

In conclusion we would say that by far the most unsatisfactory feature of the work is its slow progress. The first volume covers only about one third of the entire field, yet seven and a half years are comprised between the dates of publication of the first and last signatures. At this rate, we may look for the completion of the work not sooner than the close of the present century! It is to be hoped, however, that the authors may manage to hasten its completion, for, until the remaining families shall have been treated, any work done by others in the same field will be, necessarily, premature. — ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Saunders's Manual of British Birds.*—The purpose of the present volume is "to convey as much information *up to date* as may be practicable in *one volume*." The plan of the work, as the author says, "may justly be called Procrustean," just two pages being allowed to each species, the matter consisting of a full-length figure and a page and three quarters of text. Very few of the wood-cuts are new, nearly all being from "the blocks from which the illustrations were struck for the four editions of Yarrell's 'British Birds'," to which, however, have been added figures of many of the recent wanderers to Great Britain, and a few fresh figures of other species, including the Great Auk. In this small space the author has compressed a fair statement of the habitat and migrations of each species treated, of course, with special reference to its status as a British bird; a summary of its life-history, and a description of its external characters, including seasonal, sexual and other phases of plumage.

There is neither synonymy nor any bibliographical references, and the generic diagnoses are given in the 'Introduction', under their respective orders and families, arranged mainly in accordance with the B. O. U. 'List of British Birds.' The work is thus in a true sense a 'Manual',—an epitome of what is most interesting and most useful to the general reader. The addition of analytical keys and tables would perhaps have made the book more useful to the young student without greatly increasing the cost or size of the 'Manual'.

The number of species considered as unquestionably entitled to be reckoned as British is 367; a few others are incidentally mentioned, respecting the status of which there are conflicting opinions. "The species which have been ascertained to breed within the United Kingdom during the present century may be taken as 200; about 70 non-breeding wanderers have occurred fewer than six times, and 59 others are more or less infrequent visitors; while 38 species annually make their appearance on migration or during the colder months, in some portion of our long, narrow group of islands or the surrounding waters" (p. v).

* An Illustrated Manual | of | British Birds. | By | Howard Saunders, F. L. S., F. Z. S., &c. | Editor of the Third and fourth Volumes of "Yarrell's History of | British Birds," Fourth Edition. | With Illustrations of nearly every Species. | [Monogram.] London: Gurney and Jackson, 1, Paternoster Row. | (Successors to Mr. Van Voorst.) | 1889.—8vo, pp. xl + 754, with 3 maps, and "367 illustrations."

The author displays much conservatism, both in respect to the admission of alleged stragglers, and in the matter of subspecies. Thus a number of North American species often entered in British lists are ruled out on the ground that the specimens taken were in all probability escaped cage-birds, or "assisted" wanderers, or as "not likely to be genuine visitors." His position on the question of races is shown by his treatment of the British Tits, in several of which he admits the existence of "climatic races," but declines to give them recognition in nomenclature.

Three maps accompany this excellent work. The first is a 'Bathy-orographical map of the British Isles and surrounding seas'; the second is a map of Europe, also bathy-orographical, and the third is a 'North Polar Chart,' useful as showing the range of birds breeding in the Arctic regions.—J. A. A.

Notes on Sport and Ornithology.*—His Imperial and Royal Highness, the late Crown Prince Rudolf, of Austria, was well known for his enthusiastic interest in ornithology. His 'Notes on Sport and Ornithology' is a series of pleasantly written sketches of ornithological expeditions, followed by a number of more formal ornithological papers. The first of these sketches is entitled, 'Fifteen Days on the Danube,' and occupies the first 227 pages of the book. Accompanying the Prince on this journey were, among others, the late Dr. Eugen von Homeyer, the younger Brehm, Hodek, father and son, and other more or less well-known naturalists and sportsmen, besides a retinue of hunters, guides and valets. The trip was made in the steamer 'Vienna,' which left Pesth with the party on the 22d of April, 1878. The special object of the journey was the solution of the question of whether the 'Stein' and Golden Eagles were or were not distinct species. The narrative here given recounts in a delightful way the experiences and successes of each day's hunt, giving incidentally a graphic picture of the low, somewhat marshy forests of the lower Danube, and their feathered inhabitants. Eagles and Vultures, and the larger birds of prey generally, together with Cormorants, Storks, and Herons, were the chief objects of quest, the smaller birds coming in for only a small share of attention. Among the ornithological results of the expedition were 9 Vultures, 29 Eagles, 24 Hawks, 8 Cormorants, 12 Storks, 15 Herons, and various smaller birds, the total numbering over 200 specimens and about 70 species. Much interesting information is given respecting the habits of many of the species mentioned, particularly of the Vultures and Eagles.

Next follow 'Extracts from a Journey in the East' (pp. 229-390), describing an ornithological trip in Lower Egypt and in Palestine, made in February, March, and April, 1881. The narrative is replete with interest-

*Notes | on | Sport and Ornithology | by | His Imperial and Royal Highness the late Crown Prince | Rudolf of Austria. | Translated, with the Author's permission, by C. G. Danforth. | [Monogram.] London: | Gurney and Jackson, | Paternoster Row. | (Successors to Mr. Van Voorst.) | 1889 — 8vo. pp. viii + 648.