

of characteristic trees and shrubs and vertebrates, with maps of actual records of distribution within the Lassen section.

Another part of the report discusses bird population with many lists of species showing the actual numbers of each seen in a given time and area.

The main portion of the work consists of a very fully annotated list of all of the 387 forms of vertebrates arranged systematically. The amount of detailed data contained in this publication is enormous and not only the California naturalist but the student of the broader problems of animal distribution and ecology will find it a veritable reservoir of information.

We have but one criticism of the work and that is the nomenclature employed. We fully realize the radical difference of opinion on various phases of this perplexing subject, but personally we are always ready to sink our opinion when a majority of any Committee appointed to deal with the subject is against us, as we feel that uniformity is far more important than the exploitation of personal opinion. We refer, be it understood, to general or popular usage. In a technical systematic discussion one is of course at liberty to state his opinions and uphold them by argument. It is the English names of the present report to which we take exception. These follow Dr. Grinnell's personal views although they are the names which the general public is supposed to use and by which they must refer in other works. The latter almost without exception adhere to the A. O. U. 'Check-List' and the Committee in charge of the new edition of this work at the almost unanimous request of all who have been consulted will adhere as closely as possible to the names now in use. Dr. Grinnell however sets up an entirely original set of vernacular names which not only confuse the reader but, when used alone as they often are, make it difficult for one to know what bird is meant. "Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch," "Red-bellied Red-shouldered Hawk," "Sierra Nevada Oregon Junco" and "California Acorn-storing Woodpecker" are, to use a slang expression, a "mouth-full" and quite impossible for labelling purposes or easy quotation. Also with only the 'Check-List' and other standard works to refer to how is the general reader to know what the "Ladder-backed Woodpecker" or the "American Water Pipit" may be? Why not let the Latin names indicate relationship and change them as we must in accord with our code of rules, but at least let us enjoy the stability of common names and adhere to those that have a respectable literature back of them.

These remarks are merely a side issue and in no way affect our admiration for Dr. Grinnell's excellent work or the splendid volume that he and his staff have given us.—W. S.

Riviere's 'Birds of Norfolk.'—In none of the English counties have birds been studied so continuously or so intensively as in Norfolk. From the time of Sir Thomas Browne, in the seventeenth century, down through a long line of able local ornithologists—the Pagets, Stevenson, Southwell,

and the Gurneys, to the author of the present volume, the literature of British ornithology has been well supplied with notes from Norfolk and several volumes have appeared on the subject.

The present attractive and well printed publication¹ brings the county ornithology down to the end of the year 1929 and is a well written entertaining work, presenting an excellent resume of the history of each species in the county with an account of the physical features of Norfolk and an excellent map. The nomenclature wisely follows that of Witherby's 'Handbook.'

We learn that game preserving which has been brought to such a high pitch in Norfolk has undoubtedly had a marked influence on the avifauna of the county and the planting of coverts for the Pheasants and the seclusion of the preserves, has greatly benefitted passerine birds. But, says the author, "to game preserving we probably owe the extinction as breeding species of the Peregrine Falcon, Buzzard, Raven, Hen Harrier and Hobby and the general scarcity of raptorial birds." The recent reestablishment of the Harriers he adds "shows a better spirit than formerly." Let us hope that those responsible for the regrettable destruction of Marsh Hawks in America will give heed to this statement.

In the interesting discussion of migration there is much comment on the relation between wind and flight for Norfolk, with its ninety miles of seacoast bounding two sides of the county, is the landing place for migrants crossing the North Sea and as in America Mr. Riviere finds that the birds prefer to fly into the wind and their migration is "held in abeyance" during a "tail wind."

The book is well gotten up with a number of half-tone illustrations of birds and nests, one of which shows a male Harrier passing food to a female while both are flying in mid air.—W. S.

Stuart Baker's Game Birds of India, Burma and Ceylon.—Volume III of this splendid work² covers the Pheasants and Bustard Quail with colored plates from paintings by Grönvold. The text is replete with interesting matter, full discussions of the relationship of the various species and races, their varied plumages and molts and descriptions of the nesting habits and eggs, the last accompanied by careful measurements. Many appropriate quotations from other authorities add to the value and completeness of the work.

Speaking of the diminutive Bustard Quails as game birds the author

¹ A History of the Birds of Norfolk. By B. B. Reviere with sixteen plates and a map in colour. London. H. F. and G. Witherby 326 High Holborn, W. C. 1930, pp. i-xlviii + 1-296. Price 25 shillings net.

² The Game Birds of India, Burma and Ceylon. Pheasants and Bustard-Quail. Vol. III. By E. C. Stuart Baker. O. B. E., F. L. S., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., H. F. A. O. U., with eleven colored and nine black and white plates. Published by the Bombay Natural History Society; London. John Bale, Sons & Danielson, Ltd., Oxford House, 83-91 Great Titchfield Street, W. 1. 1930, pp. i-x + 1-341. Price £ 2 2s. net.