

Roosevelts' 'Trailing the Giant Panda.'—Just as the reports on the scientific results of their previous exploration in Asia are being published there appears this account¹ of the second Asiatic expedition of the Roosevelt brothers—the Kelley-Roosevelt-Field Museum Expedition, which penetrated into the wild portions of Yunnan and Szechuan, central China, where the object of the trip was attained in the shooting of a fine specimen of the giant panda of the bamboo jungles, discovered sixty years ago by Pere David, the French missionary scientist, but searched for in vain by subsequent hunters and naturalists. Suydam Cutting accompanied the Roosevelts as well as Herbert Stevens a well known British naturalist and explorer. There was also a scientific staff including Harold Coolidge, Russell Hendee, Josslyn Van Tyne and Ralph Wheeler. The latter party remained in Indo-China, where valuable collections were made, while the Roosevelt party pushed northward. It is the account of this portion of the expedition that is vividly described in the volume before us.

Anyone interested in exploration and travel will follow the account of this difficult trip with interest. There are constant descriptions of the people and the customs of the isolated region that the authors traversed, and pictures of the rugged and often desolate surroundings. The wild life was not abundant but always of interest, and the animals almost without exception of great rarity in collections. Besides the giant panda this is the country of the takin, serow, and ghoral and of many rare birds usually of desert types. An appendix gives a brief account of the principal game animals of the region while the volume is well illustrated by photographs taken by members of the expedition. The Roosevelts have added materially to our knowledge of a little known country and will make familiar to thousands of persons the giant panda and other animals of which they had probably never before heard.—W. S.

Aves for 1928.—Again it is our pleasure to congratulate Mr. W. L. Slater upon his invaluable compilation of the 'Aves' for the Zoological Record. This seems to be the only work of the kind which is able to furnish to the working systematist, in any field of zoology, a reasonably prompt summary of the work of his fellow investigators throughout the world, without which chaos in systematic work would result.

The ornithological section, which Mr. Slater has so ably handled for many years, comprises for 1928, 1319 titles, which are classified again under various headings as heretofore, making reference easy. Dr. Alexander Wetmore seems to lead the American ornithologists in the number of his contributions.

This necessary pamphlet may be obtained by bird students from the

¹ *Trailing the Giant Panda.* By Theodore Roosevelt and Kermit Roosevelt with a frontispiece from a painting by Carl Rungius and illustrations from photographs by Suydam Cutting and K. R. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. London MCMXXIX. pp. 1-x + 1-273 colored frontispiece plate and map. Price \$3.50.

Zoological Society, Regent's Park, London N. W. 8, for 7 sh. 6 d., and it is to be hoped that ornithologists will give the Society the liberal support that it deserves in so generously assuming the greater part of the burden of the publication.—W. S.

Hellmayr's 'Birds of the Americas. Part VI.'—This part¹ of Dr. Hellmayr's continuation of Cory's work, he covers the remainder of the Mesomyodean Passeres—Pipridae, Cotingidae, Rupicolidae, and Phytotomidae. As previously stated Dr. Hellmayr considers that the character of the tarsal envelope as a distinguishing mark between the Tyrannidae and Cotingidae has been overestimated and therefore some of the genera placed by Ridgway in the latter family have been restored to the former. Two new forms are proposed in the present part: *Schiffornis turdinus panamensis* (p. 84) El Real, east Panama and *Attila spadiceus pacificus* (p. 140) Mazatlan, Mexico.

The plan of the work follows that of the previous parts including the very full and helpful foot-notes which Dr. Hellmayr inaugurated in the volumes for which he has been responsible. We congratulate him upon the excellent progress that he is making in his great undertaking which is invaluable to every worker on the Neotropical avifauna.—W. S.

Collin's 'Index Ornithologicus.'²—This, according to the author's announcement, is to be "a bi-monthly journal devoted chiefly to successive development of an avian nomenclator according to the present system." The present number is devoted exclusively to the genus *Montifringilla* the genotype of which is given, followed by a long list of synonyms, all with the necessary references. Following this are the species in alphabetical sequence with type locality, habitat, published plates, synonyms and many references. Synonyms appear also in their proper place alphabetically and other species, apparently wrongly referred to this genus, are also listed with reference to their proper positions.

Such a detailed "nomenclator" cannot help but prove very useful, but if only some ten actual species are to be presented in two months the work will not progress very rapidly.—W. S.

Chapman on Birds from Mt. Duida.—An ambition of long standing was realized by the American Museum of Natural History when in the autumn of 1928 it was enabled, through the financial support of Mr. Sidney F. Tyler, Jr. of Philadelphia, to send an expedition to Mt. Duida near the headwaters of the Orinoco. The expedition was headed by Mr.

¹ Catalogue of Birds of the Americas and the Adjacent Islands in the Field Museum of Natural History, etc. By Charles E. Hellmayr, Associate Curator of Birds. Part VI. Oxyruncidae, Pipridae, Cotingidae, Rupicolidae, Phytotomidae. Chicago, U. S. A. November 14, 1929, pp. 1-258.

² Index Ornithologicus sive Nomenclator Avium tum viventium tum fossilium Studio et Opera: Alb. Collin. Ano. I, No. I. Montifringilla Brehm—M. walteri-Hart. Kotka, 1929, pp. 1-18. Subscription 6 shillings or \$1.50 should be addressed to the editor Alb. Collin, Kotka, Finland.