

with all aspects of Quail in captivity, in which occurs a reference to the fact that a good song-bird was worth, during a Quail-keeping vogue, more than £100.

One coloured plate and a number of photographs illustrating the localities favoured by the respective species are included.—J.M.G.

[*The Birds of the Philippine Islands*.—Part III. By the Marquess Hachisuka, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., M.B.O.U., etc. Pp. 1-256, 41 plates, and many text figures. London: H. F. & G. Witherby, Nov., 1934.]

The third part of this work commences with the Accipitiformes and concludes with the Coraciiformes, thus completing the non-Passerine birds.

A number of new subspecies and a new genus are proposed, but the need for some of these is not apparent from the descriptions given, and in view of the uncertain status of many trinomials, it seems inadvisable to make what appear to be unsatisfactory additions. The listing of allied forms and their range under each species appears, at first glance, a thoughtful and useful innovation; a more critical examination, however, reveals mistakes which make for regret that the space so employed was not used to better advantage.

Much painstaking work by the author is nevertheless apparent throughout the volume, and although we have remarked on the tendency to split, in some cases the opportunity is taken to unite under one name birds previously referred to separate species. For instance, among the Cuckoos of the genus *Cacomantis*, *merulinus* and *variolosus* are brought together and the reasons for so doing are stated, and agreement with other recent authors is shown by the inclusion under *Chalcites* of all Bronze-Cuckoos.

There are 41 plates, most of them in colour, and a good many text figures, and these are both attractive and useful. The coloured plates are by various authors and all are not of equal merit, but the illustrative work on the whole impresses favourably.

Parts 1 and 2, respectively, of this publication were noticed in *The Emu*, Vol. xxxi, pp. 78-9, and Vol. xxxii, p. 325.—G.M.

Library Notes

The following additions to the Library are acknowledged:
Bulletin of the Arctic Institute, Nos. 6-7, 8-9, 10, 11-12.

Annals of the Transvaal Museum, Vol. xvi, parts i-iv.
Part I contains "Scientific Results of the Vernay-Lang Kalahari Expedition, Mch. to Sept., 1930—Birds," by Austin Roberts.

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. lii, Nos. 1 and 2.

The Avicultural Magazine, Vol. xiii, Nos. 3, 4 and 5. Part 5 (Jubilee number) contains "The Grass Parrakeets. Some Facts and Fictions," by Edward Boosey.

Le Gerfaut, 1934, Nos. 1-4.

Mammals of the Ruby Mountains Region of North-eastern Canada, by Adrey E. Borell and Ralph Ellis. Reprinted from *Journal of Mammalogy*, Vol. 15, No. 1. From Ralph Ellis.

Australian Science Abstracts, Vol. 14, No. 1.

The South Australian Ornithologist, Vol. xiii, Part 2.

The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. xlvii, No. 1.

The Auk, Vol. lii, No. 1.

The Birds of Nippon, Vol. i, Pt. 4, by Prince Takatsukasa. See review in this part.

The Condor, Vol. xxxvii, No. 2.

Remarks on the Origins of the Ratites and Penguins, by Wm. K. Gregory, with discussion by R. C. Murphy. Reprinted from the *Proc. Linnæan Soc. of New York*.

The Ibis, Vol. v, No. 2.

Correspondence

POISON-BAITS AND WILD LIFE

To the Editor

Sir—It is a curious fact that the defenders of the poison-bait overlook the "careless human" (to give him a mild name) who is always to be found in the ranks of those who prepare and spread the poison. Beside such a man the statements and experiments of Professor Whitehead and others are, unfortunately, of little value. Even if the conclusions that are drawn are absolutely correct—and possibly that is doubtful—no amount of care will eliminate the careless human fool. I am convinced that our bird-life and other wild life will continue rapidly to vanish before the poison-cart. Through the "That's near enough" method of many persons, baits often contain a greater percentage of poison than required; and thick spreading, by dropping handfuls of the bran, leaves it in a form highly dangerous even to stock. I found one heifer dead among poisoned grasshoppers, and in the same district I heard from a reliable source of two other cows that had died during the same week.

I have evidence that birds will eat insects even when covered with Paris-green, therefore it is mere assumption to believe that birds will differentiate between poisoned and non-poisoned insects. I blew powdered Paris-green into a nest of termites, and, after a while, dozens of winged forms of the insects began to vacate the nest and crawl all over the ground, their bodies covered with the green powder. To my dismay a pair of Singing Honeyeaters that lived and