

SIRS,—In his paper on a collection of Birds made in Northern Somaliland, Mr. D. A. Bannerman makes the remark (p. 297) that the female of *Passer castaneopterus* does not appear to have been previously described. Mr. Bannerman seems not to have consulted a paper of mine ('Ibis,' 1905, p. 509) on a most interesting collection made by Captain A. E. Hamerton in the same country, in which a description of the female of this species was given (p. 518).

Yours &c.,

H. F. WITHERBY.

326 High Holborn,
London, W.C.
May 11th, 1910.

SIRS,—In the 'Ibis' of April 1910, vol. iv. p. 359, it is stated of two Yellow-browed Warblers (*Phylloscopus superciliosus*) from East Ross-shire that they are "the first known to have occurred on the Scottish mainland." May I point out that these birds were recorded in the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History,' 1910, p. 55, as "the first record for the autumn of the occurrence of this interesting migrant on the mainland of Scotland," and that the first actual record of the Yellow-browed Warbler on the mainland of Scotland, as also its first occurrence in spring in the British Isles, were recorded in the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History,' 1909, p. 183. The date of this interesting occurrence was April 11th, 1909, near Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.

Yours &c.,

HUGH S. GLADSTONE.

Capenoch, Thornhill,
Dumfriesshire.
May 30th, 1910.

SIRS,—On the 28th of April last an example of the Senegalese Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles senegalus*) was obtained at Santa Croce Camarina in the province of Syracuse, and was forwarded to me in the flesh.

The specimen in question, an adult female, when shot, was in company with another individual of the same species,

presumably its mate, on some rough uncultivated land, and a very high wind from the east was blowing at the same time.

For this interesting addition to my Collection and for the particulars concerning its capture I am indebted to the kindness of the Marquese Arezzo and his son the Duca di Celano, large land-owners in the above-mentioned district.

I believe this to be the first recorded instance of the occurrence of this bird not only in Italy, but in Europe.

I am, Sirs, yours &c.,

JOSEPH I. S. WHITAKER.

Villa Malfitano,
Palermo, Sicily.
June 2nd, 1910.

[We believe that Mr. Whitaker is quite correct in stating that the Senegalese Sand-Grouse has not been previously recorded in Europe. It is, however, well known in Algeria and Tunis, see Whitaker's 'Birds of Tunisia,' vol. ii. p. 240.—EDD.]

Death of Lieutenant Boyd Alexander.—Most of our friends will already be acquainted with the sad news of the death of Lieutenant Boyd Alexander, who was killed on April the 2nd in a skirmish with the natives at Nyeri, some 60 or 70 miles to the north-east of Abeshr, the capital of Wadai, while endeavouring to force his way from Lake Chad into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. We hope to be able to give some account of the life and work of this great Explorer and Naturalist in our next number.

A rare Jay in Berlin.—It appears from a notice in 'The Field' (vol. cxv. p. 779) that a living example of the rare Jay, *Garrulus lidthi*, of the Loochoo Islands, has been lately received by the Zoological Garden of Berlin. This Jay was first described by Bonaparte in 1850, and was beautifully figured by Wolf in the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings' (1850, p. 80, pl. xvii.) from a single specimen in the collection of Prof. van Lidth de Jeude, of Utrecht.