

by the fruiting of mistletoe plants. Records of the occurrence of the Mistletoe-bird in the Sydney district indicate that it is present throughout the year in forest country generally—rare during the winter months but comparatively common in summer. A plentiful supply of mistletoe berries is always available in the summer; thus it is evident that the bird is closely associated with the plant it helps to distribute by voiding the seeds which then adhere to the branches of trees. Insects are also eaten.—K. A. HINDWOOD, Willoughby, N.S.W.

Library Notes

The following are additions to the library:—

Remarks on the Origins of the Ratites and Penguins, by Wm. K. Gregory, with discussion by R. C. Murphy. Reprinted from the *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York*, Nos. 45 and 46, 1933-34.

The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. xlvii, No. 4.

Australian Science Abstracts, Vol. xiv, No. 4.

The Condor, Vol. xxxvii, No. 6.

Research and Progress, Vol. i, No. 4. Contains "The Rossiter Ornithological Observatory on the Bird Migration Bridge," by Dr. Ernest Schuz, and "Parrot Disease," by Prof. Joseph Fortner.

Annals of the Transvaal Museum, Vol. xvii, Part 2.

The Ibis, Vol. v, No. 4, and Vol. vi, No. 1. The latter contains "Birds of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago," by Sir Charles Belcher and G. D. Smooker; "The Food and Breeding Habits of the Coot," by Walter E. Collinge.

The Avicultural Magazine, 4th Ser., Vol. xiii, Nos. 11 and 12; 5th Ser., Vol. i, No. 2. No. 12 contains "A Collector on Melville Island," by Walter Goodfellow. [Whilst the account is a spirited and interesting one of the author's visit it is deplorable to see a writer reverting to the old barbaric attitude adopted towards the Australian natives—"for my part (and many others agree with me) I should rejoice to hear that the last black had died out in Australia."]

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. lii, No. 9. Contains "Glossy Ibis Nesting in Victoria," by Charles Barrett.

American Museum Novitates, No. 814 and 820. No. 814 is "Results of the Archbold Expeditions No. 6." [Deals with 24 apparently undescribed birds from New Guinea and the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago.] No. 820 is "Birds Collected During the Whitney South Sea Expedition, xxx." [Includes descriptions of 25 new species and sub-species, many allied to Australian forms.]

The Lowan, Vol. i, No. 2. Contains "Notes on the Relative Scarcity of Some Victorian Birds," by R. S. Miller.

Bird News and Notes, Vol. xvi, Nos. 1-8. From F.L. Berney.

The Birds of Nevada, by Jean M. Linsdale. Publication of the Cooper Ornithological Club—Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 23.

The Hawks of North America, by Dr. John B. May. From Ralph Ellis. Reviewed in this part.

The Birds of the Philippine Islands, etc., Vol. ii, Part 4. By Marquess Hachisuka. Reviewed in this part.

In the Library Notes in *The Emu*, vol. xxxv, p. 110, "Mammals, etc., of North-eastern Canada," should read "Mammals, etc., of North-eastern Nevada."

Reviews

[*The Hawks of North America; Their Field Identification and Feeding Habits*. By John B. May. Published by The National Association of Audubon Societies, New York. 140 + xxii.]

With relation to the preservation of Hawks the Association has adopted a policy that opposes needless destruction, that condemns bounties and "shoots," and that aims to create popular appreciation of the economic value of raptorial birds and to combat the constant propaganda which encourages their destruction. The objects enumerated should be of universal application, and other countries might well benefit from the contents of this volume. Destruction of some species appears to have been carried, in America, to extremes that make one ponder on the mentality of individuals and even State Conservation Department officials who conduct campaigns against, and offer bounties for, the unfortunate birds. Decrease in numbers has been considerable in some species and in one case at least an American Hawk has become extirpated in recent years. In his introduction the author refers to the axiomatic idea of liberty-loving peoples to consider persons on trial innocent until proved guilty. Such a principle is not, however, carried into consideration with regard to birds of prey.

An appendix shows the Hawks protected in the 48 American States. The words "None protected" appear far too often and there is a wide divergence appertaining in the case of contiguous States. Three species figure prominently as birds enjoying no protection, and Dr. May points out that those, and two others, constitute only 8.7% of the Hawk population of a particular State being dealt with. The percentage for the whole country would be about the same. The other 91.3% is made up of Hawks recognized by scientists (but, unfortunately, not by omniscient laymen) as beneficial. A consensus of data covering all kinds of Hawks in Ohio shows the food proportions as mice and the like 35.7% poultry and game birds 4.8%, other birds 16.9%, other vertebrates 7.4%, insects 30.3%, and miscellaneous 4%.