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faunal and economic ornithology it is a most welcome addition to our literature, and furnishes a model for similar works in other places. We congratulate the authors.

L. J.

Some Birds of the Fresno District, California. By John G. Tyler. The Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 9. Hollywood, October 1, 1913.

This paper makes no claims to completeness, but is rather presented now that it may furnish a working basis for a future complete survey of the region which occupies the exact geographical center of the state. It is a lowland of not over 400 feet elevation, and lies within the Lower Sonoran Zone. The author states that the steady reduction of the swampy areas by drainage marks the doom of such nesting birds as depend upon the cover afforded by such a swampy environment. The check-list of species, which precedes the General Account of the Species, gives 161 species. The treatment is systematic, and each species named is accompanied with copious annotations relating to the occurrences, relative abundance, migration, nesting, food habits, and many side lights upon the life of the birds. We are seldom treated, in a paper of this sort, with such a wealth of interesting things as this author presents. May his tribe increase! In paper, typography, and general appearance this latest number of the California Avifauna series maintains the high standard set at the inception of the series.

L. J.

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Three papers by Edgar A. Mearns.

Vol. 61, No. 10. Descriptions of four new African Thrushes of the Genera *Planesticus* and *Geocichla*. August 11, 1913. One is a new species — *Planesticus helleru* — from Mount Mbololo, altitude 4,000 feet, east of Mount Kilimanjaro, British East Africa, collected November 9, 1911, by Edmund Heller, on the Paul J. Rainey African Expedition. The other described forms are subspecies, one of *Planesticus*, the others *Geocichla*.

Vol. 61, No. 11. Descriptions of six new African Birds. August 30, 1913. "Four of the forms here described are from the collection made by the Childs Frick African Expedition, 1911-12; and two are from the Smithsonian African Expedition, 1909-10 collection, made under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt." Five were collected by the author and one by Childs Frick. Five are new subspecies of *Cisticola*, one of *Pyromelana*.

Vol. 61, No. 14. Descriptions of Five New African Weaver-Birds of the Genera *Othyphantes*, *Hypargos*, *Aidemosyne*, and *Lagonosticta*. September 20, 1913. "Four of the forms here described are from the collections made by the Childs Frick African Expedition,