

and a series of letters in each case shows who have observed the species in their respective localities.

The work seems to be accurately compiled and certainly furnishes the local student with a wealth of information. The area of Texas is so great that no State bird book has yet been issued and it is a question whether local treatments of the subject, such as the present volume, will not serve the purpose better. Several of these, notably for the Rio Grande Valley Region, have appeared but nothing on the scale of Mr. Simmons' book, so that we welcome it as our most extensive work on Texan ornithology.

While it is stated that the nomenclature follows that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' with the addition of certain forms, it is noticeable that a number of changes in nomenclature which have appeared in the list of "proposed changes" but which have never been adopted by the A. O. U. Committee are included. This is unfortunate as is also, to our mind, the omission of the word "Texas" from the title, as the work will be listed far beyond the area in which the location of Austin is known.

Many suitable illustrations have been loaned by the publishers of standard works and there are original half-tone portraits of local ornithologists. Among these is the late Prof. Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr. whose fame in the broader fields of zoological research almost entirely obliterated his early work on birds. In 1891, when a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, he was an active member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and bade fair to develop into one of our leading ornithologists, but other interests took all of his time in succeeding years, although at Woods Hole and at the University of Texas he again took a lively interest in teaching ornithology and in field studies, and it is thus fitting that his name should be permanently associated with the first field of science in which he was interested.

We congratulate Mr. Simmons on an excellent piece of work which will, we are sure, develop many an ornithologist in the Austin Region in the future.—W. S.

Spitzbergen Papers.—This volume¹ contains the results of the first Oxford University Expedition to Spitzbergen in 1921. Like many other University publications it consists of separates from various journals bound up together with an explanatory preface. The expedition consisting of eighteen members under the leadership of Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain included six ornithologists and a taxidermist, and, as might be supposed, its primary interest was the study of birds. Explorations in other fields were carried on, however, and papers dealing with topography, geology, ecology, botany and invertebrate zoology were published and are here presented.

Besides the results of its immediate work the expedition stimulated the making of other trips to this interesting and easily accessible portion of the

¹ Spitzbergen Papers, Volume I. Scientific Results of the First Oxford University Expedition to Spitzbergen (1921). Oxford University Press, London. Humphrey Milford. 1925. Price \$10.00.

Arctic and expeditions were made in 1922, '23 and '24 to continue the scientific work.

The papers in the present collection which deal with ornithology are on the 'Courtship of the Red-throated Diver' by J. S. Huxley, 'Habits of the Red-throated Diver in Spitsbergen' by G. J. van Oordt and J. S. Huxley, 'Breeding Habits of the Glaucous Gull' by A. H. Paget Wilkes, 'Birds of Spitsbergen' by F. C. R. Jourdain, and on the 'Breeding Habits of the Turnstone' by Paget Wilkes and 'Breeding Habits of the Barnacle Goose' by Jourdain, most of which have already been mentioned in these columns.

The volume in all makes a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the natural history of this interesting island.—W. S.

Kirke Swann's 'Monograph of the Birds of Prey.'—Part V of this handsome work¹ completes the genus *Accipiter*, most of the species of which, following the English usage are termed "Sparrow Hawks" although our American species retain their familiar names of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. The Buteoninae are also begun, the genera *Erythriotorchis*, *Megatriorchis*, *Heterospizias*, and *Geranoaetes* being covered as well as some of the typical Buteos.

Gundlach's Hawk, *Accipiter gudlachii*, a Cuban representative of *A. cooperi*, is regarded as a distinct species which is apparently extinct, since no specimens have been taken for many years. Under the name *Accipiter velox pacificus* the western Sharp-shinned Hawk is recognized, although long since rejected by the A. O. U. Committee.

The four plates represent races of *Buteo ferox*, *vulpius* and *buteo*; and phases and ages of *B. polyosoma*, while two are reproductions of photographs of the nesting site of *B. buteo* in Spain and a nest of Sennett's White-tailed Hawk in Texas.—W. S.

La Touche's Handbook of Birds of Eastern China.—Part II of this most welcome work² covers the Dippers, Thrushes, Flycatchers and Shrikes. The plan of the work has already been fully described and the present part maintains the high standard of its predecessor. *Cinclus pallasi wilderi* (p. 98) Chihli, and *Hemichelidon sibirica incerta* (p. 159) Lower Yangtse, are described as new but unfortunately the type specimen and a definite type locality are not indicated.

To us in America the presence of twelve forms of Robin and twelve Shrikes seems a bewildering abundance, so different is the make-up of the bird fauna of China and North America. Short keys to the species of the larger genera would seem to be desirable and would aid the student very

¹ A Monograph of the Birds of Prey (Order Accipitres). By H. Kirke Swann, London, Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd. 2, 3, & 4, Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W. C. 2, pp. 277-364; pl. five. Part V, January 25, 1926. Price 26 s. net.

² A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China. By J. D. D. La Touche, Part II. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. December, 1925. Price 7s. 6d., net.