

Bannerman on 'The Birds of Southern Nigeria'.¹—This first installment covers all of the passerine birds from Southern Nigeria contained in the British Museum collections; the other families it is proposed to treat in another paper in the same journal. The paper is almost entirely systematic though a few collectors' notes on habits, food, etc., are interpolated. Usually only range is considered with reference to the original description of the form, but there are often a few lines of "distinctive characters" and in complicated cases considerable discussion of the status of the various described forms.

We notice the following new race described:—*Tschagra senegala chadensis* (p. 355), Lake Chad district. Apparently this is the only one but without some list of new forms or some distinctive style of type it is very difficult to locate them in a paper abounding in technical names. Mr. Bannerman has prepared a review which will prove a most important work of reference for students of African birds.—W. S.

Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds'.²—This part of Mr. Witherby's excellent 'Handbook' covers the remainder of the ducks, the Steganopodes and the Tubinares. All the admirable characteristics of the earlier parts are maintained, the descriptions are full and the questions of range and related forms carefully worked out. In this connection many American birds are referred to and the work becomes of importance to American ornithologists in the study of our own avifauna. The American Eider, *Somateria dresseri*, is here regarded as a subspecies of *mollissima* as is the Pacific bird *v-nigra*.—W. S.

Kutchin's 'What Birds Have Done with Me'.³—This little volume consists of a number of popular essays on various aspects of bird life and of bird biographies, with much that is autobiographical and a strong undercurrent of bird protection running through it all. The book will attract many, especially children, and doubtless win many to the cause of the birds. Ornithologists are scored for the killing of birds for any purpose whatever. The obtaining of 271 stomachs of birds for scientific analysis of their food habits is characterized as a "successful drive upon the part of the Allies—Scientists, Plume Hunters and Curators," and the statement follows "back of much of the so-called scientific examination

¹The Birds of Southern Nigeria. Including a detailed review of the races of species known to occur there. By David A. Bannerman, M. B. E., B. A., M. B. O. U., F. R. G. S.; C. F. A. O. U. (British Museum, Natural History). With Notes on the Topography of the Country—By Robin Kemp and Willoughby P. Lowe, M. B. O. U. Revue Zoologique Africaine. 1X, Fasc. 3. pp. 254-426. 1921.

²A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326, High Holborn, London, W. C. 1. Pt. XIII. (Vol. II, pp. 353-448. February 16, 1922.

³What Birds Have Done With Me. By Victor Kutchin, M. D., A Bird Lover. Boston, Richard G. Badger. The Gorham Press. 1922. pp. 1-274. Frontispiece portrait of the author. Price \$2.00 net.

of birds' stomachs is the commercial demand for a stuffed specimen." Such statements only serve to illustrate the author's unfamiliarity with this side of his subject. We could never have secured adequate laws for the protection of our birds had we not been able to meet the hard-headed legislators with just the scientific facts that the author criticises, and those laws as he ought to know have stopped the commercializing of stuffed specimens.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Riley.—Mr. J. H. Riley has recently described¹ *Dryonastes grahami* (p. 59) from Szechuan, China, and proposed² a new genus *Orospingus* (p. 61) for *Chlorospingus goeringi* ScI. and Salv. He has also pointed out³ that *Noddi* Desmurs 1847 is the first tenable name for the Inca Tern, that *Grammopsittaca lineola maculata* Ridgway really came from Venezuela and should be called *tigrinus* Souancé³, and that *Anas arcuata* Horsfield is still available for the Tree Duck⁴ to which it has usually been applied, although without consulting all the references it is difficult to follow Mr. Riley's rather involved explanation.³—W. S.

Check List of the Birds of Essex County, Mass.⁵—It is only proper that such an active organization as the Essex County Club should want a field check list of its own and the present little pocket list is the result. It is astonishing to see how many different field check lists there are, and nearly everyone has personal preferences and likewise finds points to criticise in the lists of others.

In the present list we find that with names and dates, etc., all in heavy faced type and printed close together, it is extremely difficult for the eye to separate them and almost impossible for it to carry across to the proper line on the opposite blank page. The probability of getting one's notes opposite the wrong species is so great as to constitute a serious danger. The printing and character of the data, are however, excellent.—W. S.

McGregor and Marshall on Philippine Birds for Boys and Girls.⁶—We are constantly astonished at the spread of the interest in popular bird study but nothing in recent literature has emphasized this fact more

¹ Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, p. 59.

² Ibid. p. 61.

³ Ibid. p. 77.

⁴ Ibid. p. 78.

⁵ Check List of the Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts April, 1922. (12 pp. of list and 12 blank for notes). To be had from the Secretary, 88 Washington Square, Salem, Mass.

⁶ Philippine Birds for Boys and Girls. By Richard C. McGregor and Elizabeth J. Marshall with illustrations by Macario Ligaya. Manila. Bureau of Printing 1922. pp. 1-138.