

Stuart Baker's 'Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire.'—The third volume of this excellent work¹ is now before us and maintains the high standard set by its predecessors. It completes the Passeres and covers also all of the Coraciiformes. Besides the description of nest and eggs, compiled from personal experience and the works of various authors, there is much detailed information on distribution and habits of the 704 species and subspecies enumerated in the volume, so that it becomes a valuable work of reference to ornithologists at large as well as to oölogists.

The illustrations comprise a view of the Diyng River, "a haunt of the Broadbills and Pittas," and nests of seven species of birds, all from photographs by Col. R. H. Battray and Capt. R. S. P. Bates. We congratulate Mr. Baker upon the progress of his work.—W. S.

The Birds of Nippon.—The third part² of Prince Taka-Tsukasa's sumptuous work has appeared. It comprises pp. 27-56 of the introduction, which are devoted to a history of Japanese ornithology, and pp. 129-168 of the main text covering the three races of *Phasianus colchicus* and *Gennaëus swinhoei*. There are three colored plates and three photogravures, two of scenery and one showing the natives of Formosa in dancing regalia, with head-dresses of tail feathers of Swinhoe's Pheasant.

The historical sketch of Japanese ornithology is very interesting, dating back to the Shinshu Yokyo, the oldest book on the subject, printed in Japan in the year 818 A. D. although mention of birds occurs in still earlier works. An extensive natural history of Japan was published as early as 1713, comprising, in a later edition, no less than 48 volumes of which two dealt with birds. A standard work on cage birds, a subject in which the Japanese have long been interested, appeared in 1710. The first work on Japanese birds by a European author was Kämpfer's 'Historia Imperii Japonici,' 1727, based upon his visit to the country in 1690. Siebold, who lived at Nagasaki from 1823 to 1830, later published his 'Fauna Japonica,' the 'Aves' by Temminck and Schlegel forming the basis of modern Japanese ornithology. Nothing was known of the birds of other parts of Japan until Cassin's report on the birds of the Perry Expedition, 1852-1858. Until this time the policy of exclusion had prevented natural history studies being made in the empire by foreigners.

The beautiful make-up and typography of Prince Taka Tsukasa's work is fully maintained in this number.—W. S.

Weygandt's 'The White Hills.'—Dr. Cornelius Weygandt's delightfully written books on the 'Wissahickon Hills' of Philadelphia, and the

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 III | Ploceidae—Asionidae | With eight plates | London: | Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C. 4, | 23rd April, 1934 |. Pp. 1-568. Price 30 shillings.

² The Birds of Nippon | By Prince Taka-Tsukasa | [titles etc.] Volume I | Part 3 | History of Japanese | Ornithology | Order Galli | H. F. & G. Witherby | 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1 | Yokendo | 7 Motozono-Cho, Kojimachi-Ku, | Tokyo | 11th April, 1934.