

The illustrations consist of an outline map of the state and a number of half-tones of scenery, birds and nests from photographs of Mr. A. D. DuBois and the author, some of these having appeared previously in 'The Auk,' although the fact is not mentioned.

The author is to be congratulated in sticking to the nomenclature of the 'A. O. U. Check-List,' except in some emendations to common names. The insertion of every proposed innovation in nomenclature in a work of this kind serves no purpose but to confuse the reader and detract from the value of the publication.

Both the author and the Cooper Club are to be congratulated upon the appearance of this notable addition to the well known series of which it forms a part.—W. S.

Hartert on the Types in the Tring Museum.—In November, 1918, Dr. Ernst Hartert published a list of the types of birds in the Brehm Collection in the Tring Museum, which was followed in 1919 by the first instalment of a catalogue of the types in the general collection, covering the Corvidae to the Meliphagidae. The second instalment¹ is now before us carrying the list from the Nectariniidae through the Troglodytidae.

Some idea of the size and importance of the Tring Collection may be gathered from the fact that this list, so far, includes no less than 878 types. Most of the types are of species described by Lord Rothschild and Dr. Hartert although there are a number of other authors. In the course of his work Dr. Hartert has had occasion to name several new forms which appear in this list for the first time: *Cinnyris alinae vulcanorum* (p. 426) Kivu, Urwald; *C. souimanga apolis* (p. 428) Madagascar; *Zosterops intermedia periplecta* (p. 434) Lombok; *Pellicinius zeylonus phanus* (p. 451) Farta Bay, W. Africa; *Prinia mistacea graueri* (p. 457) near Baraka, Africa; *Sylvietta leucophrys chloronota* (p. 460) Baraka, Africa; *Cisticola tinniens perpalla* (p. 466) Benguella; *Turdus obsoletus parambanus* (p. 475) Paramba, Ecuador; *T. fumigatus caparo* (p. 475) Trinidad; *Cyornis banyumas peromissa* (p. 491) Selayar, south of Celebes; *Rhipidura rufiventris tiandu* (p. 497) Taam Island, Tiandu Group.—W.S.

Gurney's 'Early Annals of Ornithology.'—In this volume² Mr. Gurney has collected a mass of data concerning the earliest published accounts of birds, with exact quotations from the texts and reproductions of a number of the most interesting drawings. Beginning with the prehistoric bird pictures in the Spanish caves he traces the development of

¹ Types of Birds in the Tring Museum. By Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. B. Types in the General Collection. (Continued from *Novitates Zoologicae*, 1919, p. 178.) (*Novitates Zoologicae* XXVII, pp. 425-505. November, 1920.)

² *Early Annals of Ornithology.* By J. H. Gurney, F. Z. S., Author of "The Gannet, A Bird with a History," "A Catalogue of the Birds of Prey, *Accipitres* and *Striges*," etc., with illustrations from photographs and old prints. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, 1921. 8 vo. pp. 1-240. 12 shillings, 6 pence net.

ornithology century by century down to the time of Linnaeus, Pennant and Latham.

Prior to the tenth century we have only scattered mention of birds in old Saxon verses, where the Gannet, Kite, Goshawk and Raven appear. For several centuries however the birds most frequently mentioned in literature were the domestic fowl and other birds used for food, and rapacious species employed in falconry, which practice is said to have dated back to 1700 B. C. in Persia and even earlier in China. Pheasant hunting is mentioned in the Welsh laws of the tenth century, and in the fifteenth century laws were passed to check the ravages of Rooks. The Venetian ambassador in 1496 was astonished at the abundance of bird life in England and reports that one or two thousand tame swans could be seen at once on the Thames. Swan laws and the marking of the bills of swans to denote ownership come in for much attention a little later.

In the sixteenth century there is an interesting housekeeping record of birds brought to Hunstanton Hall, Norfolk and several early price lists of birds, show at what a ridiculously low cost they could be purchased. A swan in the fourteenth century brought four shillings, a snipe a penny, while four larks could be had for the same price, and a teal for two pence.

Details of the great feast, when Neville the Chancellor of England was made Archbishop of York indicate what a place birds played in the menu of the fifteenth century. The program called for 4,000 Mallard and Teal, 2,000 Geese, 400 Swan, 400 Plover, 104 Peacocks, etc., sixteen species of birds being enumerated.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries we find the first writers who could be considered "ornithologists," while the first list of English birds is that of Christopher Merrett, 1666, a poor effort at best, which was followed in 1676 by the famous 'Ornithologia' of Willughby and Ray.

Space will not permit a more detailed review of Mr. Gurney's book but to those who are interested in early bird lore and in tracing the origin of domestic fowl and the former status in England of many birds now rare, will find a perusal of his pages intensely interesting. A good index serves as a clue to the voluminous and diverse information which the book contains.—W. S.

Swarth's 'Birds of the Papago Saguaro.'—This National Monument lying just east of Phoenix, Arizona, is a tract of land set aside for the conservation of the peculiar desert vegetation of the region, which is so rapidly disappearing before the advance of cultivation. Connected with it by the Apache trail are the Tonto National Monument and the Roosevelt Bird Reservation some eighty miles farther east. The purpose of the present pamphlet,¹ gotten out by the National Park service, is to present

¹ Birds of the Papago Saguaro National Monument and the Neighboring Region Arizona. By H. S. Swarth. Washington, Government Printing Office. 1920 pp. 1-63, [with eight plates from photographs of birds and habitats.] Dept. of the Interior National Park Service.