

There are three excellent colored plates from paintings by N. Higashi presenting not only the forms described, but hybrids as well, while five beautifully printed photographic plates in brown and green on tinted paper depict habitats, nest of *P. v. versicolor* etc. There is also a large folded physiographical map of the Japanese Empire.

We cannot too strongly praise the completeness of Prince Taka-Tsukasa's treatment of his subject.—W. S.

Stuart Baker's 'Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire.'—Volume II of this excellent work¹ has recently appeared and fully maintains the high standard set by Volume I which we reviewed in the April issue of 'The Auk.' In the present instalment our author has treated the thrushes, flycatchers, shrikes, warblers, orioles, starlings and related families. Six half-tone plates from photographs illustrate nests and habitats.

Upon glancing through the pages of Mr. Baker's book we are impressed with the extent of his knowledge not only of his subject but of the literature relating to it and with the manner in which he has made good reading of what might easily have been tedious compilation.

His account of the nest-making of the Tailor-bird is particularly interesting. The bird, he tells us, usually employs vegetable cotton or cobwebs for her "thread" and with this she sews together the edges of a single pendant leaf or of two adjacent leaves puncturing them with her slender bill and knotting the threads, in some way not yet ascertained. Other near-by leaves are often sewed to the first ones rarely four or more. The nest proper is built inside the pocket formed by the sewn leaves. Silk from cocoons is sometimes used for sewing and when nesting near human habitations, bits of cotton, silk, or thread are often stolen for the purpose.

In making use of human assistance in the matter of nesting material or nest sites it is amusing to read that the Magpie-Robin often builds in the little spirit or "Pi" houses erected by superstitious natives for wandering spirits to dwell in!

Mr. Baker in his volumes has reached the highest point in "oological" literature and we wish that more of the countless "oölogists" could follow his example in making real use of their collections.—W. S.

A Vermont Bird List.—The Department of Agriculture of Vermont has published a very handy list of the birds of the state by Messrs. H. C. Fortner, Wendell P. Smith, and E. J. Dole.²

Two hundred and ninety-eight species and subspecies are listed, some

¹ The Nidification | of | Birds of the Indian Empire | By | E. C. Stuart Baker, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.Z.S., etc. | Volume II | Turdidae—Sturnidae. | with six plates. | London: | Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C. 4. | 31st May, 1933. Pp. i-vi + 1-564.

² A List of Vermont Birds (With descriptions appended) Bulletin No. 41. By H. C. Fortner, Wendell P. Smith, and E. J. Dole. Published by Department of Agriculture E. H. Jones, Commissioner [1933]. Pp. 1-54.