

matter are, as he truly says, inseparable from observation in a medium other than air.

We heartily commend this book especially to those who have made contributions to the subject as we feel that a careful correlation of Dr. Dewar's observations with their own may help to reach more definite and consistent results on some of the other problems of the diving bird and its activities.—W. S.

**Tait's 'The Birds of Portugal.'**<sup>1</sup>—This handsomely printed volume treats of the bird life of a country which has been much neglected ornithologically. The author, Mr. Wm. C. Tait, a resident of Oporto and a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, is the leading authority on the subject and has published a previous list of the birds of Portugal in 'The Ibis' for 1887.

The present volume brings the subject up to date. No descriptions are included, as they are readily available in the manuals on the birds of Great Britain and Europe, but details of occurrence and distribution are presented in a readable manner with many interesting bits of folk-lore and history, while there is a very full list of local vernacular names, remarkably large for the size of the country.

The author has had the cooperation of Mr. H. F. Witherby, who has travelled in Portugal and furnished technical data on subspecific identifications, etc., but resident bird students appear to be very scarce, in fact Mr. Tait states that the only living Portuguese field ornithologist known to him is Mr. Joao Alves dos Reis. It would seem a pity that at least an abridged edition of this work could not have been issued in Portuguese as a stimulant to local bird-study.

Introductory chapters deal with the physical features of the country and with migration while two appendices present a bibliography and a list of "ringed" birds recovered in Portugal. A good colored map and a number of half-tone reproductions of photographs of the country complete this excellent publication.—W. S.

**Lowe's 'Literature of the Charadriiformes.'**<sup>2</sup>—Bibliographic works are such laborious undertakings that we always feel that a double measure of thanks is due to the author who produces a reliable publication in this field, and such a one undoubtedly is Dr. G. C. Lowe's volume on the literature of the Charadriiformes. He considers the twenty-fourth volume of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds as bringing the subject up to

<sup>1</sup>The Birds of Portugal. By William C. Tait, Fellow of the Zoological Society and Member of the British Ornithologists' Union. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W. C. I. 1924. Pp. i-viii + 1-260. pls. I-X and a map. Price 18 shillings.

<sup>2</sup>The Literature of [the Charadriiformes] from 1894-1924 [with a classification of the order, and] lists of the genera, species and subspecies [By] George C. Lowe, M. A., M. D., [M. R. C. P., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U.] H. F. & G. Witherby [326 High Holborn, W. C. I. | 1924 | pp. i-xi + 1-220. Price 12 shillings and 6 pence.

1894 and therefore concerns himself only with publications from that time to date—approximately thirty years. There are a number of general papers listed, in which the “shore-birds” figure only as part of a general discussion of the avifauna of some region, then follow the various families and genera, the papers under each being arranged chronologically.

Besides being a bibliography the work is in a measure a check-list, as well, since the whole question of nomenclature and classification has necessarily been considered, with the result that we have the latest name for each species with the older equivalents given in lighter type. Several of the best schemes of classification are also presented and lists of the genera both systematic and alphabetical, all of which adds very materially to the value of the work.

The titles are not always verbatim and matter relating to the group under consideration is often re-entered in the systematic part of the work after the general paper in which it appeared has been listed in the first section; annotations are often added, too, which give one an idea of the character of the contents of a paper—all helpful features.

As we look through the pages, Dr. Lowe seems to have done his work very thoroughly and carefully, though of course only actual use of such a publication will demonstrate its value. As a slight test the reviewer has looked up his own publications dealing with the family and finds all listed except a general paper on the birds obtained by McIlhenny in Alaska (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1900), in which several pages are devoted to the Charadriiformes especially with regard to their molt, and one in ‘The Ibis’ for April, 1901 on “Moult and Color Change,” in which the molt of the Sanderling is discussed at some length. These are the sort of papers which it is most difficult to list as there is no intimation in the title as to what species may be discussed and they are mentioned in no spirit of criticism but simply to call attention to the difficulties in bibliographic work. We all, I think, hold in abomination the host of small papers of a page or two each, dealing with a single new subspecies or a single contribution to some broad problem, with which our desks are flooded, and yet they are all catalogued in full in bibliographies while more thorough treatments of the same matters contained in longer contributions under a general heading are lost sight of. The ‘Auk’ Indexes are splendid examples of “bibliographies” in which every mention of every species is indexed and they might well have been mentioned by Dr. Lowe as important sources of information wherein many references necessarily omitted in his bibliography would be come upon.

Dr. Lowe’s volume will prove of the greatest assistance to ornithologists in general and to editors in particular to whom bibliographies are indispensable and as we said above he deserves the thanks of all bird students for his helpful and painstaking work.—W. S.