

have been one, had not other fields of research so fully and constantly occupied his comparatively short life, for he was but fifty-seven at the time of his death, and even on his death bed was striving to complete his paper on the Port Kennedy bone deposits. Extracts from his early letters show a thorough knowledge of local birds and his knowledge of other genera was greater than that of the proof-readers of the biography as his mention of the song of *Myadestes*, in the Mexican mountains appears as "*Hyladistes*." The reviewer can testify as a result of many conversations with Cope to a far greater knowledge of birds than appears from his writings, and once after looking over a collection of birds and commenting on their taxonomy he remarked "What you want are alcoholic specimens; then you can get at their proper relationships" and added with a smile "some day, perhaps, I shall get at the birds and straighten them all out." It is regrettable that he did not do so as the master mind with its uncanny ability to detect relationships and unravel the tangled scheme of taxonomy would have given ornithologists food for thought. Perhaps the collection of alcoholic birds obtained for him in Brazil by H. H. Smith and which he bequeathed to the Philadelphia Academy was acquired for some such purpose. In this connection it may be interesting to add to Professor Osborn's explanation of the frontispiece picture of Cope in his study, that the stuffed cat on the desk is a unique specimen of *Felis* obtained by Smith and described by Cope in 1889.

Everyone at all interested in science should read this fascinating and inspiring volume.—W. S.

Schiöler's Birds of Denmark.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1926, the first volume of this sumptuous work was reviewed at length, since its many interesting notes from Greenland gave it a particular value for students of the Arctic-American birds. Of the eight volumes originally planned, the second only had appeared (in 1926) when its author died, August 13, 1929, leaving, however, the material for the third nearly ready for publication. This volume is now issued,¹ and happily, the publishers announce that not only have plans been made for the continuation of the work, but that through help of a state grant, Schiöler's magnificent collection of birds has been secured for the museum at Copenhagen.

Vol. 2 (1926) opens with two chapters specially devoted to the ornithology of Greenland, the first briefly reviewing the literature before and since Winge's list, the second giving a revised summary of the known avifauna of that country, together with an excellent map. It appears that in all, 168 species and subspecies are definitely recorded from Greenland of which some 62 are known to breed, among them three whose nesting in

¹ Danmarks Fugle med Henblik paa de i Grönland, paa Faerøerne og i Kongeriget Island forekommende Arter. By E. Lehn Schiöler. Bind II. Oversigt over Grönlands Fugle og Andefugle (Anseriformes) II. Dykaender (Fullgulinae). 1926. 37.5 × 28 cm., pp. 1-338, pll. 1-86, map. Bind III. Rovfugle (Falconiformes). 1931. pp. 1-413, pll. 1-91. Gyldendalske Boghandel, København.

Greenland has only recently been established, namely, *Erolia bairdii*, *Anthus pratensis*, and *Motacilla alba alba*. Of the many stragglers that reach Greenland, it is noteworthy that most of the American species are recorded from West Greenland, and the European from East Greenland. Thus all of the 14 American Warblers are west-coast records, most of them single occurrences only. Schiöler has made a minute study of representative series of northern birds and as a result has recognized many local subspecies that workers with less extensive material might not; thus he regards the Longspur and the Snow Bunting as recognizable races, reviving for them Brehm's names, *Calcarius lapponicus groenlandicus* and *Plectrophenax nivalis subnivalis* respectively; he has also described the Greenland Merganser as *Mergus serrator major* and figures the slightly different bills. The Addenda at the end of the volume give a number of more recent notes. The main part of the volume completes the treatment of the Anseriformes, the Fuligininae and Merginae, the various plumages and changes of which are illustrated by the colored plates. It must be admitted, however, that the small size of the figures and the four-color process used do not in all cases give quite satisfactory results.

Volume 3 (1931) covers the Falconiformes and is in some ways a distinct improvement over the previous volumes in the matter of illustrations. Fourteen genera with 39 species and subspecies are included. The same thorough treatment, species by species, is continued, with first a chapter on the structure of the group and a summary in parallel columns of the forty points in skull, trunk, limbs and girdles that distinguish the two families recognized as occurring in Denmark, the Aquilidae and the Falconidae. The many colored plates by H. Scheel and G. Heilmann are notable for the thorough manner in which the various stages and variations of plumage are illustrated. Thus there are no less than twenty good-sized figures of *Accipiter nisus*, nine of *Circus aeruginosus*, six of the Golden Eagle, while the Gyrfalcons are shown by no less than thirty colored figures of the five races which the work recognizes, namely *Falco rusticolus rusticolus* a fall and winter visitor in Denmark, *F. r. islandus* the breeding bird of Iceland, straggling to Greenland, *F. r. obsoletus* the Labrador form, rarely reaching that country, *F. r. holboelli* the breeding bird of southern and *F. r. candicans* that of eastern and northwestern Greenland!

The Ospreys are regarded as members of the Aquilidae and two records for the American race are included, both from Greenland, based on specimens in the Copenhagen Museum; the American Sparrow Hawk has been once taken in Denmark, a young male shot at Birkendegaard in 1901, and figured in color. There is also given a single record for the Iceland Merlin, *Falco columbarius subaeson*, from Angmagsalik, east Greenland, July 1914. It is to be hoped that the remaining volumes of this great work may eventually be completed.—GLOVER M. ALLEN.