

2.—“No changes should rest on uncertainties,” wisely writes an authority. Mr. Mathews states that Gould’s name for the Tawny Grass-Bird (*Megalurus galactotes*) was proposed for an African bird. There is no direct proof of this, although Mr. Mathews’s opinion is that Temminck’s figure is only “almost certainly” an African *Cisticola*. Therefore, we were truly “amazed” that Mr. Mathews rejected Gould’s perfect, lifelike coloured plate in favour of an old figure of a supposed African species and added to a well-known Australian bird *his own new names*.

3.—Mr. Mathews disparages, because belated news, our statement—“We had the opportunity of proving that Ramsay’s *Eopsaltria inornata* and Hartert’s *Pachycephala peninsulae* are the same species.” Our sentence should have been elaborated thus:—“*But are not two different sub-species, as shown in Mathews’s last (1913) ‘List.’*” We have examined skins from both of Mathews’s so-called sub-specific localities, also from New Guinea. “No proof is put forward,” says Mr. Mathews. We hold the material.

4, and lastly.—Regarding the *Merops*, one could write pages of speculative interest on the variation and habitat of Bee-eaters. Let it suffice for the present to remark that with the “H. L. White Collection,” together with the national collections at Sydney and Melbourne, there is enough material to enable Australians to work out their “own salvation.” In the first-mentioned collection there is, from the Coongan River, North-West Australia (Mathews’s precise locality for *M. shortridgei*), a male specimen in perfect plumage, perhaps more golden about the head than is usually the case, but it exactly corresponds with the male of a pair collected at Kow Plains, Victoria. Again, there is a typical *M. ornatus* taken by Capt. S. A. White, M.B.O.U., on or near the Nullabor Plain, at the head of the Great Australian Bight—midway between the east and west coasts of Australia. To which stream of migrants (or supposed sub-species), eastern or western, would Mr. Mathews refer this central bird?—I am, &c.,

A. J. CAMPBELL.

Surrey Hills (Vic.), 22/1/18.

Reviews.

[“Descriptive List of the Birds of Tasmania and Adjacent Islands,” by Clive E. Lord, Hobart.]

THERE have been several lists of Tasmanian birds published—Gunn’s and Swan’s, both founded on John Gould; Legge’s, after the “Catalogues of Birds,” British Museum; and last we have Mr. Lord’s, according to Mr. G. M. Mathews’s “1913 List,” and in useful pocket form. In Mr. Lord’s list the vernacular name of the bird is first given, then the technical (trinomial) nomenclature, followed by a few succinct words of description.

Miss J. A. Fletcher's interesting little publication, "Nature and Adventure in Australasia" (Macmillans), for boys and girls, has come to hand. We can easily realize the success this work has had, being told in a charming style and containing much field information. Any children reading this work will take far more interest in the wonders of nature, and especially of bird-life, than they otherwise would. We can heartily recommend this book to juvenile readers.

THE second series of "Bird Numbers" of the *School Paper*, issued by the Department of Public Instruction, Queensland, are very creditable to all concerned. Many of the articles contain original field observations, while some of the photographs depicting bird-life are really excellent. Old as well as young should profit by Governor Hamilton Goold-Adams's wise remark—"The more you get to know about birds, the more you will realize how valuable they are to yourselves and the other inhabitants of this country."

Note.—Wanted to buy, part 3 of vol. i. of *The Emu*. F. E. Howe, "Athenæ," Bryson-street, Canterbury, Victoria.

Obituary.

DEATH OF COL. W. V. LEGGE.

Too late for adequate notice in this issue came the sad news of the death of the first President of the R.A.O.U., Col. W. V. Legge, C.M.B.O.U. An extended notice will appear in our next issue.