

transit, in the hold of a vessel or in a railway car, or in quarantine or in dealers' establishments. It is also pointed out that the seemingly high death rate in captivity is not as great relatively compared with wild animals as we might suppose, as in the case of wild animals at large we rarely or never see the sick individuals.

Dr. Fox and the Zoological Society are to be congratulated upon producing what is apparently the most important work of its kind and one which, as already pointed out, will be of service in many different ways as a work of reference.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'—The last issue of this work¹ completes the Tree Creepers and covers the White-eyes and part of the Flowerpeckers. The six plates are by Grönvold and are up to the average of the work. The only new form that we notice in this instalment is *Zosterops lateralis investigator* (p. 153) from New Zealand, where it is said to have arrived from Australia and was supposed by Mr. Mathews to be identical with the Tasmanian form, but he now thinks it desirable to name it in order to "attract attention to the fact that a distinct form appears to be evolving."—W. S.

Chapman on New South American Birds.—Fifteen new forms are named in this paper² as a result of comparisons of material already on hand with recently acquired collections from eastern Ecuador containing topotypes of many "Napo" species. The new forms are: *Crypturus soui nigriceps* (p. 1), Upper Rio Suno, Ecuador; *Ortalis guttata caquetae* (p. 2), Caqueta, Colombia; *Trogonurus temperatus* (p. 2), Laguneta, Colombia; *Curucujus melanurus pacificus* (p. 4), Loja, Ecuador; *Anligena hypoglaucus lateralis* (p. 5), Junun, E. Peru; *Hypoxanthus rivolii meridae* (p. 6), Merida, Venezuela; *H. r. quindiuina* (p. 6), Laguneta, Colombia; *Chloronerpes rubiginosus coloratus* (p. 8), Chaupe, N. Peru; *Veniliornis dignus baezae* (p. 8), Baeza, Ecuador; *Myrmopagis ornata saturata* (p. 9), Upper Rio Suno, Ecuador; *Formicarius analis zamorae* (p. 9), Zamora e. Ecuador; *Hylopezus dives caquetae* (p. 10), Caqueta, Colombia; *Grallaricula peruviana* (p. 11), Chaupe, Peru; *Melanodera xanthogramma barrosi* (p. 12), Acanagua, Chile; *Philydor montanus yungae* (p. 12), is proposed for *P. m. bolivianus*, preoccupied.—W. S.

Stresemann on New Guinea Birds.—Dr. E. Stresemann has prepared a report³ on the ornithological results of Dr. Bürgers' collecting in the

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Volume XI, Part 3. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1, December 27, 1923.

² Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 96, November 19, 1923, pp. 1-12.

³ Dr. Bürgers' ornithologische Ausbeute im Stromgebiet des Sepik. Ein Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Vogelwelt Neuguineas. Von Dr. Erwin Stresemann. Abdruck aus dem 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte' 1923, Abt. A. heft 7 und 8. Berlin, pp. 1-96, 1-92.

Sepik Valley, German New Guinea, consisting of an annotated list of 369 species with a summary of previous expeditions, a list of the ornithological contributions relating to this country and a discussion of its faunal divisions.

Under each species are listed all of the subspecies with their distribution and reference to place of description, the race or races represented in the collection under discussion being printed in heavier type, so that the work is far more than a report on the collection and serves as an important contribution to our knowledge of New Guinea birds. There appear to be no new forms described.—W. S.

Riley and Richmond—A Bibliography of Chinese Birds.—This list¹ which contains the titles of some 700 papers dealing with Chinese birds while admittedly not complete is evidently sufficiently so to be of the greatest value to those who have to deal with the avifauna of China which is for the most part scattered in various journals. As always in cases of compilation of this kind we are much indebted to the authors, how much only those who have attempted similar compilations will appreciate.—W. S.

Rothschild on Birds of Yunnan.—This paper² is a report on a third collection made by Mr. George Forrest in North-west Yunnan, a very fine collection according to the author, with a magnificent series of game birds. There were 1172 specimens representing 198 species of which 13 were not previously obtained by Mr. Forrest. *Cephalopyrus flammiceps olivaceus* (p. 263) is described as new.—W. S.

Wetmore on the Food of Grebes.³—After a careful study of the stomach contents of all six of our North American Grebes, Dr. Wetmore concludes that none of them is really injurious although the Pied-billed Grebe when it visits fish ponds may do damage by devouring young fish and in such cases it should be driven away or killed. The food of the larger Grebes consists largely of fishes of little or no value to man while the smaller kinds eat various sorts of water beetles and other insects found alive or floating on the surface of the water and all Grebes destroy crawfish.

Dr. Wetmore describes the mass of feathers which is almost invariably found in the stomach of Grebes. It consists of feathers which are dislodged when preening and devoured. He suggests that this feather mass

¹ A Partial Bibliography of Chinese Birds. By J. H. Riley and Dr. C. W. Richmond of the Smithsonian Institution. Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. LIII—1922, pp. 196-237 and LIV—1923, pp. 225-226.

² On a Third Collection of Birds made by Mr. George Forrest in North-west Yunnan. By Lord Rothschild, F. R. S. Novitates Zoologicae, XXX, pp. 247-267, October, 1923.

³ Food and Economic Relations of North American Grebes. By Alexander Wetmore. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Department Bulletin No. 1196, January, 1924, pp. 1-24.