

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 *Nephocetes* 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.'** <sup>1</sup>—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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

experience of most of us, but we have long desired just such a vivid and intimate picture of this wonderful tropic country as Capt. Beebe has given us.

The title of the little book is explained in the first chapter. The author had played his part in the great struggle that has just come to a close in Europe and after the horrors of war he says "the mind seeks amelioration — some symbol of worthy content and peace — and for my part I turn with all desire to the jungles of the tropics. . . . The peace of the jungle is beyond all telling."

The chapters entitled, 'Sea-wrack' and 'Islands,' cover the voyage to British Guiana with visits to the Lesser Antilles and Barbados; while the others: 'The Pomeroun Trail,' 'A Hunt for Hoatzins'; 'Hoatzins at Home'; 'A Wilderness Laboratory'; 'The Convict Trail'; 'With an Army of Ants "Somewhere" in the Jungle', and 'Jungle Night,' treat of the Bartica District, British Guiana, and that on 'A Yard of Jungle' relates to Para at the mouth of the Amazon. All but three of the chapters have appeared in 'The Atlantic Monthly' and the many who enjoyed reading them there will be glad to have them brought together in the handy volume.— W. S.

**Riley on a Collection of Birds from Northeastern Siberia.**<sup>1</sup>— Mr. Copley Amory, Jr., accompanied the Koren Expedition to the Kolyma River region of northeastern Siberia in 1914 and obtained 228 specimens of birds and a few eggs which were all presented to the National Museum and are here reported upon by Mr. Riley. As Thayer and Bangs had already described a collection made by Mr. Koren on a previous expedition to the same region it was not to be expected that any new forms would be included in the present material, but many notes of interest on plumage and relationship are presented as well as some field notes by Mr. Amory. Seventy-six species are listed and of all but one of these specimens were obtained.— W. S.

**Shufeldt on the Skeleton of the Kea Parrot.**<sup>2</sup>— Dr. Shufeldt has had the opportunity of studying the skeleton of a specimen of *Nestor notabilis* recently received at the National Zoölogical Park, in a shipment of nine individuals presented by the New Zealand Government, this individual having died en route. He has prepared ten admirable photographs showing all the portions of the skeleton, and these have been excellently reproduced. There is also a detailed description of the bones, covering thirteen pages, in which there is occasional comparison with *Ara chloroptera* and *Amazona* and with Mivart's figure of the tongue of *Lorius flavopalliatius*.

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<sup>1</sup> Annotated Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Mr. Copley Amory, Jr., in Northeastern Siberia. By J. H. Riley. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 54, pp. 607-626. (Issued October 28, 1918.)

<sup>2</sup> The Skeleton of the "Kea Parrot" of New Zealand (*Nestor notabilis*). The Emu, XVIII, Part I, July 1, 1918, pp. 25-43.