

We regret that the cost of publication has necessitated the use of many abbreviations in locality, ranges and references to standard works, but these will be easily mastered by those who constantly use the list.

An appendix by Mr. H. Wolstenholme contains an explanation of the binomial system, with notes on the origin of various names and a vocabulary of Latin and Greek words used in the construction of the technical names. Also an index of proper names with their origin marked and accented to indicate their correct pronunciation. An excellent outline map of Australia shows all the type localities, the railways, river systems and lines of average temperature.

The Committee has done an excellent piece of work and has placed Australian systematic ornithology on the same basis as that of the rest of the world.—W. S.

**A Chinese Checklist.**—Under the editorship of three well known writers on Chinese birds—N. Gist Gee, Lacey I. Moffett and G. D. Wilder there has appeared the first part of 'A Tentative List of Chinese Birds'<sup>1</sup> covering apparently all but the Passeres and enumerating 460 species as well as many subspecies which are numbered "a", "b", "c" etc. the "species" bearing the serial number.

Under each technical name is given a vernacular name in English and several Chinese names. Then comes the general distribution of the species printed in English and Chinese; the provinces of China in which it has been recorded; and the time of year. While the authority is given for each technical name there are no references whatever to publications.

"This list," say the authors, "does not claim to be complete. It is published in this imperfect form as a working basis for further study, in the hope that corrections and additions will be made until there shall result a satisfactory checklist of the birds of China." In spite of this modest statement the list seems to be an admirable piece of work, well printed and well prepared. With it and LaTouche's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China' the student of Chinese birds is placed in a position to pursue his studies with an ease that could not have been expected a few years ago.

We congratulate the authors upon their admirable beginning of the 'Chinese Checklist' and wish them every success in their undertaking.—W. S.

**Hachisuka on Egyptian Birds.**—A handsome volume by M. Hachisuka has recently appeared, obviously dealing with the birds of Egypt, of which 455 species and subspecies are listed. With the exception of the scientific names, the bibliography and the index, the entire work is in Japanese, so that we are unable to comment upon its contents, but as the

<sup>1</sup> Bulletin of the Peking Society of Natural History. Technical Series, No. 1, part 1. A Tentative List of Chinese Birds, Part 1, from Colymbiformes through Coraciiformes. Compiled by N. Gist Gee, Peking, Lacy I. Moffett, Kiangyin, G. D. Wilder, Peking. 1926. pp. 1-viii + 1-144.

late M. J. Nichol's list of Egyptian birds numbered 436 species we infer that this is a complete catalogue of the avifauna. There are numerous photographic illustrations in the text and four excellent colored plates from paintings by Grönvold, representing *Nectarinia metallica*, the races of *Galerida cristata*, *Pluvianus aegyptius* and *Rynchops flavirostris*.—W.S.

**Hopkinson's 'Records of Birds Bred in Captivity.'**<sup>1</sup>—This well gotten-up book comprises three parts, (1) a list of species which have bred in confinement, (2) a list of hybrids bred in confinement and (3) a summary of the two lists with concurrent numbering making cross reference easy. As can be seen at once the work is of the greatest interest and importance to aviculturists whose highest aim is to successfully breed the species kept in their avaries or grounds, and who are always anxious to know what has been done in this line by others. It is also a valuable book to those interested in hybridism and cross breeding.

The task of compilation has been great but appears to have been done thoroughly and with care and accuracy. No less than 816 species are recorded as having bred in captivity while there is an astonishing list of hybrids. Some of these are very interesting and some few very unlikely. But the author, while he has thought best to list every record published, has commented on all which are not fully authenticated. One example will show the thoroughness of this method. There is an alleged record of the breeding of an Australian Lyrebird and a Domestic Fowl published in the 'Avicultural Magazine,' the editor of which appends a note: "most extraordinary; we hope to hear more." Mr. Hopkinson adds: "I cannot find that more was heard and can only consider 'most extraordinary' too mild." We might suggest further that the "Lyre"-bird factor was the dominant one in the alleged hybrid!

Mr. Hopkinson deserves the thanks of all aviculturists for his careful compilation.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Grinnell.**—In a critical review of the Gnatcatchers of Lower California<sup>2</sup> Dr. Joseph Grinnell finds two unnamed forms. *Polioptila caerulea obscura*, heretofore used for the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher of the whole Pacific Slope, must be restricted to the bird of the Cape District of Lower California and the northern form, which is easily distinguishable, is named *P. c. amoenissima* (p. 494).

Similarly in the Black-tailed group the Cape form proves distinct and is named *P. melanura abbreviata* (p. 497) all of the Black-tailed forms proving to be subspecies and *P. m. margaritae* occurring on the mainland as well as on Santa Margarita Island.

<sup>1</sup> Records of Birds Bred in Captivity. By Emilius Hopkinson. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1, 1926. pp. i-ix, 1-330. Price 15 shillings net.

<sup>2</sup> A critical inspection of the Gnatcatchers of the Californias. By Joseph Grinnell Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. XV. No. 16, pp. 493-500, September 15, 1926.