

As new names proposed in this part we notice three races of *Lewinornis rufiventris* and two of *Eopsaltria griseogularis* as well as a new genus *Peneceanthe* (p. 273) for *E. leucura*.

In the preface the author further explains his views on the importance of anatomical characters in classification, emphasising the importance of a full knowledge of the subject but stating that "insignificant items have been given great degree and the higher classification based on variable anatomical details of little import." After all, the relative importance of anatomical and superficial characters seems to be a matter of personal opinion. Mr. Mathews objects to our use of the word "sure" in the statement "we find just as much divergence in external characters among species which we feel sure must be closely allied"; but he immediately follows with the statement that in "a group—* * * * * whose evolution as to superficialities is *known* [italics ours] their morphology should be contrasted and the degree of anatomical variation determined." But if we claim to *know* how external characters have developed why may we not be *sure* of anatomical relationships? We are however heartily in accord with Mr. Mathews in his reliance upon external characters in conjunction with morphological features in improving our classification and our criticism was due really to a lack of clarity in his former statements regarding the matter.

The first part of Vol. IX covers the old genera *Rhipidura* and *Myiagra*. *Setosura setosa davidi* (p. 31) appears as a new name for *S. s. macgillivrayi*, preoccupied; while *Leucocura leucophrys carteri* (p. 41) is described as new. It is not always clear whom Mr. Mathews is naming his new forms after, as he rarely tells us. An appendix to one of his lists containing information would be valuable historically.—W. S.

Van Oort's 'Birds of Holland'.—A double part (7-8) of this important work¹ consists entirely of plates (61-80) of ducks, the text to which will be issued in Part 9. These plates are excellent in execution and are of especial interest to American ornithologists since the Blue-winged Teal, Pintail, Shoveller, European Widgeon, Goldeneye, Old-squaw, Greater Scaup and the Scoters are among the species depicted. All sexual and seasonal plumages are shown especially the eclipse plumage and the downy young which makes this a work of reference of the greatest importance. We do not recall another work in which the plumages are so fully illustrated. W. S.

Wetmore on Cave Birds of Porto Rico.—Among the mammal remains recently obtained and reported upon by H. E. Anthony from the

¹ Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort, directeur van 's Rijks Museum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden. Met ongeveer vierhonderd gekleurde platen. Martinus Nijhoff. Aflevering 7-8.

¹ Five New Species of Birds from Cave Deposits in Porto Rico. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 33, pp. 77-82. December 30, 1920.