

its forms, all across Asia from the Sea of Azof and the Black Sea to the Japan Sea, and from the Tropic of Cancer to 48° N. Latitude, in Manchuria.

Beebe's statement that in a single ricefield in China representatives of three recognized forms of *P. colchicus* were obtained and two undescribed ones illustrates the variability of the characters that might and often have been regarded as of systematic value. No less than 35 forms of this species have been named of which Beebe recognizes 23, admitting at the same time our very imperfect knowledge of the birds in much of their wide range, and the lack of suitable series of specimens for study and comparison. We shall look with interest for the fourth and concluding volume of this notable work which the publishers promise before the close of the year and congratulate both them and the author upon the painstaking care and energy which have produced such splendid results.—W. S.

Van Oort's 'Birds of the Netherlands'.¹—This triple installment consists entirely of plates, covering many of the Hawks, Eagles, Quail, Shore-birds, Rails and Cranes, the thirty plates bearing numbers between 89 and 183. They are of the same high quality as those in preceding parts and, although the large size of some of the figures and the crowding on certain of the plates detract from their artistic beauty, they are admirable for purposes of identification while the representation of the various plumages adds materially to their value. The publisher is making excellent progress with the plates and promises the letter press in succeeding parts.—W. S.

Swann's revised 'Synopsis of the Accipitres'.¹—Mr. Swann after a further study of his subject decided to issue an entirely new edition. This follows exactly the style of the original edition but contains many additions and changes in nomenclature, and some alteration in the systematic arrangement. The author has received assistance and criticism from many sources and has had access to a manuscript list of Accipitres prepared recently by Mr. W. L. Sclater, all of which have helped to make the list as complete "as human exertion" can make it, though the author admits that further corrections, etc., are inevitable. The number of species now

¹ Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Gravenhage Martinus Nyhoff. Afl. 10-12.

¹ A Synopsis of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey). By H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. Corresponding Fellow, Amer. Orn. Union. Second Edition, Revised and Corrected throughout. London. Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd., 38, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, W. C. 2, and 28, Essex Street, Stand, W. C. 2, Price 6s. per part. Part I (Sept. 28, 1921) pp. 1-63; Part II. (Jan. 3, 1922). pp. 65-122; Part III, (Feb. 16, 1922) pp. 123-178 plus addendum to pp. 3-4 and Errata et Addenda i-iii; Part IV, (May 20, 1922) pp. 179-233 plus title, preface and index, i-viii and 1 page Errata et Addenda.)

recognized is 329 as against 316, and of genera 99 as against 89 in the earlier edition.

We notice that the genera *Climacocircus*, *Urubitornis*, *Oroaëtus*, *Thalassoaëtus*, *Cuncuma*, *Helicolestes*, *Aviceda*, and *Rhynchofalco* have been recognized, while *Neohierax* (p. 184) is proposed as a new genus, with *Poliohierax insignis* as type, and the following new forms are proposed *Odontriorchis palliatus guianensis*, Paramaribo, Surinam; *O. p. mexicanus*, Tampico, Mex., and *O. forbesi* Pernambuco, Braz. (all on p. 159).

Polioaëtus we notice is shifted from the Pandiones to the vicinity of *Haliaëtus* and *Pithecophaga* to the Harpy Eagles, while the genus *Archibuteo* (now *Triorchis*) is still regarded as distinct instead of being merged with *Buteo* as advocated by Oberholser.

Mr. Swann has certainly spent much time and pains on this new edition of his list and our knowledge of the group has been materially advanced.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'—Three parts of Mr. Gregory Mathews' great work have appeared since our last notice, and in all the high standard previously established has been maintained. They cover the families Cyclostomatidae, Turdidae and Sylviidae.

The first of these includes a number of characteristic Australian birds which the early settlers were at a loss to identify with the British species that they were familiar with at home, and hence we have such divergent popular names as, Babbler, Song-Lark, Field-Wren, Scrub-Robin, etc., while some especially notable species have received distinctive names from their peculiar vocal accomplishments as the Pilot Bird and Coach Whip Bird. The habits of all these are covered by quotations from Gould, and contributions from Ashby, Carter, White and other present day Australian ornithologists and correspondents of the author.

The thrushes are represented only by a species of *Oreocincla* and the so-called "Chats."

We note two new races described in Part 5. *Drymodes brunneopygia intermedia* (p. 214) western So. Australia, entire diagnosis "paler and more rufous" and *D. beccarii adjacens* (p. 218) Aru Islands "darker above especially on the tail." There is no clue as to where the types may be found. If as is quite probable another form may some day be found on the Aru Islands, this careless description of Mathews' will serve as a stumbling block until the location of the type is discovered and a comparison is made. It is curious that an investigator who has spent so much time and energy in ably correcting and elucidating the careless work of his predecessors should himself be guilty of similar lapses.—W. S.

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. H. F. and G. Witherby. London, England. Vol. 1X. Part 5 (December 15, 1921), Part 6. (February 15, 1922), Part 7 (April 4, 1922).