

general as is evidenced by the protest in the January 'Auk', and its very advocates will soon make its abandonment inevitable. This is however a criticism of a practice, not of the excellent list before us.

We notice that while several of the recently proposed nomenclatural changes are adopted others are rejected, as the continued use of *Merula* for the Thrushes allied to our Robin, while *Bucephala* is brought into use for the Bufflehead Duck, and *Marila*, dating from Reichenbach, is used for the Scaup.

All in all the authors have produced an admirable list of the birds of Japan which will be a most convenient work of reference for ornithologists of other countries as well.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'¹—Two parts of Volume X have appeared since our last notice, practically completing the Sylviidae. The remaining families include, according to the author's 'List,' about 150 species, which at the present rate of progress, should be covered in about twelve more parts, so that the end of Mr. Mathews' monumental work is at last in sight and we learn from another source that the manuscript has been completed.

The plates of the Blue Wrens and their allies which make up a large part of the present issues form some of the most attractive illustrations of the series. The text continues on the same lines as in the earlier parts, containing lengthy discussions on nomenclature and the number and relationship of the subspecies. In the latter connection the author is often far from clear as to his intentions, while his descriptions are unfortunately meager. On page 69 appears "*Malurus melanotus musgravei* subsp. nov. (Described)," but whether it is intended as a new form or not we cannot determine, nor where it is "described," though certainly not here. *M. splendens perthi* (p. 73) is a new name for *pectoralis* Gould while *Hallornis leuconotus wongani* (p. 83) has no diagnosis except that it is the darkest race of the species and comes from the Wongan Hills. Other new forms are: *Rosina comata rogersiana* (p. 129) from Derby, apparently described here although the description is in quotation marks, as in the case of forms previously described elsewhere; *Stipiturus malachurus richmondi* (p. 145) Richmond River; *Sphenura longirostris mastersi* (p. 156) King George Sound; and *Diaphorella modestus obscurior* (p. 185) Broken Hills, New South Wales. Mr. Mathews quotes Gould as to the rarity of the peculiar lilac tint on the head of *Rosina coronata* which that author only recalls elsewhere in the Bower-birds (*Chlamydoderae*). Mathews adds that it also occurs in the Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) and we might suggest that in the Pink-headed Duck (*Rhodonessa*) and in *Nyctiornis* almost the same tint is to be found.—W. S.

¹ The Birds of Australia by Gregory M. Mathews, London; H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W. C. I. Vol. X Part 2, December 12, 1922 (pp. 57-136); Part 3, January 30, 1923 (pp. 137-208).