

holser seems to head the list in the matter of number of publications with 25 titles. The full alphabetical list is followed by a subject index arranged under various headings and a systematic list of new species and genera.—W. S.

**Whitman's 'Familiar Studies of Wild Birds.'**—This volume<sup>1</sup> is primarily a collection of excellent half-tones of photographs of birds and nests taken by the author—seventy-one in number. The eighty-five pages of text, with the exception of two chapters on 'Notes from the Indiana Sand Dunes' and 'Photography of Birds,' are explanations of the plates with notes on the habits and actions of the birds that were under observation. The species treated are the Cedar Waxwing, Bronzed Grackle, Parkman's Wren, Brewer's Blackbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Common Tern, Yellow Warbler, Mourning Dove, Horned Owl and Kingbird, each of which is pictured in a series of plates, while there are single views of a few others. The western species were studied at Strawberry Valley, Utah.

Mr. Whitman's pictures will prove of especial interest to those who devote themselves to out-door photography. From a scientific standpoint the study of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird is perhaps the most important, particularly the photograph and description of the stubby-billed young, black skinned and nearly naked, with only a few yellow hairs ornamenting their backs. The Grackles feeding by the water's edge are rather unique as bird pictures. We notice one unfortunate slip on page 33, where the technical name of the Rock Wren has in some way been used for Parkman's Wren. The book is exceedingly well gotten up and the plates are well printed.—W. S.

**Slater and Mackworth-Praed on the Birds of the Sudan.**—Messrs. W. L. Slater and C. Mackworth-Praed have been engaged in a critical study of several collections of birds from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which have come into possession of the British Museum—notably those of Mr. A. L. Butler—3100 skins; and of Messrs. A. Chapman and Capt. Lynes, 1600 skins; and that of Major Cuthbert Christy. The results of their studies have been published in four instalments in 'The Ibis' from 1918 to 1920, and now appear as a bulky "separate" of 336 pages.<sup>2</sup>

The attempt has been made to include all species reliably recorded from the region under consideration and some 773 names appear in the list. The comment is wholly technical dealing with relationship, racial varia-

<sup>1</sup> Familiar Studies of Wild Birds—Their Haunts and Habits. By F. N. Whitman. With many photographs by the author. Boston, Richard G. Badger. The Gorham Press (1920), pp. 1-85, 8vo. Price \$3.00.

<sup>2</sup> A List of the Birds of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. By W. L. Slater, M.B. O.U., and C. Mackworth-Praed, M.B.O.U. The Ibis, July, 1918, October, 1918, October, 1919, and October, 1920.

tion, distribution and nomenclature and in many cases all of the species or geographical races of a group are worked out, making the paper of much wider importance. Genera or species which are so monographed are the spotted-breasted Weavers (*Ploceus cucullatus*, etc.), *Estrilda astrild*, *Hypochera*, *Prinia melba*, *Serinus mosambicus*, *Poliospiza gularis*, *Passer griseus*, and its allies, *Motocilla flava*, *Cyanomitra verticalis*, *Antheptes longmari*, *Laniarius aethiopicus*, *Dryoscoptes gambensis*, *Tschagra senegala*, *Cisticola erythrops*, *Sylvietta*, *Prinia mystacea*, *Pycnonotus* (European forms), *Phyllastrephus flavicollis*, *Elminia longicauda*, *Riparia longicauda*, *Riparia paludicola*, *Hirunda puella*, *Mesopicus goertae*, *Halcyon malimbicus*, *Eurystomus afer*, *Glareola nuchalis*, *Ptilopachus petrosus*, and *Francolinus clappertoni*. A number of new forms are proposed, most of which have been noticed from time to time in our reviews of 'The Ibis,' but the following occur in the October, 1920, instalment: *Stigmatopelia senegalensis sudanensis* (p. 832), Khartoum; *Turtur afra mearnsi* (p. 836), Meridi; *Ptilopachus petrosus butleri* (p. 842), Buval; and *P. p. ladoensis* (p. 843), Mvolo; all of which are to be credited to the junior author, who is individually responsible for the last part.

We notice that Dr. J. C. Phillips' new Nightjar, *Caprimulgus cleanorae*, described in 'Proceedings Biol. Soc. Washington,' XXVI, 1913, p. 167, and figured in 'The Auk,' 1914, pp. 149-158, is identified with *C. trimaculatus tristigma* Rupp. on the authority of Mr. Butler. Neither of Dr. Phillips' papers, it might be added, appear in the bibliography, while the authors have misspelled the name that he proposed.

This notable contribution to African ornithology is illustrated by a colored plate of skins of *Cisticola* and a map of the Sudan. It should long be our authoritative technical work on the birds of the region.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'**—The fourth part of volume VIII, which is now before us, continues the treatment of the flycatchers, covering the genera *Poecilodryas* and *Pachycephala* and their allies. Several new genera are proposed in accordance with the author's extreme ideas upon generic subdivision: *Peneothello* (p. 185), for *Poecilodryas sigillata* DeVis.; *Pleciodryas* (p. 185), for *Megalestes albonotatus* Salv.; *Papualestes* (p. 186), for *Myiolestes cyanus* Salv.; and *Gemmaeodryas* (p. 186), for *Eopsaltria placens* Ramsay. There are also several new races of *Pachycephala pectoralis* and one of *P. robusta* described.

The apparent relationship of some of the birds considered in the present part to Timaline forms allied to *Colluriocinclia* is discussed, this case being a very good illustration of the intricate interrelationship of Passerine groups.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By G. M. Mathews. Vol. VIII, No. 4, October 13, 1920. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London.