

We wish Dr. Friedmann all speed with the remainder of his task and the report on the birds of the Roosevelt Expedition which we understand is to follow, and feel that we can speak for all students of African ornithology in congratulating him upon an excellent piece of work.—W. S.

Hortling's 'Handbook of Finland Birds.'—Of this pretentious work,¹ entirely in the Finnish language, three parts have appeared, leaving the Shore-birds, Gulls, and other sea birds to be covered by another installment.

Under each species is a description of the male, female and young; a paragraph devoted to song and call notes, presented by the syllabic method, and others on nest and eggs, migration and extralimital races. There is also a list of the names given to the birds in the various languages of the countries in which they occur, with their origins.

Half-tone illustrations are scattered through the text some from photographs of the live birds but mainly from mounted specimens. The work is thoroughly up to date both in the manner of treatment and in nomenclature and is excellently printed.

It will form an admirable handbook for Finnish bird students as well as a work of reference for ornithologists in other lands.—W. S.

La Touche's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.'²—Part V of this important work is before us completing Volume I, the Passeres. It covers the Pipits, Larks, White-eyes, Sunbirds, Flower-peckers, Pittas and Broadbills. There follow eleven pages of "corrigenda and addenda" covering the five parts that have been published and an index.

This last part of the work fully maintains the high standard of its predecessors and the publication should long stand as our authority for the birds of the region it covers.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Chasen and Kloss.—Messrs. Chasen and Kloss have published a review of the puzzling genus of Malay Flycatchers, *Cyornis*³ in which for the most part they accept the treatment of Stressemann (Ornith. Monatsb., 1925, pp. 43-53) as far as it goes and amplify it with the aid of additional material. They recognize seven specific groups to which the various races are assigned. No new forms are proposed but a point well worthy of careful consideration in the fine discrimination of subspecies is emphasized, i. e. the post mortem change in color of the plumage of the under parts of these birds; freshly killed specimens being yellower and less rusty than older skins. Dr. Chapman has called attention to the

¹ Ornithologisk Handbok med beskrivningar öfver alla i Finland anträffade fågelarter och raser jämte avbildningar och enkom utförda ving- och äggmatt m. m. samt namnförklaringar. Utgiven af Dr Ivar Hortling. Helsingfors 1929. pp. 1-200; 201-400; 401-600. Price Fmk. 75 per part.

² Taylor and Francis Red Lion Court, Fleet St. London. E. C. 4. Part V, July 1930. pp. 395-500—title page etc. Price 7s. 6d. net.

³ On some Birds of the Genus *Cyornis*. By F. N. Chasen and C. Boden Kloss. Bull. Raffles Mus. No. 2, July 1929. 23-42.

same thing in very old skins of *Turdus gigas* of South America, as compared with freshly killed individuals.

In a second paper¹ our authors have described *Hypothymis azurea javana* (p. 22) Java; and *Munia atricapilla batakana* (p. 22) Sumatra.—W. S.

Papers on Minnesota Birds.—In a recent number of the Occasional Papers of the Museum of the University of Minnesota² are several interesting ornithological papers.

Dr. T. S. Roberts describes some changes in the distribution of certain Minnesota birds in the last fifty years. Sixteen species are considered of which eleven are recent immigrants from farther south. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cardinal, Prothonotary Warbler and Louisiana Water-Thrush are now established summer residents and breed regularly while the Barn Owl, Cerulean, and Blue-winged Warblers, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens, Tufted Tit and Gnatcatcher, while not yet common, are steadily increasing in numbers and breeding records for all have been established.

Five species have come into the State from the west—Brewer's Black bird and the Arkansas Kingbird being now well established while the Burrowing Owl, Lark Bunting and Chestnut-colored Longspur are not yet common. Mr. William Kilgore has a paper on the breeding of the Connecticut Warbler in which he presents all the data so far published with a complete bibliography.

W. J. Breckenridge summarizes the breeding records of Nelson's Sparrow in Minnesota and presents photographs of an authentic nest and eggs while he also describes an interesting hybrid between the Indigo and Lazuli Buntings. There is an excellent colored plate of this hybrid by the author together with the adult and young of Nelson's and LeConte's Sparrows.—W. S.

Poole on Birds of Berks Co., Pa.—Mr. Earl L. Poole, well known as a bird artist and a member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, has compiled an excellent annotated list of the birds of Berks County,³ Pa., to the avifauna of which he has given especial attention during a residence of ten years in the city of Reading where he is now assistant Director of the Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery.

With the coöperation of local bird students he has accumulated much information on dates of occurrence of the various species and this forms the basis of his list. Under each species is given a general statement of the character of its occurrence with average migration dates and full data for the capture or observation of the rarer forms.

¹ Two New Malaysian Birds. *Ibid.* pp. 22-23.

² Occasional Papers: No. 3. University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History pp. 1-40 with a plate.

³ The Bird Life of Berks County, Pennsylvania. By Earl L. Poole. Bulletin No. 12 Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery. pp. 1-70 frontispiece plate.