

Six half-tone plates illustrate many nests and nesting birds and show several characteristic types of North Dakota scenery.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'—The first part of Volume XI¹ contains the genera *Falcunculus*, *Oreoica*, *Aphelocephala*, *Sphenostoma*, and one species of *Neositta*. Part 2 completes the Nuthatches and Creepers. No new forms are described in either instalment.—W. S.

Kirke Swann's 'Chronological List of British Birds.'—This brochure² which is published as a supplement to Mullen's and Swann's 'A Bibliography of British Ornithology' aims to present the names of all the species and subspecies of British birds arranged in the order of their description in scientific literature. There is also a list of genera on the same plan and of the principal generic and specific names which have been discarded.

All bibliographic works have their interest and while the reviewer has in the past considered the advisability of such a list of American bird names he came to the conclusion that if effort were to be expended on such a list it would be better to make it a chronological list of the first mention of each bird in literature rather than a list of the accepted names. A list of the latter type is always subject to change. For example the British Bullfinch naturally does not appear in Mr. Swann's work until 1917, when it was first given a distinctive trinomial name, but it was known in literature at least 200 years earlier and had Mr. Swann written ten years ago when it was regarded as identical with the continental form it would have been entered at 1758.

However these remarks in no way reflect upon the excellence of this little book and the care that has been bestowed both upon its compilation and printing. It is but fitting that a bibliography should be a fine piece of printing and this is distinctly so in the present case.—W. S.

Finley on Hunting Birds with a Camera.—When bird photography is mentioned one naturally thinks of Mr. Finley and in the August issue of the 'National Geographic Magazine' he has published an account³ of his experiences in hunting birds with a camera that will interest all bird students especially such as "take pictures."

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Volume XI, Part I. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London W. C. 1. October 8, 1923. pp. 1-56, Plates 491-496. Part 2. November 21, 1923. pp. 57-120, plates 497-502.

² A Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times. Supplement. A Chronological List of British Birds. By H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., & c. Corresponding Fellow of Amer. Orn. Union. London, Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd., 2, 3 & 4 Arthur Street, New Arthur Street. 1923. pp. i-xvii + 1-42. Price 5 shillings net.

³ Hunting Birds with a Camera. A Record of Twenty Years of Adventure in Obtaining Photographs of Feathered Wild Life in America. By William L. Finley. With Illustrations from Photographs by H. T. Bohlman, Irene Finley and the Author. Reprinted from the National Geographic Magazine, August, 1923.

The half-tone illustrations from the author's own photographs exhibit some of the best of his work and are striking presentations of bird activities as well as works of art.—W. S.

Hartert's 'Die Vogel der palaarktischen Fauna.'—The first supplement to Dr. Hartert's famous work¹ on the birds of the palaearctic region appeared early in the autumn and consists of additional races and species described since the close of the work as well as additional notes on distribution, etc. Everything available has been included up to January, 1923. There seem to be no new forms described in the present supplement.—W. S.

Chapman on Mutation in Buarremon.—This paper² is the outcome of a study of two species of the genus *Buarremon*—*B. brunneinucha* and *B. inornatus* which differ from one another only in the extent of white on the under surface and the presence or absence of a black pectoral band. The former bird is wide ranging and exhibits individual variation in the characters above mentioned while the latter occupies a very limited area in the subtropical zone of western Ecuador where *B. brunneinucha* is unknown, though it is present in western Ecuador to the north and south.

Dr. Chapman maintains that there is a tendency in *B. brunneinucha* to a greater extension of white below and to the disappearance of the pectoral band, and that isolation, in the case of individuals with this tendency strongly present, has resulted in the distinct species *B. inornatus* which is not dependent upon climatic or other observable environmental factors for its origin. In other words it is a mutant of *B. brunneinucha*. Continuing his investigations to other groups of the genus he finds that the races of *B. assimilis* exhibit variations in head markings correlated to a large extent with geographic distribution but so variable locally as to suggest that the several races owe their existence to a tendency to vary in these characters rather than to the direct action of environment. In other words the characters in question are mutations which under favorable conditions become of subspecific value. The potentiality for abrupt variation, independent of environment, is further shown by the occurrence of a black banded individual in the heart of the range of the white breasted *B. assimilis* which so far as color is concerned is identical with *B. poliophrys* of central Peru.

In his summary Dr. Chapman says that in his opinion the presence or absence of a pectoral band, vertical streak or superciliary line does not materially affect a species' chances of success or failure and that natural selection has played no part in their development. It is encouraging to

¹ Die Vögel der palaarktischen Fauna. Systematische Übersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asien und der Mittelmeerregion vorkommenden Vögel. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Nachtrag I (bis Januar 1923) Berlin. (NW 6, Karlstr. II.) Verlag von R. Friedländer & Sohn. September, 1923. pp. 1-92.

² Mutation Among Birds in the Genus Buarremon. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. XLVIII, Art. IX, pp. 243-278. October 15, 1923.