

clearer idea of the extent of the ornithological literature of the world while there would be the satisfaction of knowing that they were helping to make the progress of scientific ornithology possible.

Mr. Selater has listed no less than 1027 titles for the year 1923, all of which are arranged alphabetically by authors and again classified under the various special topics of which they treat and the countries whose bird life they discuss. Then there are the names of all new species and subspecies, reviews of groups and special notes on particular birds, all arranged systematically so that one may, at a glance, obtain references to all that has appeared relative to any branch of ornithology or the birds of any family or country. Mr. Selater has again placed all ornithologists in his debt for his careful and conscientious work. (see further p. 483 seq.)—W. S.

**Stoner's Sketch of the Life of Audubon.**—The University of Iowa has issued an 'Extension Bulletin' on the life of Audubon<sup>1</sup> which in a supplementary sheet is credited to Prof. Dayton Stoner. It would perhaps have been better had the authorship remained anonymous since the sketch is full of errors,—a particularly unfortunate fact in view of the educational character of the publication. The writer was apparently quite ignorant of Prof. Herrick's 'Life of Audubon' which corrected so many of the misstatements of earlier biographies (see 'Auk,' January 1918) and has taken his data from one of the latter, so that we find both the date and place of Audubon's birth erroneously stated and other errors regarding his early life. But in addition to this, the facts of his life are so badly garbled that it is difficult to understand how the sketch could have been prepared. To cite a few of the errors Audubon is credited with securing 300 subscribers to his work in 1824, before ever going to England, while as a matter of fact he had not then published a single plate nor definitely decided to publish, his first subscribers were obtained abroad and it is doubtful if he had as many as 300 all told. The ornithologist Charles Bonaparte is referred to as "Joseph Bonaparte" and the title of the 'Birds of America' is constantly misquoted. We trust that the publication in the interests of accuracy may be withdrawn from circulation.—W. S.

**Kirke Swann on the Birds of Prey.**<sup>2</sup>—The third part of Kirke Swann's 'Monograph of the Birds of Prey' is fully up to the standard of its predecessors. It covers the remaining species of *Circus*, the genera *Microrastur*, *Clamosocircus* (p. 145, new name for *Climacocircus* Cab. preoccupied), *Geranospiza*, *Urotriorchis*, *Parabuteo*, *Melierax* and begins the great genus *Astur*.

Besides the excellent synonymy and technical discussion under each

<sup>1</sup> Stoner's 'Life of John James Audubon' University of Iowa Extension Bulletin No. 116. January 15, 1925, pp. 1-10.

<sup>2</sup> A Monograph of the Birds of Prey. By H. Kirke Swann, London, Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd. 2, 3, and 4, Arthur St., New Oxford St., W. C. 2. Part III.