

of mammals and birds represent early stages in the differentiation of species," and also with his reply to the suggestion that since many organisms are differently influenced by different environments within the limits of the individual lifetime, may not this be true of subspecies? To this he says that for the genus *Peromyscus* he has offered detailed disproof of such a contention.

At the conclusion of his paper he says: "The upshot of my discussion is that we are not yet prepared to frame any adequate general hypothesis as to species formation . . . and it is my belief that the facts of geographic variation will bulk as large in the end as those of Mendelian inheritance." This is particularly significant coming from a geneticist who has carried on abundant experiments and is not merely discussing theories and possibilities.—W. S.

Stoner on the Apteryx.—In a recent paper¹ Prof. Dayton Stoner describes the habits of *Apteryx mantelli* as observed by him in the zoological park at Wellington, New Zealand, and presents some general information about this interesting bird.

When handled it hisses and kicks forward with its powerful feet. Its nest is a hole in a bank, excavated in part by the female, while the male incubates the single (sometimes two) egg. The young are hatched in a helpless condition but develop rapidly.—W. S.

Lewis on the Birds of Antigonish, Nova Scotia.—Mr. Harrison F. Lewis has published a list² of the birds of Antigonish County based upon a residence there from August, 1913 to June, 1914. While the title indicates only migration data the paper is really an excellent annotated list of the birds observed. It comprises 91 species with rather detailed discussion of some of them. It should prove a valuable addition to the literature of Nova Scotia birds.—W. S.

Bannerman on Birds of the Ivory Coast.—This paper³ is an account of the collection made by the British Museum expedition to the Ivory Coast of French West Africa under the leadership of Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe, who as it happened did practically all of the work. He has submitted an account of the itinerary and field work while Mr. Bannerman presents a list of the species which is fully annotated and often includes discussion of related forms. In this connection *Nilais minor ruwenzorii* (p. 698) from Mokia, Ruwenzori is described as new.

¹ A Flightless New Zealand Bird. By Prof. Dayton Stoner. The Scientific Monthly pp. 182-184, XVII, No. 2. August, 1923.

² Notes on Spring Bird Migration of 1914 at Antigonish, N. S. By Harrison F. Lewis. Transactions Nova Scotian Inst. Science. XV, Part 2, pp. 119-128. June 30, 1923.

³ Report on the Birds Collected During the British Museum Expedition to the Ivory Coast (French West Africa). By David A. Bannerman. With an Account of the Field Work. By Willoughby P. Lowe. The Ibis, October, 1923. pp. 667-748.

The paper is a valuable contribution to the bird life of a little known part of the African continent and the collector is to be congratulated upon making such a good collection under unusual difficulties, and the author upon working up the material so satisfactorily.—W. S.

Stuart Baker's 'Hand-List of the Birds of India.'—This work¹ consists of a reprint of the lists that have been appearing in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, December, 1920 to April, 1923, repaged, with addenda covering seven pages. It presents a handy list of the birds of the Indian Empire, 2138 in number, including subspecies.

Technical and English names are given with the citation of original publication and type locality and a brief statement of range.

The author is now engaged upon his 'Avifauna of British India,' one volume of which has appeared, and the present list is to give working ornithologists a "rough catalogue showing what advance had already been made in distribution, nomenclature, etc., since Blanford's time" and to "fill the gap until the last volume of the 'Avifauna' appears." The list will prove exceedingly useful and we hope ornithologists will accede to Mr. Stuart Baker's request and give him the benefit of any suggestions they may have tending to make the list more perfect.—W. S.

Birds in the Ecology of Spitsbergen and Bear Island.—The 29th paper² resulting from the Oxford University Expedition to Spitsbergen, 1921, deals with ecology. Birds are frequently mentioned and numerous notes on their food are given. The interesting conclusion is reached that birds contribute in an important way to maintenance of abundance and variety of life in the region, by bringing to the land as the residue of their marine food the principal supply of nitrogen upon which the plants subsist and which is therefore essential to the existence of various chains of organisms. Three species of Collembola, four of Terdigrades and one of diptera were found to live in the nest material of the birds and several species of bird lice live directly upon their hosts. All in all it is evident that birds play a very important part in the economy of the limited biota of these far northern lands.—W. L. M.

Economic Ornithology in Recent Entomological Publications.—The rather heterogeneous contributions to economic ornithology here noted are related only by occurrence in publications regarded as entomological.

¹ A Hand-List of Genera and Species of Birds of the Indian Empire. By E. C. Stuart Baker. Reprinted from the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society together with a Foreword and Addenda and Corrigenda prepared by the Author. Bombay [1923] pp. i-ix + 1-240. Price 6 Rupees (8 shillings net). Sold by Dulac & Co., 34-36 Margaret St., Cavendish Square, London.

² Sumner Hayes, U. S. and Elton, C. S. Journ. Ecol. 11, No. 2, Sept., 1923, pp. 214-286, pls. 2-4, figs. 1-7.