

by following rivers or mountain ranges would, as often as not, lead birds right out of their course." In the first place, the conditions furnished by a small island like England are far from those that characterize a large continent, like Europe-Asia or North America. In the second place, we are unable to recall where it has been alleged that birds follow, in their long migratory journeys, either mountain ranges or large streams. Our author says: "There is some indubitable evidence that migration at times proceeds at great heights." The claim is, so far as we are aware, that birds passing at these great heights are able to see the leading features of the landscape beneath them, and that, presuming birds to have memory, they may be thus guided by the principal physical features of the country over which they are passing, and thus follow or cross mountain ranges or river valleys or coast lines as their route may require.

Just how, or by what means, birds find their way our author fails to tell us, though he admits belief that "birds possess a sense of direction," for how else could Albatrosses and other pelagic birds find their way back, at the proper season, to their breeding stations; in other words, he says: "The faculty whereby they direct their flight back to their breeding stations, over hundreds [sometimes thousands] of miles of open water, is doubtless akin to that exhibited by savages and pigeons." There is doubtless a problem here man will strive long to fathom before reaching a wholly satisfactory solution, but the suggestion made by Mr. Austin H. Clark in the April (1905) issue of this Journal (Auk, XXII, pp. 134-140), that the prevailing winds of certain latitudes, especially the trade-winds, may be an important aid, particularly in the case of pelagic wanderers, seems at least worthy of serious consideration.—J. A. A.

Riley's 'Birds of the Bahama Islands.'¹—In this paper is given a carefully prepared summary of our present knowledge of the ornithology of the Bahama Islands, consisting of a list of the 204 species and subspecies known to occur there, and notes on their relative abundance and manner of occurrence, preceded by a résumé of ornithological explorations in the archipelago, and by eight pages on 'The Zoögeographical Position of the Bahama Islands.' The 44 endemic species are considered with reference to their derivation or origin. Of these 14 appear to have reached the islands from the eastern United States by way of Florida, and 17 from the Greater Antilles, chiefly by way of Cuba, leaving 13 of doubtful or fortuitous origin.—J. A. A.

¹ Birds of the Bahama Islands. By Joseph H. Riley, Aid, Division of Birds, U. S. National Museum. From 'The Bahama Islands,' pp. 347-368. Published by the Geographical Society of Baltimore, 1905, George Burbank Shattuck, Ph. D., editor.