

Mr. Arnold tells us that his plates are memory drawings of birds that he has actually seen, often based on hasty sketches made on the spot, and calls attention in his preface to the fact that most mounted waders have long graceful necks whereas those he has studied in life rarely exhibit the neck outstretched. He also finds in his experience that the heads of the shore-birds are more triangular than round, the feathers of the crown being slightly elevated throwing them out towards the bill and giving the effect of a long sloping forehead. This is true in many cases but is perhaps carried to an extreme in his paintings and may be characteristic of certain positions or activities of the birds, rather than an ever present character.

It is interesting to note that in almost every case the artist has depicted the bird at rest and we cannot help but feel that he has lost an opportunity to put more life into some of his figures and to break the somewhat monotonous similarity of pose. Some of the running shore-birds drawn by Fuertes for example, are exceedingly graceful and attractive.

Mr. Arnold's paintings possess a peculiarly delicate character, almost Japanese in many respects, and the pale tints of the sky, the sea and the sand dunes make an effective background for his birds. The coloring of the plumage is usually very good indeed, and the reproduction of the plates admirable.

While the text is usually drawn from the author's experience there are rather extended notes on the American species contributed by Prof. Wm. Rowan of the University of Alberta.

All lovers of the shore-birds will wish to have this work which will, we feel sure, realize the author's hope that it will arouse recollections of the pleasures experienced in the haunts of these delicate creatures.—W. S.

Califf's 'Permanent Bird Homes.'—While there have been various bulletins issued by State or national conservation bodies dealing with bird houses there has always seemed to be a need for something a little more comprehensive and this has now been provided most satisfactorily in Mr. Califf's little volume.¹

He is a manual training instructor and, as he tells us, when boys began to build bird boxes in response to the urge of the Audubon Societies every teacher of manual training was soon besieged with requests for designs. He therefore designed boxes of various styles which would not only serve the purposes of manual training instruction but would also serve the purposes of the birds.

These he has now embodied in book form with detailed working plans, photographs of the completed boxes and valuable instructions, describing the essentials of bird houses and pointing out the usual faults in their construction, both from the viewpoint of the builder and the bird. The

¹ Permanent Bird Houses. By Gladstone Califf, Superintendent of Schools and Manual Training Instructor, Richland, Iowa. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1924. pp. 1-64. Price \$1.00.

book should be in the hands of everyone maintaining a bird sanctuary and every teacher in charge of manual training work.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Kuroda.—In a recent publication by Kuroda and Mori the forms of *Sittiparus varius* are reviewed and no less than thirteen are recognized, *S. v. koreensis* being described as new from Korea. The paper is in Japanese but the description is reprinted in English.

Another paper, in Japanese, by Kuroda reviews the forms of *Locustella ochotensis* (*L. o. ochotensis* and *L. o. pleskei*.) Both papers are reprinted from 'Dobutsugakka Zasshi.'—W. S.

Bannerman on *Tricholaema hirsutum*.—Mr. Bannerman has prepared a correction¹ to his recent review of the races of *Tricholaema hirsutum* to the effect that he wrongly identified *T. h. hybridum*, the bird so designated being the one recently named *T. h. chapini*. A new synopsis of the races is therefore presented.—W. S.

Riley on New Birds from West China.—In a collection made by Dr. James Rock in the high mountains of north-western Yunnan for the U. S. National Museum, were three new forms which Mr. Riley has recently described² as *Ithaginis rocki* (p. 9); *Strix aluco nivipetens* (p. 10) and *Aethopyga dabryi bagsi* (p. 11).—W. S.

Oberholser on East Indian Birds.—In a recent publication³ Dr. Oberholser presents a description of a new form of *Ramphalcyon*, *R. capensis arignota* (p. 136) from southeastern Sumatra and Ballitan Island, while *R. c. hydrophila* is recognized as a valid form and the name *javana* maintained for the Bornean form, as opposed to *innominata* proposed by Van Oort. This was the view taken by the reviewer when considering this form in 1902 and Dr. Oberholser's contention is undoubtedly correct. At the close of his paper he proposes to separate this genus as a subfamily *Ramphalcyoninae*.

Why, if subfamilies and subspecies are so desirable and practical, cannot our systematists make the same use of subgenera instead of creating the multiplicity of so called "genera" which are rapidly making our nomenclature useless for any but the narrow specialist?

In another paper⁴ Dr. Oberholser describes a new *Oriolus*, *O. indicus ochroxanthus* (p. 5) from Corea.—W. S.

Grinnell on Wild Animal Life and National Forests.—This is a paper⁵ calculated to arouse serious reflections and should be read care-

¹ Important Correction to my Review of the Races of *Tricholaema hirsutum*. By D. A. Bannerman, Rev. Zool. Africaine. XII, No. 4, pp. 482-486.

² Three New Birds from Western China. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. Vol. 38 pp. 9-12. January 27, 1925.

³ Notes on the Races of *Ramphalcyon capensis*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biologica Soc. Washington, Vol. 37, pp. 135-138. December 29, 1925.

⁴ Description of a New *Oriolus*. Ibid. Vol. 38, pp. 5-6. January 27, 1925.

⁵ Wild Animal Life as a Product and as a Necessity of National Forests. By Joseph Grinnell. Journal of Forestry, Vol. XXII, No. 8. 1924.