

**Bowen on the Life Zones of Africa.**—In the first installment of a report<sup>1</sup> on the A. Blaney Percival collection of East African birds recently acquired by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Mr. W. Wedgwood Bowen presents his conclusions on the life zones of Africa based upon his personal experiences and upon a study of extensive collections and of the literature bearing on the temperature and contour of the continent.

Dr. James P. Chapin, who has published upon this subject, decided that life zones in Africa were largely ecological and that "the whole question of plant and bird distribution in Africa \* \* \* goes back to the distribution and abundance of rains." To this Mr. Bowen does not agree but decides that "there are in Africa climatic zones comparable to those which Dr. Chapman has demonstrated in South America."

He draws his own zonal map recognizing as primary divisions the Tropical, Subtropical, Temperate, and Alpine Zones and lists characteristic species for each concluding with the statement that "a large part of the Ethiopian region possesses a climate which is subtropical rather than tropical."

Our author would seem to have made a good point though the accuracy of his conclusions must rest upon a careful checking of the distribution of the African species which cannot be done in the space of a review. It would seem strange if the underlying principle which governs distribution in South America did not also pertain in Africa.

As Mr. Bowen points out most of the subdivisions recognized by Chapin are perfectly valid and except for some changes in boundary lines they remain the same in each scheme. It is the underlying principle that is novel.

In addition to his discussion of life zones Mr. Bowen lists the localities represented in the Percival collection and the number of skins from each, the total number being 6,287. He also gives a list of the collectors. This paper is preliminary to a systematic discussion of the more interesting specimens in the collection.

In another paper<sup>2</sup> he lists some forty-three species of Angolan birds obtained by an expedition from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in 1930, consisting of Harold T. Green and John Jonas, whose primary object was to obtain specimens of the Giant Sable Antelope. Notes on plumages and some field notes by the collectors are added.—W. S.

**Hellmayr on the Birds of Chile.**—This report<sup>3</sup> was originally intended to cover the collection of some 1500 specimens brought back by the Mar-

<sup>1</sup> Notes on the A. Blaney Percival Collection of East African Birds,—Part I. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., LXXXIV. Pp. 259–280, June 30, 1932.

<sup>2</sup> Angolan Birds Collected During the Second Gray African Expedition—1930, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., LXXXIV, pp. 281–289, June 30, 1932.

<sup>3</sup> Field Museum of Natural History | Publ. 308 Zool. Ser. | XIX. The Birds of Chile | By | Charles E. Hellmayr | Associate Curator of Birds. | Chicago, U. S. A. June 13, 1932. Pp. 1–472. (No illustrations.)