

plates most satisfactory. In all respects it is a very welcome addition to our faunal works especially as it covers a region whose avifauna has not been satisfactorily treated in this way before. Would that we might have such works on the birds of some of the South American countries!

American ornithologists will recall that this work covers Trang, the coasts of Trengganu and the Pulau Tioman Archipelago where Dr. William L. Abbott, of Philadelphia, made such extensive collections for the U. S. National Museum in 1899.

The species figured include the Malay Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis*), *cheela bassus*), the Great-eared Nightjar (*Lyncornis temmincki*), Swifts (*Tachornis* and *Micropus*), Barbets (*Mesobucco* and *Xantholaema*) the Pitta (*P. moluccensis*), Fantals, Bulbuls, etc.

The volumes to follow will treat of the 'Hill Birds,' 'Sporting Birds,' 'Birds of the Low Country,' and 'Other Birds.' Such an arrangement is, as the author admits, not exclusive, and one species may belong to several categories. The ornithologist doubtless would prefer a thoroughly systematic work where all species of the same genus or family would be found together, but the separate volumes, as planned, will each appeal to a somewhat different group and if they are to be sold separately this should be considered. At any rate we are informed that Mr. Robinson in conjunction with Mr. C. B. Kloss is actively engaged upon a more formal 'Fauna of the Malay Peninsula' which will doubtless fill every demand of the systematist.

Meanwhile we can commend the present volume as a credit to all concerned and not only a handy work of reference but a handsome volume for the ornithological library.—W. S.

Henry and Wait on the Birds of Ceylon.—The first part¹ of the set of colored plates of Ceylon Birds by Mr. G. M. Henry, recently announced in 'The Auk' is before us. There are sixteen quarto plates 10 x 12.5 ins. reproduced in color by Vitty and Seaborne of London and accompanying each plate is a page containing a brief account of the distribution of the species by Mr. W. E. Wait with its habits, measurements and vernacular names, together with a reference to Wait's 'Manual of the Birds of Ceylon.'

Four Babblers are figured, two Bulbuls (*Turdoides* and *Pomatorhinus*) the Spotted-wing Thrush (*Oreocincla*), two Flycatchers (*Cyornis* and *Stoparola*), a Drongo (*Dicrurus*), a Warbler (*Elaphornis*), two Barbets (*Cyanops* and *Xantholaema*), a Kingfisher, Cuckoo, and Owl.

Mr. Henry, an assistant in entomology in the Colombo Museum, is an artist of a high order and, being thoroughly familiar with the living

¹ Coloured Plates of the Birds of Ceylon. By G. M. Henry, with a short description of each bird by W. E. Wait, M. A., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., C. F. A. O. U. Part I. with sixteen coloured plates. Published by the Ceylon Government. 1927. Title page, preface (two pages), contents (one page) and sixteen single pages of descriptions.

birds, his paintings are a great improvement on most of the available illustrations of Indian birds which have been, in almost every case, drawn from skins. The coloring is accurate and well reproduced.

American ornithologists will be interested to read the acknowledgments to that patron of ornithology, Dr. Casey A. Wood, who "not only used his good offices with the Governor and Colonial Secretary in urging the importance of publishing this work but made himself responsible for the cost of the original paintings."

The Ceylon Government is to be congratulated upon the production of such a work and those interested in fine illustrations will find in this series admirable portraits of many birds hitherto figured but poorly if at all.

As the plates are not being issued in systematic sequence, they have not been numbered nor are the pages of description numbered, the object being that they may be rebound as the owner may desire. A list of species figured accompanies each part.—W. S.

Wetmore's 'The Birds of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands.'—Dr. Wetmore spent nearly a year (December, 1911, to September, 1912) in Porto Rico and the off-lying islands and in 1916 published a report on the birds (Bulletin 326, U. S. Department of Agriculture). It has always been a matter of regret to ornithologists that this pamphlet was, of necessity, limited mainly to the economy of the species.

Fortunately arrangements were made later on for him to prepare the report on the birds of the island for the comprehensive scientific survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands undertaken by the New York Academy of Science¹ and the two parts of Volume IX covering the birds are now before us. In them Dr. Wetmore has included not only his own field observations but extracts from all published material dealing with the birds of the island, down to the close of the year 1926, so that we have a thoroughly up to date report on the avifauna of Porto Rico, including the outlying islands eastward to Anagada as well as St. Croix, Mona and Desecheo.

There is an excellent map and an introduction covers the physiography, the author's itinerary, an historical account of ornithological research in Porto Rico and a discussion of the avifauna. From the last we learn that 188 species have been definitely found to occur on the islands while 18 others have been recorded on insufficient evidence. No less than 61 forms are migrants from North America, some being abundant in winter, others rare or casual. There are only 26 endemic species, five of which

¹Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Vol. IX Part 3. The Birds of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Colymbiformes to Columbigiformes—Alexander Wetmore. New York Academy of Sciences. New York: Published by the Academy, 1927, pp. 243-406, pls. LV-LXI.

Part 4. Psittaciformes to Passeriformes. pp. 407-598, pls. LXII-LXV. Price \$2.00 per part.