

C. montanus (p. 6) and a description¹ of a new Waxbill, *Estrilda nigriloris* (p. 1) from the Belgian Congo.—W. S.

Lowe on the Phylogeny of the Ostrich.²—In this paper Dr. Lowe presents the results of his extensive studies of the Struthious birds including the structure of their feathers, bony skeleton, muscles etc. as well as a consideration of the distribution of the group both in time and space.

Without considering his points in detail we may state briefly the author's conclusions which are that instead of having degenerated from a flying ancestor the Ostrich-like birds represent a perfectly natural group descended from some common ancestor which left the main avian stem before flight had been attained and that any degeneration or specialization that has taken place in the Ostrich forelimb has been degeneration from a primitive non-volant sauropsidan forelimb and not from a volant-carinate wing. He considers that the characters which constitute the general make up of the Struthionies are almost invariably primitive and indicate an early phase in the evolution of the true bird and to regard them as degenerate or retrogressive is not justified by the evidence; also that the plumage of adult Struthionies is prepennal down and has not reached a more advanced stage than that of the downy chick of the common fowl.

The *Archaeopteryx* he considers left the avian stem at an earlier (more reptilian) stage than did the Struthionies, while the Tinamous diverged at a very much later epoch. Instead of considering, as some have done, that the several groups of Ostrich-like birds—Emus, Rheas, Kiwis, etc., left the main avian line at successive periods Mr. Lowe thinks they all descended from a common ancestor and would regard them as forming a subclass sharply differentiated from all other birds.

Mr. Lowe's paper is one of extreme interest and his conclusions seem to be entirely warranted by the evidence which he produces.—W. S.

Annotationes Ornithologiae Orientalis.³—Under the above title Mr. Toku T. Momiyama has issued the first number of a journal to be devoted to ornithology of the far east (pp. 1-141). The papers in this issue are all by Mr. Momiyama and consist of "Some New and Unrecorded Birds from Japanese Territories, I.," "On *Cynchramus yessoensis*" and "Systematic Lists of the Birds of Quelpart Island." While the articles are mainly in Japanese the 25 new forms described in the first paper are reprinted in English.—W. S.

¹ A New Species of Waxbill (*Estrilda*) from the Southeastern Congo. *ibid.* No. 308, April 24, 1928, pp. 1-3.

² Studies and Observations Bearing on the Phylogeny of the Ostrich and its Allies. By Percy Roycroft Lowe. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1928 (April 16), pp. 185-247.

³ In aedibus Athenaei Ornithologici Momiyamici 1146 Sasazka, Yoyohata-mati, Suburb, Tokyo. Dec. 27, 1927.