

and as this is the first book of its kind written for Indian readers it must necessarily be elementary.

At the same time those of us who know Indian birds only from occasional specimens in zoological gardens can learn much from Mr. Dewar's pages and it is very interesting to ascertain something of the everyday habits of these far away birds and compare them with those of our own species.

The Hawk Cuckoo, for example, has a series of crescendo calls just as has our Yellow-bill, while the Crested Cuckoo is associated with the rainy season just as are our Cuckoos, which often go by the name of "Rain Crows." The Indian Cuckoos however are parasitic which ours are not and the complications incident to their parasitism are very interesting.

The illustrations by C. A. Levett-Yeats, while they give us some idea of the birds and their postures, are very crude as compared with what we are familiar with in popular American books. A convenient table at the end of the work gives in parallel columns the English, scientific and native names of all of the seventy odd species treated in the book.

If widely distributed Mr. Dewar's little volume should go far toward developing in the next generation a sympathy with birds and bird protection which more than anything else will aid in the preservation of the avifauna of this interesting country. —W. S.

**T. E. and A. P. Penard on Bird Catching in Surinam.**<sup>1</sup>—It seems strange in these days of bird protection to read of a country in which bird catching is systematically carried on, unless indeed it be in the interests of one of the bird banding associations, yet in Surinam we learn that bird catching is a very general practice. The birds are obtained for three distinct purposes—food, caging and in protection of crops.

The Messrs. Penard, who are well acquainted with the country and its inhabitants, describe in much detail and in an interesting way the several methods employed in this occupation. There is first the coop or fall trap, a sort of basket under which is placed the bait; then the trap cage of several compartments in one of which is placed a decoy bird, and which is often hoisted aloft among the branches of a tree where the song of the captive draws the unwary victims to the trap; and finally there is bird lime prepared from the sap of several native trees. Snares of horeshair were also extensively used in former times and young birds are often sought in the nests and captured just before they are able to fly.

There are interesting details of the methods of capturing certain species, especially Euphonias, which are in great demand as songsters, also accounts of their various songs and calls and the actions of both captive and wild individuals. The authors include the native names not only of the birds but of all the implements used in bird catching as well as accounts of the popular beliefs and folklore relating to bird catching. The paper is a

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<sup>1</sup> Bird Catching in Surinam. By Thomas E. and Arthur P. Penard. De West Indische Gids VII, 12. April, 1926. The Hague, Martinus Nijhoff, pp. 545-566.

most interesting contribution to a little known subject and added value is furnished by a number of photographic illustrations.—W. S.

**Bangs and Phillips on a New Weaver Finch.**—The bird here described<sup>1</sup> was collected by Emin Pasha in Tanganyika Territory in 1890 and upon comparison with a series obtained recently by Dr. Phillips in the West Nile region and eastern Congo it seems to represent a distinct southern race which is named *Icteropsis pelzelni tuta* (p. 177).—W. S.

**Riley on Chinese Birds.**—Further study of the collection sent to the U. S. National Museum by Rev. David C. Graham, from Szechwan, China, has resulted in the description<sup>2</sup> of a Ground Warbler belonging to a new genus and species *Antiornis grahami* (p. 55), and a new species of *Liocichla*,<sup>3</sup> *L. omeiensis* (p. 57). This genus was heretofore known only from a single species from the mountains of Formosa.—W. S.

**Bangs and Peters on New Guinea Birds.**<sup>4</sup>—Dr. Thomas Barbour has recently presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoology a collection of birds made by Thomas Jackson in 1920–24 in the region of Merauke, Dutch New Guinea. The locality is opposite Cape York and consequently has a strong Australian element in its fauna. Some 95 forms are represented in the collection of which only about one-third are Passeres.

Forms described as new are: *Geopelia humeralis gregalis* (p. 423) and *Gymnorhina tibicen papuana* (p. 431).—W. S.

**Peters on Neotropical Birds.**—In a recent paper<sup>5</sup> Mr. Peters reviews the races of *Elaenia martinica* of which he recognizes six. He shows that this species in addition to possessing two color phases, a gray and an olive-yellow one, exhibits great individual variation and is subject to fading during life, all of which make its study more complicated. *E. m. complexa* Berl. is shown to have been based upon a discolored individual while *E. flavogastra* of St. Vincent is a quite distinct species.—W. S.

In another paper<sup>6</sup> he describes as new *Dendroica petechia alsiosa* (p. 41) from the Grenadines.—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> A New Race of Pelzel's Weaver-Finch. By Outram Bangs and John C. Phillips. Occasional Papers of the Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. 5, p. 177. December 18, 1925.

<sup>2</sup> A New Genus and Species of Ground Warbler from the Province of Szechwan, China. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biological Soc. Washington, Vol. 39, pp. 55–56. July 30, 1926.

<sup>3</sup> A New Species of *Liocichla* from the Mountains of Szechwan, China. By J. H. Riley *ibid.*, pp. 57–58. July 30, 1926.

<sup>4</sup> A collection of Birds from Southwestern New Guinea (Merauke Coast and Inland). By Outram Bangs and James L. Peters. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Vol. LXVII. No. 12, pp. 421–434. July, 1926.

<sup>5</sup> A Review of the Races of *Elaenia martinica*. (Linne). By James L. Peters. Occasional Papers of the Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 5, p. 197–202. June 7, 1926.

<sup>6</sup> A New Race of the Golden Warbler from the West Indies. By James L. Peters. Proc. New England Zool. Club, Vol. IX, p. 41. February 17, 1926.