

regardless of whether it is denoted by a binomial or trinomial name, just as is done in the recent A. O. U. 'Check-List' and other modern check-lists. Under the name is given the original reference and the type locality, followed in many cases by the more important synonyms, and finally a more or less detailed statement of distribution with frequent discussion of relationship of related races and in the case of the Nutcracker with a list of its periodic occurrences. No less than 709 forms are listed and the study has been based mainly upon the collections of the University of Moscow.

The work is thus, as the author states, a critical systematic and geographic revision of the avifauna of the region which it covers. The plates published in 'L'Oiseau' are included and there is an introduction by M. Jean Delacour to whose forethought and generous assistance the publication has been made possible.

It is a great boon to anyone working on Palaearctic ornithology to have such a reference volume, as much of the information contained applies to other countries besides the U. R. S. S. and we owe a debt of gratitude to all concerned with its production. It is particularly commendable that it is printed in French and not in Russian.—W. S.

Raven on Wallace's Line and the Distribution of Indo-Australian Mammals.¹—While this is entirely a mammalogical paper, the subject matter is of such interest to ornithologists that some notice of it in these pages seems warranted. Mr. Raven's object was primarily to refute the statement of Dr. N. Van Kamopen to the effect, "that such a sharp boundary as Wallace drew does not exist," not only where he drew it but nowhere in the archipelago. From his own extensive knowledge of the region, and from an exhaustive search through the literature, Mr. Raven has tabulated the distribution of no less than 2240 forms of mammals and plotted many of them on maps. As a result he "regards Wallace's Line as well established, since, except at its upper end it serves to mark the boundary of the old continental shelf, which was also the eastern limit of the great majority of East Indian mammals."

To quote from only one map we find not a single record of Marsupialia west of the line and no records of Proboscidea, Edentata, Perissodactyla or Dermoptera to the east of it! We may therefore retain our enthusiasm acquired many years ago when we first read the classic 'Island Life' and 'Geographic Distribution of Animals.'

Mr. Raven has done a fine piece of work, and his detailed discussion will be read with interest by everyone concerned with zoogeography.—W. S.

A Vertebrate Fauna of Forth.—This notable Scottish "Fauna"² has been planned as a continuation of the series proposed by the late Dr. Harvie Brown, all of which have now been published except those relating to the Clyde and Solway areas. The authors are thoroughly qualified for the work that they have undertaken for as long as the present editor of 'The Auk' has been reviewing the 'Scottish Naturalist' it has been his pleasure to notice the excellent annual "Reports on Scottish Ornithology" by Leonora J. Rintoul and Evelyn V. Baxter, indeed whenever the birds of Scotland are mentioned their names at once come to mind.

Scotland is rich in historic nature lore and the authors have traced the history of each species back to the earliest records with abundant recent observations by a host

¹ Raven, Henry C. Wallace's Line and the Distribution of Indo-Australian Mammals. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. LXVIII, Art. IV. Pp. 1-293. April 5, 1935.

² A Vertebrate Fauna of Forth. By Leonora Jeffrey Rintoul and Evelyn V. Baxter. Fellows of the Linnaean Society; Fellows of the Zoological Society; Honorary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union; Corresponding Fellows of the American Ornithologists' Union, etc. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh; Tweeddale Court, London: 33 Patternoster Row. E. C., 1935. Pp. i-iv + 1-397. Price 25 shillings net.