

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.'¹—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 California² 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.

¹ 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.

² 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.