

- Witherby, H. F., Jourdain, F. C. R., Ticehurst, Norman F., and Tucker, Bernard W. (1940). *The Handbook of British Birds*, vol. iv.
 Wüst, Walter (1950). 'Zum Vorkommen und zur Kennzeichnung des Teichwasserläufers, *Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechstein)', *Ornithologische Mitteilungen*, 2 (4), 85-86.

News and Notes

RESIGNATION OF HON. EDITOR

The Hon. Editor desires to make as personal as possible this notification to members that, owing to ill-health, he has been compelled to relinquish editorship of *The Emu*.

Although 'officially' appointed as Assistant Editor prior to such date, he had little to do with the editing prior to the issue of July 1929. Dr. J. A. Leach, who was carrying on as acting editor (the position being vacant), went into hospital in September, and asked Bryant 'to get out the October part'. Leach did not leave hospital and died on October 3. Bryant 'took over' and has edited *The Emu* since that time.

Perhaps there are better methods of securing honorary editors!

M. A. INGRAM TRUST ASSISTANCE

The major part of the cost of producing the articles in this number by Mr. K. A. Hindwood and by Prof. Ernst Mayr and Mr. A. R. McEvey (if not the whole) will be met by the Trustees.

CORRECTION

Part of an article in *The Emu* for May (vol. 60, pt. 2), at p. 133, became transposed during printing operations. The material beginning "Further to the matter", and continuing to the foot of the page, belongs immediately below the cross-heading "Some Overlooked Observations".

Reviews

Biology of Short-tailed Shearwater.—Commencing in 1947, a study of the Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) has been carried out by Dr. D. L. Serventy and by the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O. The results of the investigations have been presented in a series of papers published mainly by Serventy.

A recent paper by Donald S. Farner and D. L. Serventy on 'Body Temperature and the Ontogeny of Thermo-regulation in the Slender-billed Shearwater' (*Condor*, 61 (6), 426-433, Nov.-Dec. 1959) gives details of research done on islands of the Furneaux group in eastern Bass Strait. It was found by the authors that adult birds of the species have a lower temperature when in the burrow than on the surface of the ground, and it is thought that the lower temperature of the incubating birds in the nest should be regarded as characteristic of quiet burrow life.

Chicks at hatching, or shortly after, are able to maintain adult body temperatures in burrows, and older chicks have a higher temperature on the surface of the ground than in the burrow.

An occurrence of a ringed individual of *P. tenuirostris* in New Zealand is reported by Serventy in a note on 'Ringed Tasmanian Mutton-Bird Recovered in New Zealand' (*Notornis*, 8 (8), 260, March 1960). The bird was found dead at Hawke's Bay in 1959. Immature individuals seem to remain away from their home islands until they are three years of age, but some of them may take part in the annual north/south migration of the species in the Pacific.—E.F.B.

Window to Bushland.—Dr. Allen Keast's book, *The Educational Press*, Sydney, is a welcome edition to the popular literature which we must have if our fauna is to survive in the face of special dangers resulting from an extensive programme of immigration. Only a painstaking and persistent campaign of education in favour of native fauna will ensure that degree of public sentiment which is so much more effective than protective legislation. Books, and still more books, are required now as perhaps never before, but they must be readable and of general appeal and they must be accurate.

Window to Bushland satisfies all these requirements, accuracy being guaranteed by Dr. Keast's standing as a naturalist and by his official position at the Australian Museum, Sydney. His ability to write entertainingly and in popular vein is demonstrated most clearly in this book. The subjects dealt with are not birds alone nor even mainly birds, but they are well-chosen examples of creatures which may be expected to interest the new-comer. All are described in simple friendly language. There is something for every lover of Nature, be he old or young.

A feature of the book is the number and the quality of the photographs. There are more than 100 illustrations in the book's almost 200 pages. One is slightly disappointed, not with the quality of the photographs themselves, which are excellent, but with their reproduction. It is quite apparent that, in their printing by the offset process, they have lost some of that fine detail which is so important in nature pictures. It is hoped that in future editions the more important pictures will be printed on art paper.

The book is excellent value at 16/, attractively bound, and in every way suitable for presentation.—R.T.L.

The Birds of the World—Volume IX—'A Continuation of the Work of James L. Peters'—edited by Ernst Mayr and James C. Greenway Jr., is the largest volume yet published—pp. 506 + XII. Its publication precedes that of volume VIII: henceforth publication will not necessarily be in numerical sequence.

At the time of his death Peters had completed the manuscript for the Alaudidae and Hirundinidae and portion of the Campephagidae—groups included in this volume. Several collaborating ornithologists have prepared the remainder of the volume and in all cases there is an indication of the persons dealing with the various groups. The sequence recommended by the Basel Ornithological Congress has been followed, and will be followed, with regard to Passerine families. An innovation is the inclusion of a vernacular name "where a species occurs in English speaking countries and has a well-known vernacular name". Naturally the editors have had to use extreme caution in this regard; we note that White-winged Triller is used but not Varied Triller. *Mirafra javanica* is named the Singing Bush Lark. It is an appropriate name and should be adopted here.

Fourteen species on the Australian list are included, excluding, from this number, the introduced Skylark. *Cheramoeca leucosternum* is stated as apparently unrecorded from Victoria, which is surely not the case. Our Welcome Swallow is given three vernacular names, namely House Swallow, Coast Swallow and Pacific Swallow. The Australian races are subspecies of *tahitica*. *Petrochelidon* is the genus for the Tree Martin and Fairy Martin.

Australian forms of Campephagidae were completed by Dr. Mayr. The Jardine Caterpillar-eater is included in *Coracina*.

The initiation of a world checklist of birds of which the present volume is part was planned to overcome the obsolescence of Sharpe's *Handlist*. One of the principal groups involved in that work and requiring attention was the Laniidae. Over the years systematic workers have transferred groups out of this assemblage but now it is felt that something 'official' is indicated—*Gymnorhina*, *Cracticus* and *Strepera* to Cracticidae, Sharpe's sub-family Pachycephalinae to Muscipidae, *Grallina* to Grallinidae, and others.

The extent of the research necessary to produce such a volume as this must be colossal. It is a matter for regret that more birdmen here do not dig a little deeper into the subject and develop an interest in the systematic side.

Copies are available from the Ornithological Department, Zoological Museum, Copenhagen K, Denmark, at \$7.50 (special discount for direct prepaid orders \$6.00) or the corresponding amount in any other currency.—C.E.B.

Correspondence

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

To the Editor,

Sir,

I propose writing a paper on 'Australian Bird Photographers' as an Education Higher Certificate Thesis for the Education Department of Western Australia, and subsequently to seek publication for the manuscript.

Will members of the R.A.O.U. who would care to be included in the work, which I hope will be as comprehensive as possible, send me a whole-plate glossy print of the photograph they consider their best or most representative of their work, and the following data: (i) equipment and film customarily used, (ii) techniques used in obtaining photos, (iii) list of species photographed, (iv) period of years spent photographing birds, (v) list of publications and photographic contributions, (vi) number of acceptances and honour awards for prints or slides in International Competitions, (vii) any other points of interest.

Would any members knowing bird photographers who are not Union members kindly bring this letter to their notice.

Kindly indicate whether immediate payment for the print is required or a proportionate share of royalties.

Members who are working exclusively in colour will find that excellent black and white enlargements can be made by using negatives taken from transparencies.

Yours etc.,

PETER SLATER

61 Delawarr St.,
Derby, W.A.
1st March, 1960.