

Reviews.

SOME MEXICAN BIRDS.

"Notes on Birds of Sinaloa and Nayarit, Mexico, in the Fall of 1925." By M. E. McLellan, Assistant Curator, Department of Ornithology and mammology, California Academy of Sciences. Published by the Academy, San Francisco U.S.A.

These notes are the record of some valuable field work carried on from three centres in the "tierra caliente" of the north-west coast of Mexico, and will be of great assistance to students of the avifauna of this country and of the Neotropical avifaunal region which includes Mexico and the West Indies, along with the continent of South America. They list 151 species, with informative remarks about each. The part of Mexico visited contains an arid as well as a humid tract and is situated just within the northern tropic, corresponding in southern latitude with the region extending roughly from Bowen to Rockhampton in Queensland. Though birds such as Woodpeckers, Vultures, and Humming-Birds, unknown in Australia, are noted, there are included also representatives of bird families well-known (in their own Australian genera) in central Queensland and other parts of Australia, such as the *Columbridae*, *Psittacidae* (a few) *Alcedinidae*, Flycatchers (the *Tyrannidae* of America, *Muscicapidae* of Australia). There are included also many birds of families of cosmopolitan range, notably water-birds, including therein genera found in Australia e.g. *Numenius*, *Heteroscelus*, *Plegadis*, *Pelecanus*. Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*). Known to the Mexicans as "Professor Birds," the Pelicans, it appears, "were always in evidence along the coast; they sailed about with most dignified mien among the the rollers near shore and fished in the *esteros*."

"Man-of-War Birds (*Fregata* sp.) soared overhead looking like great hieroglyphics outlined against the sky." Among the Flycatchers is mentioned a species, *Myiochanes richardsonii*, known as a Wood-Pee-wee. An Australian would be inclined to think that his familiar Peewee (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) so well known all over the continent, was the only Peewee. The name is, no doubt, onomatopoeic in origin.

Members of the R.A.O.U. and bird-lovers generally should welcome a booklet by Mr. J. L. Menzies, R.A.O.U., of Melbourne, entitled *By Gordon's Grave and Other Verses*. Mr. Menzies is evidently one of those who believe that Australian birds will not attain their rightful place in the affection of the nation until they sing their way into the hearts of the people through the happy medium of verse. Thinking thus, he has done well to offer metrical praise of the Grey Thrush, the Summer-Birds (Wood-Swallows), the Magpie, and the "Greeny" (evidently the White-plumed Honeyeater). The case for our winged wanderers is strengthened, too, by an instructive prose plea for the "preservation of Australian birds," a reprint from an article

published by Mr. Menzies, under the auspices of the R.A.O.U., in the official Gazette of the Education Department of Victoria.

The *Zoological Record*, XV, Aves, compiled by W. L. Sclater, M.A., for the Zoological Society of London (price 7/6), is now available. The object of the *Record* is to give, by means of an annual volume, complete lists of the works and publications relating to zoology in all its branches that have appeared during the year preceding the issue of the volume, together with a subject and systematic index. The ornithological section is in good hands; Mr. Sclater is to be thanked for doing a tedious task very thoroughly.

Important Notice.

The R.A.O.U. threatens to become seriously embarrassed by the fact that many members have not paid their annual subscriptions for the current year, which were due nine months ago. It is recognised that this is almost entirely due to thoughtlessness, but such thoughtlessness ought not to be allowed to creep into the affairs of a body whose affairs (including the publishing of a distinctive journal) are controlled by entirely honorary officers. The Union has been put to very heavy expense for printing of late, and it cannot continue to function satisfactorily unless members pay more attention to their financial obligations. It is desired that this matter be treated as urgent.

Notes and Comments.

The present issue of *The Emu* contains contributions from every Australian State and also two distinctive articles from New Zealand and one from the Falkland Islands. Several other notable articles have had to be held over till next issue.

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Unless otherwise stated, all paintings upon which coloured plates in *The Emu* are based are donated by the artist, Mr. Neville Cayley. Anyone desiring to purchase an original should communicate with Mr. Cayley at Collins Avenue, Rose Bay, N.S.W.

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The Editor acknowledges with appreciation the fact that most manuscripts now submitted for publication in *The Emu* are typewritten. When this is not possible, all technical names should be