

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 Audubon¹ 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 We trust that the publication in the interests of accuracy may be withdrawn from circulation.—W. S.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.²—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

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

² 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.

species the author continues to quote from various writers interesting and characteristic notes on habits and nidification.

Five plates accompany this part. Two in colors are from paintings by Grönvold and represent species of *Geranospizias* and *Melierax*. One color plate illustrates eggs of *Astur* and *Accipiter* and there are two sepia reproductions, one of an original sketch by Wolf of a Goshawk attacking a Capercaillie and one of a photograph of a European Sparrow Hawk's nest.—W. S.

Delacour and Jabouille on the Birds of Central Annam.—This important paper¹ describes a collection made mainly in the province of Quangtri, central Annam, by M. Delacour, the well known French ornithologist, and M. Jabouille, the French Resident of the district. The region is particularly interesting as it is here that the Chinese and Malayan faunas meet. Altogether 311 species were obtained of which several have been described as new in the 'Bulletin of British Ornithologists' Club.'

We have subsequently received a much more elaborate account² of this expedition published as No. 1, of the 'Archives of Natural History' by the Societe Nationale d'Acclimatation de France. This is in French and is entirely rewritten with much more elaborate annotations and numerous illustrations additional to the two color plates appearing in the 'Ibis' article. Some of these are plates of birds in color and others in line drawings while there are many half-tone illustrations from photographs of scenery and other views in Annam, the whole forming an extremely attractive volume.—W. S.

Chapman on New South American Birds.—This paper³ is to use the author's words "a by-product" of the study of the collections received by the American Museum from Ecuador and related countries and is the eleventh of the series.

Fourteen new forms are described while the races of *Compsocoma somptuosa* are considered at some length and their distribution worked out. The descriptions are accompanied by lists of specimens examined and full discussions of relationship such as usually characterize Dr. Chapman's papers. The author calls for any criticism or comment that this paper may inspire in order that they may be considered in connection with his proposed memoir on Ecuadorean birds.—W. S.

¹ On the Birds of Quangtri, Central Annam; with Notes on others from other parts of French Indo-China. By Jean Delacour and Pierre Jabouille. *Ibis*. January, 1925, pp. 209-260.

² Recherches Ornithologiques dans la Province de Quangtri (Centre Annam) et quelques autres Regions de l'Indochine Francaise. Par J. Delacour et Pierre Jabouille. Paris, 1925, pp. i-xii. pp. 1-197.

³ Descriptions of New Birds from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina. By Frank M. Chapman, American Museum Novitates, No. 160, February 26, 1925, pp. 1-14.