

five parts (the last issued eight months ago) published of his "Australian Birds" has been sent to the Union for review. Does he object to have his work judged from an Australian standpoint? There are no persons more interested in the birds of their own continent than Australians themselves.

The reviewers of this *Record* regret having occasion to use such direct criticism, but in the common interests of Australian ornithology they feel impelled to do so, and in doing so have the entire approval of their Council.

However, Mr. Mathews has recorded for the first time for the Commonwealth a bird of much interest to Australians—namely, the Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola sibirica*, Dresser). There is in the Tring Museum a female collected by Mr. J. P. Rogers at Broome, North-West Australia. According to Seebohm* this Sandpiper is very local during the breeding season (breeding on the Scandinavian mountains and other northern localities), but its range extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In the Austro-Malayan region its farthest south has been Java.

The Crows of Australia.

The Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, No. clxxvi., contains the following critical statement by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, of the bird department, British Museum, which is of especial interest to Australians:—

"In a paper just published in the *Novitates Zoologicae*, xviii., pp. 442-3 (1912), Mr. G. M. Mathews has given a Reference List to the Birds of Australia, in which he divides the Raven, Crow, and Jackdaw into no less than ten different forms, seven of these being named for the first time: thus adding to the confusion which already existed. He, unfortunately, failed to recognize the true specific differences between the Raven and the Crow, and misapplied the name *C. bennetti* to smaller specimens of the latter. I am glad to say that he now entirely agrees with me on all the main points at issue concerning the Australian *Corvidæ*, and their synonymy, as given below.

"1. **The Raven.** *Corvus coronoides*, Vig. & Horsf.

"? *Corvus australis*, Gmel. S. N. i. p. 365 (1788) [ex Lath. Gen. Syn. i. pt. i. p. 369 (1781)].

"*Corvus coronoides*, Vig. & Horsf., Trans. Linn. Soc. xv. p. 261 (1827) [Parramatta, New South Wales]; Gould, Birds Aust. iv. pl. xviii. (1848) [Tasmania]; Ramsay, *Ibis*, 1865, p. 303 [part.]; Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M., iii. p. 20 (1877) [part.]

"*Corvus australis*, Gould, Handb. Birds Austr. i. p. 475 (1865) [part.]; Ogilvie-Grant, *Ibis*, 1909, p. 652 [Albany, S.W. Australia].

"*Corone australis*, Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iii. p. 37 (1877);

* "Geographical Distribution of the Charadriidæ," p. 433.

North, Nests and Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 187, pl. vii. fig. 7 (1889); Campbell, Nests and Eggs Austr. Birds, i. p. 55 (1901); North, Nests & Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 5 (1901).

"*Corvus coronoides coronoides*, Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 442 (1912) [Type: New South Wales].

"*Corvus coronoides perplexus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 442 [South-west Australia].

"*Corvus marianæ marianæ*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [New South Wales].

"*Corvus marianæ melliorei*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Victoria, South Australia; South-west Australia].

"*Corvus marianæ halmaturinus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Kangaroo Island].

"*Corvus marianæ tasmanicus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Tasmania].

"2. **The Crow.** *Corvus cecila*,* Mathews.

"*Corvus australis*, Gould, Handb. Birds Aust. i. p. 475 (1865) [part.].

"*Corvus coronoides*, Ramsay, *Ibis*, 1865, p. 303 [part.]; Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iii. p. 20 (1877) [part.]; North, Nests & Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 186, pl. vii. fig. 8 (1889); Campbell, Nests & Eggs Austr. Birds, i. p. 54 (1901); North, Nests & Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 1 (1901); Ogilvie-Grant, *Ibis*, 1909, p. 652 [Southern Cross; Koolgardie and Gascoyne R., West Australia].

"*Corvus coronoides cecila*, Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 442 (1912) [North-west Australia].

"*Corvus bennetti bennetti*, Mathews (nec North), t. c. p. 442 [New South Wales; South Australia].

"*Corvus bennetti queenslandicus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Queensland].

"3. **The Small-billed Crow, or Jackdaw** *Corvus bennetti*, North.

"*Corvus bennetti*, North, Victorian Nat. xvii. p. 170 (1901) [Moolah, western New South Wales]; Ogilvie-Grant, *Ibis*, 1909, p. 650 [Carnarvon, Gascoyne R., West Australia].

"*Corvus bennetti bonhoti*, Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 442 [Murchison, West Australia].

"The colour of the iris does not seem to be of any value as a specific character. In fully adult examples of all three species it appears to be white."

Stray Feathers.

Description of Eggs of Lesser Yellow-faced Honey-eater (*Ptilotis sub-chrysops*), *Emu*, ante, p. 19).—In form pointed ovals, though somewhat swollen. Surface of shell fine and slightly glossy. Ground colour pinkish-buff, spotted and lightly blotched, particularly at the larger ends, where irregular zones occur, with two

* Through the confusion existing in ornithological works, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant is of opinion that this is the only name available.—EDS.