

## Reviews

### ORNITHOLOGICAL HISTORY.

Mr. A. H. Chisholm, Hon. State Secretary, R.A.O.U., Queensland, although a busy man, has found time to prepare an excellent presidential address for the Queensland Naturalists' Club. The subject, an inspiration in itself, is "The Ornithological History of Queensland." Queensland possesses the most brilliant and remarkable of birds, while the ornithological history is wrapped up with the romance of the early history of the State. By taste and talent Mr. Chisholm is well equipped to prepare such an address, which appears in *The Queensland Naturalist*, iii., p. 66. It has also been issued as a "separate" in the hope that other States will write their own ornithological history, and thus complete the whole of Australia.

Mr. Chisholm regretted that the following details arrived too late to be included in his address:—The history of the discovery of *Ephthianura crocea* and *Zosterops gulliveri*, in the Gulf of Carpentaria district by Mr. T. A. Gulliver, Townsville. The types were divided between Count Castelnau, Melbourne, and Dr. E. P. Ramsay, Sydney, who together described them.\* The Count's type (♂) of the beautiful Chat went to Europe, and is apparently lost, while the co-type (♀) remains in the Australian Museum, Sydney. Gulliver was also the discoverer of *Poephila atropygialis*, Diggles. At that time (1875) Mr. Gulliver held out-posts in the Telegraph Department in the Gulf country. On one occasion the blacks intended to raid the station and kill the operator. When they arrived it was night, and Mr. Gulliver was indoors playing a concertina. "Music charms the

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\* Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W. I. (1876)

savage breast." The natives argued amongst themselves, that if they killed "white pfellow" there would be no more music, and they desisted from their evil intentions, so Mr. Gulliver ascertained subsequently. He is alive and well to-day to tell the story.

Mr. Chisholm's "history" is of especial interest to many members of the R.A.O.U. It contains a group photo. of members and friends who attended the annual meeting, Brisbane, 1910. By a strange coincidence, the only unnamed person in the picture has a "deathless name"—Cadet D. B. Fry, of the Australian Museum, who fell in the Great War.

#### LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN GULLS AND TERNs.

This important work, by Arthur Cleveland Bent, is issued as Bulletin 113 by the Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum. The former part, Bulletin 107, "Diving Birds," for want of space, was only briefly noticed in *Emu*, xix., p. 327.

The present Bulletin, a respectable volume of over 300 octavo pages, is interesting to Australians because it contains nine species which are on the new Check-list of Australian birds, namely:—*Chlidonias leucoptera* (White-winged Black Tern), *Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gull-billed Tern), *Hydroprogne caspia* (Caspian Tern), *Sterna dougalli* (Roseate Tern), *Sterna anæthetus* (Bridled Tern), *Sterna fuscata* (Sooty Tern), *Anous stolidus* (Noddy), *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Poramine Skua), *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Arctic Skua). It goes without saying that the work by Mr. Bent and his associates is most thorough, and, as previously stated, "a triumph for the field oologist and observer." The coloured plates of eggs are realistic even to the rough-grained paper, which adds to the natural appearance of the surface of the shells, and the numerous half-tone photos of birds, nests, eggs, etc., enhance greatly the value of the work. "The more useful, the more necessary," as a recent writer has stated, "because there is a tendency to consider the correct naming of a species as the whole end and aim of bird study, to the neglect of its more vital and absorbing phases."

#### NEW NATURE MAGAZINE.

*Natureland*, the new English quarterly journal of natural history, founded and edited by Graham Renshaw, M.D., F.R.S.E., devotes a fair amount of space to notes and articles on birds. In the second number, for instance, J. M. Vaughan, writes on "Bird Words," C. B. Horsbrugh contributes "Ornithological Notes from Cyprus," and the Marquis of Tavistock discusses "Parrakeet Acclimatisation in England." The Marquis states that Black-tailed Parrots or Smokers (*Polytelis melanura*)

are quarrelsome among themselves, and pairs must be separated during the breeding season. "Their flight," he adds, "is marvellous in its speed and grace, and I should say superior even to that of the Swift."

Dr. Renshaw, who is widely known as a naturalist and the author of several excellent books on wild life in Africa and elsewhere, is to be congratulated on his enterprise in launching this journal, which appeals to all classes of naturalists, both in Britain and the Dominions. Each number is finely illustrated by half-tone plates from photographs on art paper. The Editor's address is Bridge House, Sale, Manchester, England.

#### THE AUSTRAL AVIAN RECORD

*The Austral Avian Record*, vol. v., pt. i., is a most interesting number. In the "Additions and Corrections" of Australian bird names many additions are made to synonymy, and two prior names are revealed in the part. *Circus juxta* Peale, p. 64, is figured on the prior plate, xviii.; this may displace *approximans* described on p. 64. *Climacteris superciliosa* of North may be antedated by *affinis* of Blyth, 1863.

Two new genera are also proposed. *Dipardalotus* for *Pardalotus rubricatus* and *Sugomel* for *Myzomela nigra*. Mr. Mathews is steadily approaching the limit of one species, one genus; the only point on which Australians disagree with his fine work.

Perhaps the most interesting section of the present part is that dealing with "Thomas Watling, Artist." It includes well-executed reproductions of seven of those famous "drawings" attributed to Watling. The Check-list Committee is in agreement with Mathews as to the seven names given. The plates are named *Muscicapa cucullata* (the Hooded Robin), *Gracula viridis* (the Olive-backed Oriole), *Lanius torquatus* (the Grey Butcher-Bird), *Turdus frivolus*, *Turdus tenebrosus*, *Cuculus palliolatus*, and *Tringa aurita*; the four last names are not used by the Committee.