

The whole subject is however treated wholly from a European point of view and but few contributions to the literature have been consulted except those by Germans, French or some of the English writers. Naturally in failing to consult American publications much important data bearing upon the more general problems of migration have been omitted. The experiments of Dr. Watson with terns on the Dry Tortugas and the numerous papers by Cooke and others cannot be ignored without seriously impairing the value of an author's conclusions.—W. S.

Van Oort's 'Birds of the Netherlands.'¹—Parts 13–14 of this notable work consist, like those immediately preceding, wholly of plates, which are quite up to the standard. They consist of a Vulture, several Hawks and Eagles, the little Rails (*Porzana*) and, of special interest to Americans, various of the shore birds including species common to both sides of the Atlantic.

These show the Phalaropes, Golden Plover, Knot, and other species, in their various plumages while the large size of the figures—too large perhaps from an artistic point of view for the size of the sheets, nevertheless make it possible to show details of coloration with great accuracy.—W. S.

Scoville's 'Wild Folk.'²—In this little volume, Mr. Scoville's facile pen has sketched vivid pictures of the lives of various wild animals and birds which are most fascinating reading for those who enjoy the great out doors and like to have their information presented in the form of nature-fiction, if we may so term it. "True stories about the wild folk", the publishers call them and so they are in the sense that the novel is a true story. But the novel is not history nor biography and we personally prefer nature-history and nature-biography and therefore we like Mr. Scoville's work best when he is describing actual incidents of his own observation, and had hoped that he would follow in the footsteps of Bradford Torrey, Frank Bolles and others of that school.

All forms of nature writing, however, have their place in literature and Mr. Scoville has acquired a high ability in his chosen field. His backgrounds based on personal studies are charming, and the lives of his characters skilfully and cleverly sketched. Only one chapter in the present volume treats of birds; "High Sky," in which a fanciful picture of the migrating host of birds is followed by accurate data based upon Professor Cooke's papers on the migratory routes of many species. While this chapter contains much instructive matter the critic might question the Gyrfalcon being driven south by cold as early as the plover flight, or a

¹ Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Martinus Nijhoff's Graven Nage, Afl. 13–14.

² Wild Folk. By Samuel Scoville, Jr. With Illustrations by Charles Livingston Bull and Carton Moorepark. The Atlantic Monthly Press. Boston. 1922. pp. 1–184, 8 plates, Price \$2.

"multitude" of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrating together across the sky while the Rose-breasted Grosbeak whose "rose stain" was entirely lost in the autumn had more likely never yet acquired it.—W. S.

Taverner's 'Birds of Eastern Canada.'¹—A second edition of this valuable work is before us, which presents a very creditable appearance with its excellently printed letter press and attractive plates from color sketches by Hennessey. It will prove of inestimable value in providing those interested in the avifauna of eastern Canada, with just the information they desire and should be instrumental in developing many a young bird-lover into an ornithologist.

We have fully reviewed the first edition so that the generally excellent character and scope of the work is already familiar to our readers.

From a purely technical standpoint we fail to grasp the author's object in granting distinctive headings to certain genera, while others are lumped together, as for instance "*Genus Thryothorus*" and "*Genus Thryomanes*" but "*Genera Cistothorus and Telmatodytes.*" If he does not regard the last two as separable, why does he not live up to his convictions and unite them instead of adopting this misleading and inconsistent practice? English names for genera are also rather unfortunate and can prove of little use: i. e. "Ground Warblers for a group including the Chat; "Grosbeaks" for the Rose-breast but "Blue Grosbeaks" for *Guiraca*; and "Yellow-bellied Flycatchers" for all the *Empidonaces*. It is difficult also to see why some of these names should be singular and others plural.

Errors in the systematic index still place almost all the Sparrows in the genus *Acanthis*; the Parula and Worm-eating Warblers in *Vermivora*, etc.

These are purely technical points, however, and will not detract from the great usefulness of Mr. Taverner's book. It seems to us, however, that in a popular work some definite and generally accepted scheme of arrangement should be rigidly adhered to; such publications are hardly the place for exploiting original schemes. We notice incidentally that *Linnodromus* is consistently misspelled.—W. S.

Swarth on 'Birds and Mammals of the Stikine River Region.'²—This important contribution covering Mr. Swarth's explorations in British Columbia and Alaska, May to September 1919, has been prepared with the care and thoroughness that characterize all of his publications. The collection made by the author and his associate Mr. Joseph Dixon, comprised 534 mammals and 638 birds as well as other material, including

¹ Birds of Eastern Canada (Second Edition). By P. A. Taverner. Memoir 104, No. 3, Biological Series. Dept. of Mus. Geol. Survey, Canada. Ottawa, 1922, pp. i-iv+1-290 with 50 colored plates (included in pagination).

² Birds and Mammals of the Stikine River Region of Northern British Columbia and South-eastern Alaska. By H. S. Swarth, Univ. of Calif. Publ. in Zool. Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 125-314. Plates 8 and 24 text figs. (Issued June 7, 1922.) Price \$2.50.