

from our present knowledge, never came from Mexico, he regards as identical with the Guadeloupe bird where Ridgway placed it, while the latter he considers, and we think rightly, to be an individual with an abnormal bill probably of *Q. lugubris*.—W. S.

Iredale on George Forster's Bird Paintings.—This is an interesting account¹ of the paintings of birds made on the first and second voyages of Capt. Cook, those of the latter voyage being by George Forster, son of J. Reinhold Forster, naturalist of the expedition, both of whom accompanied Cook on this occasion.

These paintings form the basis of certain species of the older writers and are preserved in the Banksian Library in the British Museum, Banks having been naturalist on the first voyage.

Recently a partial set of duplicate drawings, including also a few not in the British Museum set, has been identified in the Australian Museum. There are 53 of these and Mr. Tom Iredale, who is thoroughly familiar with the original set, here presents a list of them with identifications of the birds and the corresponding numbers of the London set.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Domaniewski.—M. Janusz Domaniewski has recently published a review² of the species and subspecies of the genus *Thamnophilus* with systematic comments and the descriptions of two new forms: *T. tenuipunctatus chrostowski* (p. 761) Mapoto, Ecuador and *T. ruficapillus jaczewskii* (p. 762) Cutervo, Peru.

In another paper³ he presents a systematic and geographic review of the genus *Budytes*. In this connection he discusses the nomenclature of ornithology, entomology and botany in relation to the naming of forms below the species and proposes five classes, the subspecies, natio, prospecies, morpha and aberratio, and refers the described forms to these several categories, describing *B. feldegg suschkini* as an "aberratio nova." It is difficult to see what we gain by such complications in a scheme of nomenclature already trying enough.

A third paper⁴ deals with palaeartic Woodpeckers and two new forms are proposed, *Picus canus dzieduszyckii* (p. 75) South Poland and *Dryobates major rossicus* (p. 81) Saratoff. No less than 26 subspecies of *D. major* are listed.—W. S.

Stresemann on Callocalia and Otus.—This paper¹ forms one of the

¹ George Forster's Paintings. By Tom Iredale. Australian Zoologist. IV, pp. 48-53. November 10, 1925.

² Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Gattung *Thamnophilus* Vieillot. von Janusz Domaniewski. Bull. Acad. Polonaise des Sci. et des Lettres. 1924, pp. 753-763. Cracovie, 1925.

³ Systematik und geographische Verbreitung der Gattung *Budytes* von Janusz Domaniewski. Ann. Zool. Mus. Polonici Hist. Nat. 1925, Warszawa. pp. 85-125.

⁴ Contribution a la connaissance des pics paléarctiques. A Janusz Domaniewski. Ibid. 1925. pp. 75-84.

¹ Beiträge zur Ornithologie der indo-australischen Region. Von E. Stresemann. Mittell. Zool. Mus. in Berlin. 12. Bd. 1. H. October, 1925. pp. 179-195.

author's "Contributions to the Ornithology of the Indo-australian Region." The first part is a revision of the Edible-nest Swiftlets, *Collocalia*, a group which Oberholser and Stresemann have both studied extensively.

The latter now recognizes five species, *C. francica* (20 subspecies), *fusiphaga* (10 subspecies), *gigas*, *troglodytes* and *esculenta* (15 subspecies). A table shows the distribution of the forms of the group in the various Malay islands in which they occur. *C. esculenta sumbawae* (p. 189) is described as new from Tambora and *C. e. minuta* (p. 189) from Kalao.

The second part of Dr. Stresemann's paper is devoted to a consideration of the Indo-Malay Screech Owls (*Otus*), of which he recognizes *O. sagittatus*, *rufescens*, *spilocephalus* (6 subspecies), *alfredi*, *brookei* (3 subspecies), *sylvicola*, *whiteheadi*, *bakkamoena* (3 subspecies in this region and 7 elsewhere) and *scops* (with 24 subspecies in all).

Dr. Stresemann has another paper¹ on 'Color Mutation in Nondomesticated Birds' in which he discusses such cases as the Blue and Snow Geese, Blue and White phases of Herons, the white Australian Goshawk, etc.—W. S.

Relation of Palaearctic Birds to the More Important Forest Insect Pests.—Written from the forester's standpoint, and with rather formal ecological arrangement and terminology, this paper,² is a resumé of the role of birds as enemies of the nun moth, bark beetles, and May beetles in German forests. The most valuable original contribution of the paper consists of the numerous analyses of contents of the stomachs of numerous species of European woodland birds. The general conclusions of the author, if we may so term certain excerpts from his introductory chapter, are: "Biological warfare upon pests is waged by parasites in the first line. Most important in the second line are the higher animals among which the birds play a leading role. . . . Only exceptionally can birds make effective warfare upon a calamitous insect outbreak. Birds are the police, not the army of the forest" (p. 2).—W. L. M.

The Lone Swallows.³ Under this title Mr. Henry Williamson, author of 'Sun Brothers' puts forth another series of nature stories dealing with the south of England. In his preface he quotes some "literary authorities" who refer to nature writing as "a minor thing" and who much to his horror express the opinion that Richard Jefferies is like grass, "a little is enough." Fortunately however he was not discouraged by them from following his chosen field and has given us some of the most charming bits of literature that nature writers have produced.

¹ Über Farbungs Mutationen bei nichtdomestizierten Vögeln. E. Stresemann Verh. Deutsch. Zool. Gesellschaft auf der 30. Jahresversamm. zu Jena, June 2-4, 1925.

² A. Frhr. von Vietinghoff von Riesch, Zeitschr. f. angew. Ent., 10, H. 1, April 1924, pp. 1-55, and H. 2, October 1924, pp. 327-352.

³ The Lone Swallows and Other Essays of the Country Green. By Henry Williamson, author of "Sun Brothers." New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Ave. Pp. 1-227. Price \$2.50.