

taining two fresh eggs, but did not see any bird about it. This nest was built in a similar position to the previous ones, being partially built in a hole in an almost perpendicular bank on the side of a gully overgrown with small ferns and mosses, rendering the nest nearly invisible, although the gully was close to a track. Returning to my camp, I provided myself with a butterfly net, and, as soon as it was quite dark, without boots, and carefully shading a candle-light, again visited the nest. Quickly placing my net over it, I caught the bird just as it was flying out, and took the nest and eggs. In the early part of October I found two more nests, with two eggs in each, which had been abandoned by the birds, as the yolks were dried up in them and adhering to the shell. The eggs in these nests were not pure white, as those previously found, but had a few small spots on the thicker end, so I did not know whether they belonged to the same bird or not. A few days later I was on the Macalister Range, when, coming down a gully, I saw a little bird with some moss in its bill run on to a piece of dried wood. Looking with my field glasses, I saw it was *Sericornis gutturalis*. I went lower down the gully and up on the bank, and sat down among some bushes. The bird flew over to the opposite side of the creek, then back again, hopping within 4 feet of me. I kept very quiet. Then it went behind me, and flew over again to the other side of the creek. There was a very steep place where it disappeared. I watched it return four times into the gully, and gather moss off the rocks and go back to the same place, where later on I discovered the nest. Marking the spot, I returned a week later, on the 21st October, 1904, and found the bird sitting on two fresh eggs, which, together with the nest, I took. The eggs in this nest were also speckled on the thicker end."

Correspondence.

NATIVE NAMES OF BIRDS.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—We are neglecting a duty we owe to posterity by not collecting the aboriginal names of our birds. The aborigines are fast disappearing, and with them goes the original nomenclature of our avi-fauna. Were native names and other native knowledge of our birds collected and published we would no doubt find, on systematically tabulating them, that there was a connection between some species which so far has been hidden from systematists, and especially from field workers, but which was understood by the aboriginal children of nature, whose life was so closely bound up with the habits of our birds. Some of our field-workers have recorded that they had discredited information given them in the field by our aborigines, but on investigation had found the blacks' information correct. With pleasure I note that some of our field-workers, members of the A.O.U., have given native names when writing. Probably all the members of the A.O.U. would assist as far as they can in this patriotic and probably useful duty ere it be too late.—Yours, &c.,

Melbourne, 8/6/05.

A. H. E. MATTINGLEY.

[In connection with this subject reference should be made to

vol. i., p. 112 *et seq.*, wherein Mrs. Langloh-Parker gives many native names for birds. The various articles that Mr. Milligan has contributed to *The Emu* should also be consulted; some others also. But there are so many aboriginal dialects, in most of which the name of each bird varies, that the names given possess no meaning save to those in the immediate locality. It would be worth the while of someone who possesses the requisite material and knowledge to compile a list of the aboriginal names of birds, tabulated according to the various dialects. A great deal of information is available in such works as those of the lamented Rev. J. W. Draper, R. Brough Smyth, and the journals of the various explorers. The memorable records which Dr. Howitt has made would perhaps be better than all—certainly as far as Victoria is concerned.—H.K.]

Review.

THE THREE NAUMANNS.

To hand is a reprint of Dr. Paul Leverkühn's contribution to Naumann's "Natural History of the Birds of Central Europe." The original work of Johann Andreas Naumann appeared in 4 volumes and 8 supplements, 1795-1817; his son Johann Friedrich brought out a second edition, with much added matter, in 13 volumes, 1820-1844; and the present edition, which was published last year in 12 volumes, under the editorship of Dr. Hennicke (F. E. Köhler, Gera-Untermhaus) is the third. Of the many collaborators in the letterpress, Dr. Leverkühn, of Sofia, Bulgaria, was entrusted with the task of writing the story of the life and work of these three German ornithologists—Johann Andreas Naumann (1744-1826) and his sons, Johann Friedrich (1780-1857) and Carl Andreas (1786-1856).

Dr. Leverkühn, in addition to much excellent biographical material, reproduces the elder Naumann's preface and conclusion, and J. F. Naumann's introduction to the second edition and preface to its several parts, with eight of his letters to contemporaries. It is from these pieces of autobiography that we get the clearest portrait of the Naumanns. They came of a stock of small farmers and bird-catchers, settled for centuries at Ziebigk, in the principality of Anhalt-Cöthen, a district then very rich in birds. The characters of father and son were singularly alike. Each was diligent in observation and faithful in the record of what he saw; upon each, too, came in his childhood the strong, enthusiastic love of nature, and remained till death. They had but small education. The father says of himself—"I am more practised in the construction of snares than of sentences, and have ever been an explorer of nature rather than of books." Johann Friedrich Naumann, however, read everything to be had pertaining to ornithology, and to his father's powers of observation he added a talent for drawing,