

and other students of migration should be greatly increased and perhaps some of the "mystery" of the subject eventually dispelled.—W. S.

Todd's 'Review of the Wood Warblers of the Genus *Basileuterus* and its Allies.'—This paper¹ is a careful detailed study of a rather difficult group and will prove of great help to the student of neotropical birds. Mr. Todd explains why he finds it necessary to recognize the genera *Myiothlypis* (for *nigrocristatus*), *Idiotes* (for *ruffrons*) and to propose a new genus, *Phaeothlypis* (p. 8), for *fulvicauda* and its allies.

He also shows that the genus *Basileuterus* Cabanis is really, according to a strict interpretation of the rules, a synonym of *Helmitherus* Rafinesque by virtue of *Sylvia vermivora* Vieillot being the only species cited. He however proposes to take as the type *B. auricapillus olivaceus*, which bears a remarkable resemblance to *Helmitherus vermivorus* and was, he thinks, the bird that Cabanis had in mind, and so retain the time-honored name which has been fortunate in escaping any synonyms.

The author recognizes six forms of *Phaeothlypis* belonging to three species; thirty-two of *Basileuterus* arranged in twenty-four species and five of *Idiotes* all subspecies of *ruffrons*.

New forms described are *P. semicervina annexa* (p. 15) Pomara, northern Peru; *B. castaneiceps chapmani* (p. 32) Chaupe, northern Peru; *B. coronatus notius* (p. 33) Yungas, Bolivia; *B. c. elatus* (p. 35) Chunchi, Ecuador; *B. c. regulus* (p. 36) Paramo de Rosas, Venezuela; *B. signatus flavovirens* (p. 45) Incachaca, Bolivia.

Through the cooperation of other institutions Mr. Todd had before him for study no less than 2615 specimens which gives some idea of the thoroughness of his investigation.—W. S.

Mathews' 'Systema Avium Australasianarum.'—The present list² of the birds of the Australian Region represents the results of the years of research that Mr. Mathews spent upon the subject during the publication of his monumental 'Birds of Australia' as well as such information as he has accumulated since the completion of that work. As is well known, as the years went by and his several lists of Australian birds were published, his views, both as to subspecies and genera, underwent many a change and we now have his latest presentation of the subject. In form and typography this volume of the 'Systema Avium' conforms closely to Sclater's 'Systema Avium Ethiopicarum' but instead of limiting the synonymy to the original place of publication Mr. Mathews cites quite a number of references for many of the forms, moreover no English names are given for any of the species or subspecies.

¹ A Revision of the Wood-Warblers Genus *Basileuterus* and its Allies. By W. E. Clyde Todd, Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 74, Art. 7, pp. 1-95, 1929.

² Systema Avium Australasianarum. A Systematic List of the Birds of the Australian Region. By Gregory M. Mathews, F. R. S. E., M. B. O. U. Prepared in conjunction with Special Committees of the British and American Ornithologists' Unions. Part I, pp. 1-426. June 13, 1927. Weldon and Wesley Ltd., 2-4 Arthur Street. New Oxford Street, W. C. 2. 1927.

Both of these works cite the binomial name at the head of the several trinomials where a species is divided into subspecies, as was done, in the last 'A. O. U. Check-List' but which was found in our experience to be more misleading than beneficial to the general reader, and really unnecessary, as the repetition of the specific name in each of the trinomials clearly indicates their association in specific groups.

While there are but few families in which identical species occur both in Africa and Australia, the names of such wide ranging birds are usually the same in the two lists although Mr. Mathews' extreme subdivision of genera now and then necessitates a different generic name. At all events even if the nomenclature of the several volumes of the 'Systema' is not entirely uniform we shall have a set of volumes based upon the same general principles and prepared on the same general plan which is a big step toward uniformity.

Mr. Mathews deserves the thanks of all ornithologists for the care and thoroughness of his list and for the amount of nomenclatural matter that he has brought to light in his years of study of ornithological literature and which has helped those interested in the birds of many other countries besides Australia.—W. S.

The Illinois Audubon Bulletin.—When we find this always well printed and attractive publication¹ on our desk awaiting review we regret that its publishers do not adopt some distinctive title such as we have suggested above. As it is, in libraries, catalogues and indexes of literature, where exact quotation of title is necessary, it must appear as "The Audubon Bulletin" for there is no indication as to where it is published except at the bottom of the cover which is not part of the title.

The present issue is no exception to its predecessors in interest. There is a well written opening article by Chreswell J. Hunt, former secretary of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, on the song of the Pine Warbler, which he learned to know in his former haunts in the New Jersey Pine Barrens; Photographing the Least Bittern is the title of a paper by A. M. Bailey; an account of the A. O. U. Meeting in Charleston is furnished by Ruthven Deane; the passing of the Passenger Pigeon is described by H. P. Ijams and there are numerous local notes on birds and trees. One of these describes a flight of Broad-winged Hawks passing overhead on December 19, 1927. There is no indication as to where this observation was made but if it was in the Chicago region we would suggest that there is either a mistake in the date or in the identification of the birds. Such flights of Broad-wings are common in September and October but by December these Hawks are in their winter quarters in South and Central America and we have no definite record of their occurrence in mid-winter so far north. Furthermore such Hawk flights of any species are over, so far as our knowledge goes, long before this date, but these birds might possibly have been one of the wintering species of *Buteo*.—W. S.

¹ The Audubon Annual Bulletin. Published by the Illinois Audubon Society. No. 19, 1928. pp. 1-63.