

Reference to particular items are matters of reviewers' tastes. The broad object of the work as a whole is the real substance. Dr. Mayr has produced a List marked by extensive research and up-to-date tenets of ornithology. Considering that it is sixty years since the last list—that of Salvadori—appeared (although New Guinea forms are included, of course, in Mathews' *Systema Avium Australasianarum*), the present work is most welcome.—C.E.B.

Birds and Their Reflections.—A number of examples of birds attacking or being attracted by their images in polished surfaces is given by K. A. Hindwood, under the above title (*Proc. Roy. Zoo. Soc. N.S.W.*, 1940-41, p. 20). Australian species included are Blue Wren, Magpie-Lark, Willy Wagtail, Grey and Black-throated Butcher-birds, Rufous Whistler, Lyrebird, Rock-Warbler, Grey Thrush and Budgerygah, and there are examples of both introduced and foreign birds. The Budgerygah appreciated the solace of a fictitious companion seen in a mirror to such an extent that it spent all its time there and declined to move back to its cage. The Grey Thrush deposited insects, crumbs, butter and rose petals before the reflection. It mated normally each year and brought the hen to view the mirror, but she displayed little interest.—C.E.B.

Bird-Watching.—If one knew nothing about the fundamentals of birds and their ways, and decided to learn, one could find no better introduction than James Fisher's *Watching Birds*—Penguin Books (Allen Lane), Middlesex. In this cheap pocket-size book of 192 pages, a complete synopsis of modern ornithology appears. The bird-observer is introduced to the bird and its attributes, physical and environmental, and is then taken through all the fascinating incidents of bird-life—migration, habitats, statistics, territory, courtship and breeding. The style is facile, the sketches illustrative. Altogether the booklet is most commendable.—C.E.B.

The Union *must* have more members if its affairs are to continue satisfactorily and *The Emu* is to maintain its standard. The Council makes this plea to members to exert themselves. A four-page pamphlet illustrating the objects of the R.A.O.U., which might be used to support invitations to "prospects," may be obtained upon application to the Hon. Editor or Hon. General Secretary.

Mr. Ernest G. Austin, of Skipton, Victoria, who had been a member of the Union since 1904, died, on July 20, 1941, at the age of 74. The deceased was not a contributor to the pages of *The Emu* of recent times, but for many years he forwarded contributions to the nature columns of the newspapers. He always took a keen interest in the birds encountered during his out-of-doors life.

On page 96 of the last (July) issue of *The Emu* reference is made to *A Waterhen's Worlds*, authorship of which is ascribed to the late Dr. Claud B. Ticehurst. The late Mr. Eliot Howard was, of course, the author.

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