

species of birds there is a systematic index to the references in the text. Thus, a person working on coots may readily find what is said on different pages concerning the respiration and nutrition of these birds, etc.

This volume fills a great gap in the working equipment of the serious ornithologist and will be of the utmost value for years to come. The author has placed all bird students deeply in his debt. Ornithology has reached a stage where the superficial data of systematics, plumages, ranges, etc., of species are fairly well known. The need is now for an understanding of these facts and for this purpose the trend of investigation must take on a physiological complexion. No amount of quasi-historical data will ever enable us to explain things; we must study the functionings of present bird species rather than speculate about the theoretical workings of "nature," "environment," etc. As a guide and a pioneering stimulus to the new ornithology Groebbel's book is a beacon of the first magnitude.—H. F.

**Heinrich's Expedition to Celebes and Halmahera.**<sup>1</sup>—For nearly two years, 1930–1932, Gerd Heinrich, accompanied by his wife and sister-in-law, was collecting birds in Celebes and Halmahera for Dr. L. C. Sanford of the American Museum of Natural History. The two principal objects of his search were the extremely little known rails, *Aramidopsis plateni* of Celebes and *Habroptila wallacei* of Halmahera, although a number of other species were also particular desiderata. The Celebesian rail had been lost sight of for more than thirty years and no specimens were in existence in the collection at New York. The author calls *Aramidopsis* the "Bird Snorer" and his expedition a search for this elusive creature. He begins by describing Dr. Sanford telling him that of all the birds in Celebes this is the one he must not fail to get, and closes his book by saying, "Doctor Sanford, I've got your bird." The body of the book is taken up with an account of the expedition, illustrated with numerous excellent photographs of the country, the birds, and several of the author and his two companion-assistants in post-Victorian costume. A drawing of *Aramidopsis* and a photograph of a skin of this bird and of *Habroptila* complete the volume.—H. F.

**Siewert on the White and Black Storks of Europe.**<sup>2</sup>—In this attractively printed and superbly illustrated book the author presents elaborately detailed life histories of the two common storks of Europe, the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) and the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). The former species takes up the first 113 pages; the latter, the remaining 95 pages. The plates, made from the author's photographs, are the outstanding feature of the book and form a wonderful collection. Perhaps the most unusual and instructive from the point of view of the serious student

<sup>1</sup> Gerd Heinrich. Der Vogel Schnarch. Rallenfang und Urtwaldforschung in Celebes. Dietrich Reimer, Berlin, 1932. Pp. 1–196, 63 pls. Price 4 marks 80.

<sup>2</sup> Horst Siewert. Störche. Erlebnisse mit dem Schwarzen und Weissen Storch. Dietrich Reimer, Berlin, 1932. Pp. 208, 80 pls. Price 4 marks 80 pfennig.