

*Eurystomus orientalis* (L.), *E. o. gigas*, subsp. n. S. Andamans, *E. o. connectens* subsp. n. Moa Isl. XXII. The forms of *Amaurornis phænicura* (Forster). XXIII. The forms of *Baza subcristata* (Gould), *B. s. pallida*, Kei Islands, and *B. s. megala* Fergusson Island described as new. XXIV. The forms of *Cinnyris clementiæ* Less., *C. c. keiensis* subsp. n. Kei Islands. XXV. The forms of *Macropygia ruficeps* (Temm.), *M. r. nana* subsp. n. Kina Balu, Borneo. XXVI. The forms of *Alcedo ispida* in eastern and southern Asia and the Indo-Australasian Archipelago, *A. i. pelagica* subsp. n. St. Aignan, Isl. XXVII. The forms of *Thriponax javensis*, *T. j. confusus* subsp. n. Mt. Arayat, Luzon. XXVIII. The forms of *Centropus sinensis* (Steph.), *C. s. anonymus*, Tawi-tawi and *C. s. parroti*, Ceylon, are described as new.

The method adopted by Mr. Stresemann in his 'Miscellany' is to be commended as instead of merely describing a lot of new forms, he gives us the benefit of his study of all the related forms, presenting as it were a series of little monographs. In Another recent paper, he treats of the birds collected on the island of Bali on the second Freiburger Moluccan Expedition, additional species previously obtained on the island are also listed bringing the total to 149. The following are described as new: *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti*, *Surniculus lugubris brachyurus*, *Phænicophaës curvirostris deningeri*, *Phylloscopus borealis examinandus*, *Pachycephala grisola secedens*, *Criniger gularis balicus*, *Oreosterops javanica elongata*, *Aplonis panayensis gusti* and *Aplonis panayensis leptorrhynchus* are described as new. There is also a valuable discussion of the plumage changes of *Centropus*.

At the close of this paper the author presents some zoogeographical conclusions regarding the relationship of the avifauna of Bali, Lombok, Java, Sumatra and Sumbawa which are of much interest. In an effort to meet the problem that confronts all students of geographic distribution — i. e. the relative value to be given species and subspecies in contrasting faunas — he differentiates between species which are broken up into closely related geographic races and well marked species which are not. The latter he terms 'Altform,' while the races of the complex species ('Art') he terms 'Jungformen.' This is a novel terminology but it draws attention to a matter of no little importance, especially in view of the enormous multiplication of subspecies which is now taking place.— W. S.

**Menegaux on Ostrich Farming.**<sup>1</sup> — In this valuable paper one can find conveniently arranged, information on practically any phase of the subject of Ostrich rearing or the Ostrich plume business. The several geographic races of the bird are first described; then the structure of the plume and its development, and the variation in the feathers on different parts of the body are discussed. Chapter three deals with a history of the use of

<sup>1</sup> L'Élevage de L'Autruche, Réculte et Commerce des Plumes par A. Menegaux. Bibliothèque d'Agriculture Coloniale, pp. 1-156. Paris. 1913.



Ostrich plumes, and the commercial terminology and points used in valuing plumes. Chapter four considers the methods of procuring the plumes from the birds and other chapters relate to the commerce in Ostrich plumes, the domestication and care of the birds, and the extension of Ostrich farming. When we learn that in 1911 over 800,000 pounds of Ostrich plumes were exported from Cape Colony, valued at about ten million dollars, and that Ostrich raising is now going on in Transvaal, Australia, Algeria, Tunis, Soudan, Madagascar, Egypt and the United States, we begin to realize the magnitude of this business, and more than ever the absolute lack of necessity for tolerating in any way, shape or form the traffic in wild bird plumage. M. Menegaux has furnished us with a valuable work of reference which can be read with profit by all interested in the feather trade, either commercially or in its relation to bird protection—W. S.

**Dubois' List of the Birds of Belgium.**<sup>1</sup>—Dr. Dubois prepared in 1885 a list of Belgian birds of which this is a 'new edition.' Eight names in the old list are cancelled and 25 species added during the twenty-seven years that have intervened making a total of 353. In comparing the avifauna of Belgium with that of any of the United States it may be of interest to state that Dr. Dubois finds that 70 species are resident, 57 summer residents, 39 winter visitants, 49 regular transients and 123 irregular or accidental. To these he adds as a separate category, 15 climatic varieties—surely a severe reflection upon the 'subspecies.' Dr. Dubois is very conservative in matters of nomenclature adhering to the twelfth edition of Linnæus, and rejecting tautonomy and trinomials, his 15 climatic varieties being designated by the old-fashioned "var."—W. S.

**McAtee on the Relation of Birds to Grain Aphides.**<sup>2</sup>—Mr. McAtee presents an elaborate report of a week's study of birds in connection with an outbreak of Grain Aphides near Winston Salem, N. C. Of the species present which fed upon the Aphides the following were the most important and in the order named, Field Sparrow, Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Snowbird. By estimating the number of birds present on the area of 100 acres which was under observation and the average number of Aphides found in the stomachs examined, Mr. McAtee concludes that these birds devoured about a million aphides a day, while migrants passing through at the time consumed as many more. It is interesting to see that all the species cited above are Fringillidæ, birds not usually credited with this sort of diet.—W. S.

**Beal on Our Meadowlarks in Relation to Agriculture.**<sup>3</sup>—The distribution and economic status of *Sturnella magna* and *S. neglecta* are here

<sup>1</sup> Nouvelle Revue des Oiseaux Observés en Belgique, par Le Dr. Alph. Dubois. Mem. Soc. Zool. France. Tom. XXV, 1912, pp. 162-209.

<sup>2</sup> Relation of Birds to Grain Aphides. By W. L. McAtee. Year book U. S. Dept. of Agriculture for 1912. pp. 397-404, 3 figs.

<sup>3</sup> Our Meadowlarks in Relation to Agriculture. By L. Beal. Yearbook U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1912. pp. 279-284.



Menegaux, Auguste. 1913. "Menegaux on Ostrich Farming." *The Auk* 30, 600–601. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072091>.

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