

the dunes at the end of which is deposited its single egg. The sudden appearance of the large white birds as they popped out of the mouths of their burrows produced a very curious effect from a distance. The great nests of the Black-necked Stork (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) we learn, sometimes reach dimensions of six by three feet and in one instance the birds took more than a month in building the structure, using sticks of various sizes from mere twigs to branches two feet in length and two to three inches in diameter. Upon this they placed a rim of clay, descending alternately to a near-by tank and bringing up the mud in their bills and arranging it with great care. There are interesting accounts of nestings of the curious Ibis-bill (*Ibidorhyncha*) which spends its life in the Pamirs, Gilgit and the Tibet region of western China, breeding along the river shores, while the accounts of taking eggs of the Lammergeyer (*Gypaetus*) from high over-hanging cliffs will arouse the enthusiasm of any oölogist. Mr. Baker tells us that of the 2351 forms of Indian birds the nesting of 279 species and subspecies remains quite unknown so that there is still much to learn before the subject is entirely exhausted. In his parting word on egg collecting he says: "No one should start egg collecting unless they have some scientific object in view in so doing. To collect eggs merely to satisfy one's aesthetic sense of the beautiful, or to acquire something which someone else has not got is admittedly not sufficient excuse." He, however, upholds egg collecting where the collector is advancing science and calls attention to the fact that bird photography (and we might add bird-banding) is often quite as detrimental to the birds as egg collecting.

There are seven halftone plates from photographs of nests or scenery.

We congratulate Mr. Baker upon the completion of his labors and his four handsome volumes will stand as a monument to his energy and his knowledge of his subject.—W. S.

**Spiker's 'Bird Life of the Finger Lakes of New York.'**—This publication<sup>1</sup> is another of the excellent local ornithologies issued by the Roosevelt Wild Station. It covers the region of the famous Finger lakes especially Keuka, Seneca and Cayuga, a region where a number of prominent ornithologists have lived and conducted their investigations—Fuertes at Ithaca; Eaton at Geneva; Burtch and Clarence Stone at Branchport—and is therefore rich in tradition.

Mr. Spiker spent two summers, one winter and a spring in the region and the report is the result of his observations. The accounts are popular in character with brief descriptions of the field marks of the species, and accounts of nests, song and habits, the whole forming a handy pocket ornithology of the area. The illustrations consist of 57 photographs of characteristic spots along the lakes and their vicinity, including the Taushannock Falls which Dr. A. A. Allen has made famous in his photographs of the Duck Hawk.

Beside the value of the pamphlet to local bird students there are many observations of interest on the habits and behavior of various species which are contributions to their life histories.

The author has done a good piece of work.—W. S.

**Danforth's 'The Birds of Saint Lucia.'**—Dr. Danforth has recently published an excellent monograph<sup>2</sup> on the birds of Saint Lucia. As he points out we have no

<sup>1</sup> A Popular Account of the Bird Life of the Finger Lakes Section of New York, with Main Reference to the Summer Season. By Charles J. Spiker, Field Naturalist, Roosevelt Wild Life Station. Roosevelt Wild Life Bull., Vol. 6, No. 3. Pp. 391-551, Figs. 228-284. July, 1935.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Saint Lucia. By Stuart Danforth, Prof. of Zoology and Entomology, College of Agriculture, University of Puerto Rico. Monographs of the Univ. of Puerto Rico, Series B., No. 3, 1935. Pp. 1-129. Pl. I. To be had from the Librarian of the University, Rio Piedras, P. R.