and Plover, 7 Gulls and Terns, 5 Auks, the Cormorant, 4 Hawks, 2 Owls, 3 Crows and 2 Swallows together with the Starling, Pipit, Wagtail, Redwing and Wheatear and 4 Finches. No less than 30 are European species, while 6 are peculiar to Greenland though merely geographical races of European forms and 37 are common to Europe and northern North America, though more common in the former and of Palaearctic origin. From this summary one is more than ever impressed with the fact that the affiliation of the Greenland fauna, especially that of east Greenland, is distinctly with the Old World.

Dr. Helms has prepared a valuable and interesting report which must be consulted by anyone interested in the arctic fauna. His comments on some of American allies of Greenland birds are however a little amusing as for instance his statement that we might expect the Swan of Greenland to be *Cygnus buccinator* rather than the European race *C. cygnus*. He follows Shiöler in regarding the Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur of Greenland as peculiar local races, as in the case of the breeding Mallards, which is very interesting if the birds to the east and west of them are identical, as they to all appearances are in the Mallards. It would be worth while to ascertain whether the two forms can be distinguished among the winter visitants to more southern countries.—W. S.

Riley on Birds from Yunnan and Szechwan.—The U. S. National Museum has received a collection of some 1600 birds from the provinces of Yunnan and Szechwan, China, made by Dr. Joseph F. Rock in connection with the explorations of the National Geographical Society during March 1923–February 1924.

Mr. Riley has identified and studied the collection and has described several new forms from it and he now presents a complete report[1] with notes on the plumages and relationship of the 244 species. All of the specimens are listed but there are no field notes.

The paper forms a valuable contribution to the ornithology of an interesting and none too well known portion of China, and those who are interested in following the itinerery of the party are referred to Dr. Rock's interesting papers in the 'National Geographic Magazine' Vol. 46, pp. 473–499 and Vol. 47, pp. 447–492.

Swarth on the Birds and Mammals of the Atlin Region, B. C.[2]—This is another of Mr. Swarth's admirable reports on the zoology of the Northwest. The expedition described was undertaken through the generosity of Miss Annie Alexander in the interests of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. While making the investigations alone, so far as the Museum was concerned, Mr. Swarth had

[1] A Collection of Birds from the Provinces of Yunnan and Szechwan, China, made for the National Geographic Society by Dr. Joseph F. Rock. By J. H. Riley. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum. Vol. 70. Art. 5. pp. 1–70. 1926.

[2] Report on a Collection of Birds and Mammals from the Atlin Region, Northern British Columbia. By Harry S. Swarth.

the companionship of Major Allan Brooks who collected independently.

The country explored forms the outermost portion of the Yukon region and being a hundred miles from salt water is "interior" in the character of its avifauna, with no coastal forms present. It is Hudsonian in the valleys and Arctic Alpine on the mountain tops with only a slight infiltration of Canadian forms.

In addition to the valuable annotated list of the species and a good bibliography, several distributional maps and a number of half-tones of scenery, there are important discussions of several groups or species. The *Dendragapus* forms are referred to two species as already suggested in these columns by Major Brooks, while the three White-crowned Sparrows are regarded as species and the author shows that the breeding range of *Z. nuttalii* is quite remote from those of the other two while the latter overlap. Upwards of 600 specimens on the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology fail to show any evidence of intergradation.

In discussing the Ptarmigan *Lagapus lagopus albus* is recognized for the Atlin and Hudson Bay race, *ungavus* for the Ungava bird and *alexandrae* for the Baranoff Island form, while a new form is proposed from Alaska, *alaskensis* (p. 87), type from the Kowak River delta. There is an account of the remarkable new species of Sparrow, *Spizella taverneri*, discovered in this region by Messrs. Brooks and Swarth and already described elsewhere, and also of the nesting of the Golden-crowned Sparrow with a colored plate of the egg, young and nesting site.

We congratulate Mr. Swarth on another good paper.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Hartert.—Dr. Hartert has recently published two papers on the birds of the Bismark Archipelago east of New Guinea. One of these[1] deals with New Britain the largest of the group, the ornithology of which was supposed to be pretty well known, although it appears that almost all of the collecting in the past was done on the northernmost part of the island. In 1925 in the interests of the Tring Museum, A. F. Eichorn visited the Talasea district in the western section and made a collection there, mainly in the mountains which attain an altitude of from 1200 to 3400 feet, and Dr. Hartert here presents the results of his study of the material. He lists 78 species of which *Micropsitta pusio stresemanni* (p. 130) is described as new while incidentally *Rhipidura dahli antonii* (p. 141), from New Ireland, *Myzomela cineracea rooki* (p. 42) and *Philemon novaeguineae umboi* (p. 143), both from Rook Island, are named. Mr. Eichorn's most notable discoveries have already been described by Lord Rothschild and Dr. Hartert namely *Accipiter luteoschistaceus* and *Turdus talasea*.

Dr. Hartert's second paper[2] deals with another collection made by

[1] On the Birds of the District of Talasea in New Britain. By Ernest Hartert. Novitates Zoologicae. XXXIII, pp. 122–145, October, 1926.

[2] On the Birds of the French Islands north of New Britain. By Ernst Hartert. Novitates Zoologicae, XXXIII. pp. 171–178. October, 1926.