

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.