

specimens were obtained in 1896 by the late Dr. Wm. H. Furness, Jr., which are in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and which seem to antedate the Owston examples. Unfortunately, they were not recorded at the time of collection.

From 1909 to 1914, we learn, some 8000 specimens of this rare and beautiful bird were exported by Japanese milinery collectors to Europe and America. This trade was stopped by the war and we sincerely hope that means may be found to prevent its recurrence, or this interesting species will undoubtedly become extinct.

Mr. Kuroda is to be congratulated upon an admirable piece of ornithological work and his publishers upon a handsome example of book making.—W. S.

Hachisuka's 'Comparative List of the Birds of Japan and the British Isles.'—This handsomely gotten up work¹ recalls Bonaparte's classic 'Comparative Lists' of the birds of Europe and North America and of Rome and Philadelphia and the names appear in parallel columns as in those publications.

Identical forms, or those that are truly representative of each other in the two countries, are placed opposite one another, while those that occur in one country, without a representative in the other, have a blank in the opposite column.

Inasmuch as the reference to the place of publication of each species and subspecies is given along with common names, in both Japanese and English as regards the Japanese column, the list becomes truly a check list of the birds of the two countries and is especially valuable in the case of Japan, since so many new subspecies have been described from there in recent years. The ranges are not given, it is true, but in many cases there is an indication as to whether the form is a breeder, an exceptional visitor or a rare visitor, and we presume that those with no such indication are regular visitors. The Japanese column, as explained by the author in the introduction, refers to the island of Japan only since Korea, Formosa and the Loo Choo Islands belong to other zoogeographic regions, and their inclusion would defeat the object of a list of this kind.

We regret that the author did not devote a few pages to a summary of the data that he has so carefully tabulated, in order to show in quantitative terms the relation between the two faunas. The numbers of his lists show 524 species and subspecies for Japan and 500 for the British Isles while a hasty count indicates 411 species for Japan and 420 for the British Isles and, considering the genera of land birds, we find 120 for the former country and 113 for the latter. There appear to be 39 genera found in Japan but not in the British Isles, and 32 in the latter but not in

¹ A Comparative Hand List of the Birds of Japan and the British Isles. By Masa U. Hachisuka F. Z. S. Member of the Ornithological Society of Japan, member of the British Ornithologists' Union. Cambridge at the University Press. 1925. pp. [i-vii] + 1-107.

Japan, while five families appear only in the Japanese column and two only in the British. These figures, however, do not have much weight as, in comparing faunas, the resident and summer resident species count for much more than the transients or occasional visitors.

We trust that the author of this valuable list will follow it up with a discussion of the composition of the two faunas, the relative tendency of the species to differentiate in the two environments, the origin of the elements and other problems which will naturally present themselves.—
W. S.

Canon Raven's 'In Praise of Birds.'¹—"This little book," says its author, "makes no pretension to literary beauty or to scientific importance: it is the work of an amateur who has neither the genius to create a prose poem nor the knowledge to contribute effectively to the expert study of ornithology. His only excuse for writing must be that he was born with a love of nature, particularly of birds, and that in a very busy life he has found them a constant source of health and refreshment."

In spite of this modest estimate of his ability we find his "little book" a delightful account of his experiences in studying and photographing British birds and if some of his passages are not prose poems they are most pleasing pictures of rural England, of country side and seashore. There are also several chapters covering his experiences in Holland in photographing birds of the Dutch dunes, and his association with Monseur Burdet and other kindred spirits.

Mingled with it all is much philosophic comment upon nature study and human character, and upon the joys of gardening, such as only a thorough nature student and a well read and broad minded man could write. "In any case," says our author, "whatever the trade that fills our working days, a love of Nature will sweeten it. We have all met men and women who have given the best of themselves to the life of the open air, to helping the green things grow and watching the ways of beasts and birds. Such people, whatever their station, have a peculiar fragrance of character."

Those who, like Canon Raven, have the proper appreciation of Nature, will find great pleasure in reading his book and an American can gather much of the character of the British birds and the atmosphere of their haunts from perusing its pages.

The text is handsomely printed and it is profusely illustrated with reproductions of the author's photographs. These are all printed in sepia and many of them seem to us unfortunately hazy, possibly due to enlargement, although the effect is as if they were out of focus and they do not compare with the usual run of half-tone bird pictures of to-day.—W. S.

¹ *In Praise of Birds. Pictures of Bird Life.* Described and Photographed by Charles E. Raven, D.D., Canon of Liverpool and Chaplain to the King. London, Martin Hopkinson & Co. Ltd., 14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W. C. 2. 1925. pp. i-xiv + 1-148, pll. I-XLVIII. Price 14 shillings net.