

study of the methods employed by others as well as those of the author. Methods of collecting, trapping, skinning, and labelling are considered at length as well as the handling of greasy specimens and the making over of old material. Numerous illustrations explain the various processes.

We can heartily recommend Dr. Anderson's bulletin not only for the benefit to the individual collector but also for the resultant improvement in our museum collections. There is no excuse in these days for the carelessly made specimens which have hindered research in the past and made our museum collections unsightly. Dr. Anderson has rendered a service to all in compiling these instructions.—W. S.

Stead's 'Life Histories of New Zealand Birds.'—Some three years ago we had the pleasure of noticing Mr. W. P. B. Oliver's excellent work on 'New Zealand Birds,' a standard handbook on the avifauna of the islands. Now we have before us a companion work¹ dealing at greater length with the life histories of a limited number of the characteristic species. The author, Mr. Edgar F. Stead, has spent his life in the study of New Zealand's native birds, travelling widely over the country with note book and camera, and the present attractive volume sets forth some of the results of his labors.

He presents histories of three species of cormorants, five gulls and terns, a petrel, three shore birds, a hawk, owl, and kingfisher, and three "song birds": the Fantail, Blightbird and Bell-bird. These life-histories are extremely interesting and well written while the illustrations are admirable examples of the best work of the bird photographer, highly artistic and well reproduced. Anyone interested in bird life will find Mr. Stead's pages well worthy of his attention, and will gain an excellent idea of the coastal avifauna of this remote country. We trust that the author may be able to follow this work with an account of the life-histories of more of the land birds some of which, at least, are becoming very rare.

Mr. Stead tells us that "the destruction of the bush for timber or to make the land available for farming, removed the birds' shelter and their food supply and necessarily the birds went too." Even where isolated patches of bush are left they will be thronged with the introduced birds—blackbirds, thrushes and starlings which consume the native berries and when the crop of berries fails they can subsist on earth worms but this the native "bush birds" cannot do and they therefore perish.

Another serious detriment to bird life is the supply of cats which have run wild. "These marauding brutes" says our author, "protected by the Government because they take an occasional young rabbit, kill birds in great numbers." The rabbit is of course a great nuisance in New Zealand and is an example of the mistake of introducing exotic animals into any country, while the introduced British birds may, from the ornithologist's

¹ The | Life Histories of | New Zealand Birds | By | Edgar F. Stead | London | The Search Publishing Co., Ltd. | 6 Old Gloucester Street, W. C. 1 | 1932. Pp. i-xiv + 1-162. Pll. I-XCII. Price 30 shillings net.

point of view, soon constitute another! Mr. Stead, referring to the cats, quotes the old rhyme

“Ding, dong dell, Pussy’s in the well,
Who put her in? Little Tommy Thin.” etc.

and suggests that following London’s statue to the memory of Hudson for his interest in birds, New Zealand might erect a monument to Little Tommy Thin!

We congratulate Mr. Stead upon a valuable contribution to bird biography and also his publishers who have spared no pains to make a most attractive book.—W. S.

Taka-tsukasa’s ‘The Birds of Nippon.’—Prince Taka-tsukasa, president of the Ornithological Society of Japan has begun the publication of a sumptuous work¹ wholly in English on the birds of the Japanese Empire of which the first part is before us. The work is limited by political, not faunal boundaries, and includes Sakalin Island, Korea (Chosen), and the Pacific islands under Japanese mandate, etc., as well as Japan proper. After a brief introduction explaining the scope and plan of the work and calling attention to the fact that of the three works on the birds of Japan, those of Temminck and Schlegel and Seebohm are out of print, while that of Uchida is written in Japanese, the author proceeds at once to a consideration of the Gallinaceous birds of which two species of megapodes and two pheasants are covered in the present part.

The accounts of plumage, relationship, variation, and life history are very full and satisfactory and the illustrations numerous and excellent. Each species is depicted in colors and there are artistic photographic views of haunts reproduced in photogravure. The work is excellently printed on heavy paper and makes a fine appearance.

Prince Taka-tsukasa’s book bids fair to be our authoritative work on the Japanese avifauna and we wish him success with his great undertaking.—W. S.

LaTouche’s ‘Birds of Eastern China.’—The latest part of this important “Handbook”² appeared in December last and covers the remainder of the birds of prey, the pigeons, sand grouse, pheasants, quail and rails.

To those who, like the reviewer, have been making constant use of Mr. LaTouche’s excellent work the appearance of each additional part is welcomed as an indispensable aid to work on the birds of China, and his plan of including summaries of the races of widely spread species, from the

¹ *The Birds of Nippon.* By Prince Taka-tsukasa. Vol. I, Part I. Introduction and Order Galli. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1. Yokendo, 7 Motozono-cho, Kojimachi-ku. Tokyo. August 15, 1932. Pp. 1-70, Pl. I-VIII.

² *A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.* By J. D. D. LaTouche. Vol. II, Part III. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Pp. 193-288, pl. XVIII and XIX. Price 7s. 6d. per part.