of the Swifts he goes at length into the systematic arrangement of the *Chaeturinae*, concluding that the presence of spines on the tail feathers of two genera is not necessarily evidence of close relationship, but that caudal spines may develop independently in genera not closely connected phylogenetically while a single genus may show them in various stages of development. His scheme, with the new genera which he proposes, is as follows:

LARGER FORMS.

Hirundapus Hodgs. Pallenia Bon. Streptoprocne Oberh.

SMALLER FORMS.

American. *Chaetura* Stephens.

West African. *Telacanthura* gen. nov. (p. 264), type *Chaetura ussheri* Sharpe.

Neafrapus gen. nov. (p. 264), type *C. cassini* Selater.

Alterapus nov. gen. (p. 264), type *C. sabini* Gray.

Indo-Malayan. *Rhaphidura* Oates.

Indicapus nov. gen. (p. 265), type *Acanthylis sylvatica* Tickell.

Madagascar. *Zoönavena* gen nov. (p. 265), type *C. grandidieri*.

Philippines. *Mearnsia* Ridgw.

New Guinea. *Papuanapus* gen. nov. (p. 266), type *C. nova-guineæ* D'Alb. and Salvad.

Cypseloides Streubel.

Nephœcetes Baird.

Aerornis Bertoni.

Chæturellus gen. nov. (p. 267), type *Hirundo rutila* Vieill.

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VII, Part III., August 26, 1918.

We notice but one new swift, *Zoönava francica oberholseri* (p. 253), for which no type specimen is cited though we infer that the type locality is the Fiji Islands.

In connection with the name *Nephacetes* which Mr. Mathews changes to *Nephocetes* he has perhaps overlooked the article in 'The Auk' 1899 (pp. 20-23), by the late Dr. Gill in which it is shown that the former spelling is the one which occurs first in the volume. While its use on p. xviii (Baird, Cassin and Lawrence, Birds of North America) may be regarded as a *nomen nudum* that on p. xxix, where it is definitely connected with the species *niger* Gmelin, cannot be disregarded.

Under the Cuckoos we note as new: *Vidgenia* (p. 311) type, *Cacomantis castaneiventris* and a race *C. rubricatus eyeri* (p. 320), from Eyer's Peninsula, S. Australia.

While the text as usual is largely devoted to nomenclature and classification, there are many notes of importance on the habits of the various species, and a vast amount of data on the parasitism of the Cuckoos.

There is a typographical error to which attention might be called on p. 247, where Mr. DeWitt Miller's name is cited as "Delbitt" Miller.

Mr. Mathews has now covered 404 species of the Australian avifauna and by consulting his 'Reference List' we should judge that he had his gigantic task more than half completed. He certainly is to be congratulated upon the persistence with which it has been carried on in spite of the war and its resultant hindrances, and we wish him all speed and success with the succeeding parts.—W. S.

Beebe's 'Jungle Peace.' ¹—In 'The Auk' for 1917 we had the pleasure of reviewing Capt. Beebe's 'Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana,' the report of the first season's work at the tropical research laboratory of the New York Zoölogical Society. This was of necessity a record of scientific achievement and was written in that spirit. In 'Jungle Peace' however, the author tells the same story in a way that appeals more directly to the layman. But be he scientist or layman, the reader who is fond of nature or of travel, and who picks up Capt. Beebe's little volume, will not be likely to lay it aside until he has read it through. To use his own words, the author has in this volume stolen "quietly up the side aisle of the great green wonderland, looking at all things obliquely, observing them as actors and companions rather than as species and varieties, softening facts with quiet meditation, leavening science with thoughts of the sheer joy of existence."

There is much the same charm in his writing that one finds in John Burroughs' books, but his field is much broader and he opens up a new world to his readers. The wild life of which he writes is far beyond the

¹ Jungle Peace. By William Beebe, Curator of Birds, New York Zoölogical Park, and Director of Tropical Research Station. Illustrated from Photographs, New York. Henry Holt and Company, 1918, pp. 1-297, price, \$1.75.