

of carcasses of animals collected in the field showed that none had died of arsenical poisoning.—W. L. M.

Birds against the Potato Beetle.—Resulting from the same investigation as the previously cited paper, this account¹ gives some results of experimental feeding of potato beetles to the Gray Partridge. France is now experiencing the surge of a newly established pest and is interested as was the United States at a corresponding period in every agency that might reduce the invasion. The American literature on bird enemies of the potato beetle is imperfectly reviewed. Considerable attention is given to various kinds of poultry in relation to the insect, but only two wild birds of France are recorded as enemies, the "Red Partridge" and the Gray Partridge. The authors conclude: "Despite all our desire, under the circumstances, to magnify the rôle of birds, we cannot recommend that the farmer give up the sole means of safety remaining to him, namely, insecticides employed methodically and with care."—W. L. M.

Robinson and Chasen on 'Birds of the Malay Peninsula.'—The third volume² of this notable work has appeared and, owing to the death of the senior author, it is largely the work of Mr. Chasen, who has admirably maintained the high standard of the preceding issues. In accordance with the original plan, by which each volume is devoted to birds of a different category, the present one deals with "Sporting Birds and Birds of the Shore and Estuaries."

As the habitat or geographic arrangement of the volumes does not indicate their contents from a systematic standpoint, it may be well to state that the present volume contains accounts of fifteen Gallinaceous birds, two Bustard Quail, twelve Rails, twenty-one Pigeons, sixteen Gulls and Terns, forty-nine shore birds, twenty-six Herons, Ibises etc., five Ducks and twelve Cormorants, etc. There are twenty-five full page colored plates from paintings by Grönvold. The text, as heretofore, consists of full descriptions and measurements and a brief statement of range and habits. There are also keys for each of the groups to facilitate the identification of the species, and an introduction discussing the geography of the peninsula with a map.

We congratulate Mr. Chasen upon the way in which he has carried on this publication and are glad to know that the two remaining volumes will be prepared by him and the work completed according to the original plan.—W. S.

Thomson's 'Birds of Cape York Peninsula.'—This important contribution³ to Australian ornithology is a report upon the results of three expeditions into this wild and extremely interesting part of the continent which covered in all about three years. The investigations were carried on under the auspices of the University of Melbourne and were primarily concerned with anthropology although much zoological work was also carried on especially with regard to geographical distribution. The author suggests, very logically, that a proper study of the Aborigines should be accompanied with a study of the general natural history so closely are the two related.

¹ Chappellier, A. et M. Raucourt, *Les oiseaux contre le doryphore*, op. cit., pp. 241-252, 1 table.

² *The Birds of the Malay Peninsula: A General Account of the Birds Inhabiting the Region from the Isthmus of Kra to Singapore with the Adjacent Islands.* By The Late Herbert C. Robinson and Frederick N. Chasen. Volume III: *Sporting Birds; Birds of the Shore and Estuaries with Twenty-five Full-Page Plates in Colour* Issued by Authority of the Federated Malay States Government. H. F. & G. Witherby, Ltd., 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. i. 1936. Pp. i-xix + 1-264. Pl. 1-25. Price 35 shillings net.

³ *Birds of Cape York Peninsula: Ecological Notes, Field Observations, and Catalogue of Specimens Collected on Three Expeditions to North Queensland.* By Donald F. Thomson, D.Sc., Research Fellow, University of Melbourne. Pp. 1-82. Pl. I-XV. Price one shilling six pence. Angus and Robertson, Sydney, Australia.

The report begins with a narrative and a discussion of the "flora-fauna association areas." The zones that Dr. Thomson recognizes are the Mangrove, Salt Pans, Scrubby Ridges, Savannah Woodland and Forest, and Tropical Jungle and Rain Forest. The affinity of Cape York with New Guinea, which has long been recognized, is apparently stronger than had been supposed and our author states that "a man might stand in the jungle on the Rocky River, a full 240 miles from Cape York, and 320 from the nearest point of the New Guinea coast, and although he were observant and familiar with many groups of animals, he might be unable to state whether he stood in Australia or in Papua," so closely do plant and animal life agree. The Papuan element is evident throughout the peninsula and of the 183 species of birds listed only 79 are endemic Australian forms while 104 have a range extending to New Guinea or beyond and 19 of the latter may be regarded as Papuan forms that have entered the peninsula in comparatively recent times and have become isolated in the jungle area of the east coast, the coastal range acting as a barrier to migration. The list of species is well annotated and includes data on all specimens and eggs collected. We note that a purely binomial nomenclature is adopted. There are fifteen half-tone plates illustrating mainly nests and eggs and a faunal sketch map.—W. S.

Heim de Balsac on the Mammals and Birds of North Africa.—This notable work¹ is an ecological-geographical discussion of the fauna of the Sahara and the Barbary States based on the birds and mammals. It is divided into two parts the first dealing with the characteristics of the fauna of North Africa and the second with the relations of the birds and mammals to the desert environment. Eight chapters of the first part discuss the line of separation between the faunas of Barbary and the Sahara; the origin of the several elements of their faunas; the palaeogeographic relations of the faunas; a comparison of the fauna of Barbary with that of the Atlantic Islands (Canaries etc.) and of Lybia. Part two, with twelve chapters, discusses the physical features of the desert and its biological areas; the water problem of desert birds and mammals; the effect of solar radiation, temperature and wind on animal life; hibernation and aestivation; coloration and its protection; the adaptation of animals to the desert; the development of external ears and audital bullae in desert mammals. Lack of space prevents a more detailed review of this work but it should be consulted by all interested in desert life and its peculiarities. There is a bibliography of 671 titles, sixteen maps illustrating faunal or climatic areas and seventeen plates presenting characteristic mammals or scenery.—W. S.

Errington and Hamerstrom on the Northern Bob-white's Winter Territory.—Ornithologists, especially the younger members of the fraternity, who have felt that their field is overcrowded and that the opportunities for making important contributions to science are rapidly passing with the generation that has described everything in sight, should take heart from a new work² on the Bob-white that has just come out of the Midwest. For notwithstanding the facts that the Bob-white is probably the most written-about of American birds and that Stoddard's monumental volume (Stoddard, Herbert L. "The Bob-white Quail: Its Habits, Preservation, and Increase," 1931) is generally considered to represent the most complete study ever

¹ Biogéographie des Mammifères et des Oiseaux de l'Afrique du Nord par Henri Heim de Balsac Docteur ès Sciences. Paris, Les Presses Universitaires de France 49, Boulevard Saint-Michel. 1936. Pp. 1-446, maps i-xvi, pl. I-XVII. Price 125 francs. (Supplément XXI Bull. Biologique de France et de Belgique.)

² Errington, Paul L., and Hamerstrom, F. N., Jr., The Northern Bob-White's Winter Territory. Research Bull. 201, Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, June, 1936, pp. 301-443, 26 text figures, 75 tables, 3 pp. of bibliography.