

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 Farbungsmutationen 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.