

RECENT LITERATURE

Mayaud's 'Catalogue of the Birds of France.'—This well-prepared check-list of the birds of France has been published by the Société d'Études Ornithologiques and the author has had the coöperation of Henri Heim de Balsac and Henri Jouard. The classification of families proposed by Wetmore is adopted while Dwight's 'Gulls of the World' is followed in the arrangement of the gulls and Lowe's studies of the Charadriiformes in that of the waders. The plan follows that of the third edition of the A. O. U. Check-list in which there is a separate paragraph for the binomial name with the trinomial forms below. This of course involves such species as *Tetrastes bonasia* with its French subspecies *T. b. rupestris*, since the typical *bonasia* does not occur within the range of the work. The inclusion of the binomial in a distinct paragraph led to much confusion as many readers thought that two different races were intended and the A. O. U. Committee adopted a plan of listing only the actual forms occurring in North America in the fourth edition of its list, a plan which was also followed by Peters. There have been many advocates, however, of the other scheme which is adopted by Mayaud. Full references to genera, species and subspecies are given and a statement on character of occurrence and distribution in France.

We find several instances of recognition of intermediate forms on the same basis as subspecies, a rather novel innovation in a check-list.

M. Mayaud and his associates deserve the thanks of all ornithologists for the preparation of such a satisfactory and up to date list.—W. S.

Fuertes and Osgood's 'Artist and Naturalist in Ethiopia.'—The series of color plates of African birds and mammals published several years ago by Field Museum and representing the last work of the talented Fuertes now appears in illustration of the journal¹ of the two naturalists who undertook the expedition to Ethiopia upon which the paintings were made.

Dr. Osgood explains how Fuertes' untimely death prevented the preparation of the account of the expedition which they had planned and the fact that neither of their diaries tells the whole story. "Fuertes," he truly says, "was an artist, sensitive, ardent, impetuous and, despite his fifty years, full of almost boyish enthusiasm; on the other hand I find myself offering some contrast, for although I would not admit immunity to beauty of form and color, it seems I am seldom able to 'let go' until the hard cold facts have precedence." The result is that we have before us under the initials "F" and "O" the verbatim extracts from each journal for each day. Nothing could be more satisfactory since the unedited first-hand impressions of a traveller are always more interesting and impressive than a later more conventional account. The difference in the attitude of the writers as explained by Dr. Osgood lends itself to this method of treatment, each journal supplementing the other without loss of personality.

As a memorial to Fuertes, which was one of the objects of publication, the book is fully adequate. While many will find it an interesting account of a country which has been much in the public eye of late, Louis Fuertes' friends will find in it all of the

¹ Inventaire des Oiseaux de France, par Noel Mayaud avec la collaboration d'Henri Heim de Balsac et Henri Jouard. Société d'Études Ornithologiques. viii + 211 pp. André Blot, 12 avenue de la Grande-Armée, Paris.

² Artist and Naturalist in Ethiopia. By Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Wilfred Hudson Osgood. Illustrations painted from life by Louis Agassiz Fuertes and reproduced in this volume by special permission of Field Museum of Natural History. Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1936, viii + 249 pp., pls. 1-16. Price \$5.00.

enthusiasm, the joy of life and the sense of humor that characterized the artist-naturalist who was so dear to us all.

The details of camp life, the descriptions of the varied regions that the expedition visited and the constant allusions to their wild life, teeming with bits of life history, make the book a real contribution to natural history as well as a fascinating journal.—W. S.

Thomson's 'Bird Migration.'¹—Ten years ago we had the privilege of reviewing Dr. Thomson's classic 'Problems of Bird Migration' and since then he has published a review in 'The Ibis' of the literature of the subject up to 1935. Now we have a "short account of bird migration in simple terms" which forms one of the series of Bird-Lovers' Manuals published by Witherby and Company.

The author makes no claim for new or original theories or facts in the present volume although he has included many excerpts from the literature of the past ten years to bring the treatment up to date. The book is, in many ways, comparable to Wetmore's 'The Migration of Birds' (1930) and Rowan's 'The Riddle of Migration' (1931) in that it attempts to present the facts and theories dealing with this complex problem in a form that the general reader may grasp. The author has succeeded admirably in his task and the subject matter is not only well chosen but set forth clearly so that it makes interesting reading presented in logical sequence. It has the advantage over other similar works in that it includes the most recent investigations, an advantage always possessed by him who has the last word on any subject.—W. S.

Nicholson and Koch on 'Songs of Wild Birds.'²—This little book² packed in a box with two "gramophone" records does for British birds what Mr. A. R. Brand did for North American birds over two years ago (see Auk, vol. 51, p. 408, 1934) and yet, strange to say, we are unable to find a single mention of Mr. Brand's work in the present book. So far as we can see the methods employed and the taking of a sound truck out into the woods and fields are essentially those employed by Mr. Brand and explained in 'The Auk' in 1932 and in 'Natural History' in July, 1933.

Mr. Koch is "head of the cultural department of a large gramophone factory in Germany" and his results in recording bird song have been made possible by the co-operation of the Parlophone Company of England. His records are necessarily better than those furnished with Mr. Brand's little book since they are standard records both in size and in materials instead of the small, lighter weight, pasteboard discs which were made to fit into the cover of a book, and the reproductions are wonderfully clear in both quality and detail, especially those of the Nightingale, Blackbird, Cuckoo, etc. He is responsible for the account of the methods employed.

Mr. Nicholson has furnished most of the text of the book which discusses bird song in a popular way under the headings—What is bird song? and Why do birds sing? following which is a detailed account of the songs of the birds of Great Britain. There are seven color plates from paintings by Roland Green and a like number of half-tones from photographs illustrating the birds whose songs are presented on the records. Professor Julian Huxley contributes an introduction.

This welcome contribution to the subject of bird song will enable American bird students to hear the songs of many of the birds made famous in English literature without going abroad to seek them firsthand.—W. S.

¹ Bird Migration, a short Account. By A. Landsborough Thomson, C.B., D.Sc. London, H. F. and G. Witherby, Ltd., 326 High Holborn, W. C. 1., 1-224 pp., 7 plates from photographs and ten maps and diagrams, 1936. Price 5 shillings net.

² Songs of Wild Birds. By E. M. Nicholson and Ludwig Koch. Introduction by Julian S. Huxley. With gramophone records. London, H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W. C. 1. xxxi + 216 pp., 1936. Price 15 shillings net.