

Bannerman's 'Birds of Tropical West Africa.'—The second volume of this notable publication¹ has recently appeared and in every detail is fully up to the high standard set by its predecessor which was reviewed in detail in 'The Auk,' 1931, p. 285. In the volume before us are treated the orders Ralliformes, Gruiformes, Charadriiformes, Columbiformes and Psittaciformes, the classification being that of Dr. Percy R. Lowe as set forth in 'The Ibis,' for 1931, and here formally used for the first time. Notable associations in this scheme are the placing of the Bustards, Thick-knees, and Jacanas along with the Cranes, in the Gruiformes; and the inclusion of the Sandgrouse and Button-Quail as suborders with the Pigeons in the Columbiformes. A most instructive feature of the key to the families is the arrangement in a column of the heads and feet of the more important genera with braces indicating their association in family groups and with explanatory text on the opposite page.

The account of each species is headed by the popular name followed by the technical, as in Chapman's new 'Handbook,' then the important synonymy relating to the district under consideration, a description of plumage and measurements, and paragraphs on Field Identification, Range and Local Distribution, and Habits, the last often developed into quite a full biography.

The illustrations consist of 114 text figures, line or half-tone, all with a few exceptions by Grönvold, Frohawk, and Roland Green and fifteen color plates from paintings by George Lodge, H. Grönvold, F. W. Frohawk and Henry Jones; the Bustard paintings by the last-named being particularly beautiful. There is also a colored map of the Gold Coast.

In every detail the work should appeal to the bird student as it is not only thoroughly up to date in its scientific information but written in a style that every lover of nature can understand, and presented in a form that will prove an attraction to any library fortunate enough to possess it.—W. S.

Martorelli's 'Birds of Italy.'—This work² first appeared in 1906 some years before the death of the author, in 1917, and the second edition which

¹ The | Birds of Tropical West Africa | With Special Reference to those of the Gambia, | Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria | By | David Armitage Bannerman | M.B.E., M.A. (Cantab.), F.R.S.E. | Zoological Department, British Museum of Natural History | Member of the British Ornithologists' Union and of the Société | Ornithologique de France, Corresponding Fellow of the American | Ornithologists' Union, Fellow of the Zoological Society of London | and of the Royal Geographical Society, etc. | Maps and Coloured Plates | Volume Two | Published under the Authority of the | Secretary of State for the Colonies by | The Crown Agents for the Colonies | 4 Millbank, Westminster, London, S. W. 1 | 1931 | Pp. i-xxix + 1-428. Price 22s. 6d. Subscription to the entire work (5 vols.) £ 5.

² Prof. Giacinto Martorelli | Direttore della Raccolta Ornitologica Turati del Museo Civico | di Storia Naturale di Milano | Gli | Uccelli d'Italia | con 308 fotoincisioni da Acquarelli e Fotografie | Originali e con 16 Tavole | a Colori | Secinda Edizione | Riveduta ed Aggiornata dal Dott. Edgardo Moltoni | Successore del Prof. Martorelli nella Direzione della Raccolta Turati | e dal Dott. Carlo Vandoni | Rizzoli & C. Milano | 1931. Pp. i-xx + 1-752. Price 125 Liro, Rizzoli & C., Piazza Carlo Erba N. 6, Milan, Italy.