

## Reviews

[The Austral Avian Record, vol. iv., part 6, August 1st, 1921].

An interesting number of this journal of importance especially to Australian ornithologists contains: (1) The conclusion of the article on Sherborn and the Systematist; (2) Additions and Corrections to the List of the Birds of Australia, 1913, and Check-list Pt. 1, 1920; (3) Notes of Interest, and (4) a new generic or subgeneric name—*Amorphelia*—to be used with *Columba turtur* as type.

The Additions and Corrections are mainly to synonymy and type designation and some correct dates of publication. Few changes of generic or specific names are made necessary by these. *Eudytes cristatus* replaces *E. serresianus*, *Geobasiliscus chrysorrhous alexanderi* replaces *Acanthiza pallida* Milligan, 1903, preoccupied by *Acanthiza pallida* "Temm." Finsch, 1898; *Mirafrja javanica soderbergi* replaces *M. j. nigrescens* Mathews, 1912, preoccupied by *Mirafrja nigrescens*, Reichenow, 1900—a well-merited recognition of the work of Dr. Soderberg in North-West Australia. Dr. Soderberg's report was reviewed in a previous issue.

In the "Notes of Interest," Messrs. Mathews and Iredale first give details of "Lichtenstein's Sale Catalogues." Many of the names used are *nomina nuda*, but "unfortunately" one portion "includes Illiger's names, and cites references validating them." Fortunately for us, no Australian bird name is included.

"Berthold's Edition of Letreille," 1827 likewise does not cause changes. It adds only to the synonymy of one Australian cockatoo; *Eurhynchus*, a synonym to *Probosciger* (1820), now proposed for *Microglossus* (1822).

An article by Cassin entitled "Encyclopedia Londinensis," published in Philadelphia, in 1867, provides a synonym for the Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*). The authors show in a short article the vicissitudes of "*Turdus varius*" regarded as valid, preoccupied, valid again, and finally preoccupied as different discoveries in ornithological literature have been made. Mathews and Iredale now include the name in the synonymy of the Noisy Miner, *Myzantha garrula* of the Check-list and *M. melanocephala* of Mathews and Iredale's Name-list, 1920.

"Miller's Illustrations," a rare work concerns an Australian penguin, *Eudytes chrysocome*. Forster stated the specimen was killed in Tasmania, and his son made a drawing. Forster saw another specimen from Falkland Islands, and commissioned Miller to paint this example. When describing "the new species," Forster gave as localities Van Diemen's Land and the Falkland Islands, and in his description included Bougainville's account of Falkland Islands specimens." Mathews and Iredale find that the pencil drawing of the Tasmanian bird is from a species

known as *pachyrhynchus* and that the "*chrysocome*" of Forster was too much of a mixture and should be dismissed. The authors admit theirs is not the "final word on the subject."

In another interesting note, the authors show that the sub-specific name *cinereus* for the Grey Noddy is preoccupied.

Apparently further changes may be caused by a tract issued in 1845 by Reichenbach, of whom the authors say: "Probably no author has served up so much trouble as the one here named. . . . He was a great ornithologist, but his procedure does not endear him to the present-day systematist."

Australian ornithologists are also interested in a section headed British Bird Names.

In anticipation of the preparation of the list of names of Old World birds for the *Systema Avium*, our Check-list Committee has the second edition of the Official Check-list almost completed. Mathews and Iredale, members of the British committee, mention several names of British birds as awaiting correction.

"Another Overlooked Bird List," published by Thomas Forster in 1827 in *The Pocket Encyclopædia of Natural Phenomena*, is also discussed.

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[The Birds of Australia, Gregory M. Mathews, vol. ix., part 3. London, H. F. & G. Witherby, June, 1921.]

This part treats fully six of the eight Australian birds included in the family of Cuckoo-Shrikes and Caterpillar-eaters. It also begins the treatment of the seventh member of the family, and completes that of the Fly-catchers. As about 150 species still remain to be treated, this monumental work will, at this rate, not be completed for a few years yet. As publication began in 1910, Mathews' *Birds of Australia* is likely to create a record for Australian publications in time taken to complete publication. The fine plates are all by the well-known bird artist, Gronvold, though in the part to hand plate 417, depicting the "Caterpillar-catcher" (*Metagraucalus tenuirostris*) is not included, apparently it was omitted in error.

Under the Ground Cuckoo-Shrike, details are given of a discovery of great interest to Australians. *Many, if not a large majority, of the types of the species of birds described by Gould from Australia previous to 1847 are in THE BRITISH MUSEUM, and not at Philadelphia.* Mr. Mathews promises that a "complete revision of the location of the Gouldian type species will give the exact number." Mr. Mathews considers, "This explains the action of the Trustees of the British Museum in refusing the purchase of the Gouldian Bird Collection."

The work maintains fully its very high standard in plates, information concerning the birds themselves from well-known field observers, and discussion of the history of literature concerning the different species.