

have been differentiated on the islands from the *F. coelebs* stock and the only other alternative is that the mainland stock which originally contributed their ancestors to the islands must have become extinct or is now represented by a few lingering individuals in some remote retreat not yet discovered. Space forbids further discussion of the interesting problems touched upon by the author and his paper should be read in its entirety by those who are interested in geographical distribution.

A map and two colored plates, one of the Chaffinches and one of the Titmice, illustrate the paper which is one of the most carefully prepared and philosophic that has recently appeared. The author states in his closing paragraph that "nine-tenths of the value of a collection of birds is to be found in the deductions which we can make from it," and he is to be heartily congratulated upon the excellent way in which he has demonstrated the value of his own collection according to this maxim.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Bird of Australia.'¹—The last parts of Mr. Mathews' great work continue the treatment of the Muscicapidae, covering the Australian "Robins," the "Tree Tits," "Fly-eaters," etc. In his systematic consideration of these birds the author follows his usual practice of excessive generic subdivision. In the treatment of subspecies he has improved very decidedly upon the method followed in some of the earlier parts by giving a concise statement of exactly how many races he recognizes under each species. We notice the following new forms described in the present parts, i. e., *Smicromis brevirostris mallee* (p. 132), Malee. Victoria, and *Wilsonavis richmondi gouldiana* (p. 143), Gosford, N. S. Wales in Part 2; and *Ethelorms cairnensis robinii* (p. 151) Cape York; *E. laevigaster intermissus* (p. 160) Melville Isl., *E. l. perconfusus* (p. 161) So. N. W. Australia, and *E. cantator weatherelli* (p. 164) in Part 3.

Leavitt's 'Bird Study in Elementary Schools.'—Bulletin No. 4 of the National Association of Audubon Societies² consists of a concise summary of such information as the teacher who desires to introduce bird study in some form into the school course, will require. The bulletin is by Dr. Robert G. Leavitt of the New Jersey State Normal School and seems admirably adapted to its purpose. The economic principle of bird protection is outlined as well as the interest, pleasure and moral effect of the study. Practical instructions to the teacher follow, methods of forming Audubon Clubs, school museums, how to attract birds and how and

¹The Birds of Australia by Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VIII, Part 2. June 17, 1920, pp. 81-144. Part 3, August 18, 1920, pp. 145-184. London, Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn.

²Bird Study in Elementary Schools. Bulletin No. 4. By Robert G. Leavitt, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Biology, New Jersey State Normal School at Trenton. National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York. Price, twenty-five cents. 192 pp. 44.

where to obtain books, pamphlets, and pictures illustrating bird life, etc. There are numerous half-tone illustrations from the Audubon section of 'Bird-Lore'.

As Mr. Pearson states in the foreword, teachers in New York State schools are now required by law to give some instruction in bird-study and it is likely that this will be a wide spread custom before many years pass by. In view of this fact and the extensive voluntary instruction now being given in the schools of the country, this little pamphlet of Dr. Leggitt's will be particularly welcome.—W. S.

Hudson's Recent Bird Books.—W. H. Hudson, well known for his writings on Patagonia, has recently published what is essentially a new edition of his 'Birds in a Village,' the first book written after his return to England, in 1893. The present volume bearing the title 'Birds in Town and Village'¹ has been largely rewritten and for portions of the old work which have been discarded, a series of new chapters entitled 'Birds in a Cornish Village' has been added.

The book deals with the familiar British birds and presents an intimate study of most of the species which will prove of value to the ornithologist as a work of reference while the enthusiasm of the writer will maintain the interest of any reader who may have only a slight interest in the "great out of doors." Unfortunately there is no way for one to find again the many interesting facts which he has passed in his reading and to which he may wish to refer, as no index has been provided by the publishers.

Another recent work by the same author is entitled 'Adventures among Birds'² and consists of a miscellaneous series of essays on birds that have appeared in various of the British magazines. Most of them describe tramps through various parts of England and no one who loves walking and nature can read the author's descriptions of his searches for the rarer species of birds and the aspects of the country through which he passed without having his sympathy aroused and wishing that he might follow those same paths.

As in the case of the former volume there are many observations of value scattered all through the pages. There is considerable discussion of bird song and its origin, the author differing with Mr. Witchell who ascribes the resemblances to human music which we recognize in some bird songs to mimetic ability. He considers that the Blackbird's song for instance approaches nearer to our music and that of the Grasshopper Warbler and certain other species to insect music, "simply because it is their nature" to do so. The illustrations to this book are reproductions of the Bewick woodcuts; while those of the former volume are in color

¹ Birds in Town and Village. By W. H. Hudson, F.Z.S. With Pictures in Colour by E. J. Detmold, New York. E. P. Dutton & Company, 681 Fifth Avenue, 1920, pp. 1-323. 8 plates.

² Adventures among Birds. By W. H. Hudson, New York. E. P. Dutton & Company, 681 Fifth Avenue, 1920, pp. 1-319.