

bill along the surface and that the peculiar bill has developed in some way to aid such feeding! Dr. Murphy suggests that the brightly colored bill is skimmed along the surface as a lure, somewhat like a trout fly, and that curious fish rise to see what it may be and the bird retracing its course snaps them up.

These life histories are full of interesting reading and abound with original information.

The work is illustrated by 16 colored plates by Francis L. Jacques who visited the coast of Peru and the South Pacific to obtain sketches for his backgrounds and to see many of the birds in life. They form a beautiful series of pictures and, like others of the artist's paintings, are all group compositions usually with many birds often of several species, rather than individual portraits.

There are also 72 beautifully printed halftone plates, from photographs, covering both sides of extra heavy coated paper, and 80 text figures. A well prepared bibliography and an adequate index complete this notable work of which all concerned in its production may well be proud.

While the proof-reading seems to have been very well done there are a half dozen errata listed on p. xxiv and apparently there is another error on p. 472 where it is stated that "the Puffininae make up the bulk of the family Hydrobatidae." Family "Procellariidae" is apparently intended.—W. S.

**Swann's Monograph of the Birds of Prey.**—Another part of this notable work<sup>1</sup> appeared in December, 1935, carrying us through the Kites and their allies and the genus *Falco*, leaving only the remainder of the Falcons and the Ospreys to be treated. It seems likely therefore that it will be completed during the present year. Colored plates of the Batteleur and the Sea Eagle and a photogravure of a Kite's nest are the illustrations accompanying this part.—W. S.

**Aymar's 'Bird Flight.'**—The basis of this interesting volume<sup>2</sup> is the two hundred photographs of flying birds and as the author says, while there have been many books treating of the flight of birds there has been none "devoted exclusively to allowing the infallible camera to state what actually happens in the many different types of flight of the various species. That is the real justification for this book," and he adds that "the book belongs to the men whose perseverance and skill have produced the photographs of which it is composed."

At the same time the author is responsible for the conception of such a work, for the selection of the pictures and for the discussion of the published information on the several phases of bird flight. He has had before him practically all of the important works dealing with flight and his chapters on Evolution, Biology, Migration, and Aerodynamics present an excellent summary of the latest views on these subjects. At the end of each chapter, and sometimes scattered through it, are photographs illustrating points connected with its subject matter with explanatory text below or on adjacent pages. Owing to the fact that the type used in the main text and in these explanatory paragraphs is of nearly the same size, we sometimes find it difficult to see where one stops and the other begins. Under the picture of the Black Skimmer we note the old belief that the bird "scoops up" its food from the surface of the water and that the peculiar bill is in some way an adaptation for this sort of feeding. This has been questioned by several authors in 'The Auk' (Arthur, Stone, etc.) and es-

<sup>1</sup> A Monograph of the Birds of Prey. Part XIII, December, 1935. By H. Kirk Swann, edited by Alexander Wetmore. Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd. 2, 3 & 4 Arthur St., New Oxford Street, W. C. 2, London. Pp. 257-352, 3 plates.

<sup>2</sup> Bird Flight. Written and Designed by Gordon C. Aymar. A Collection of 200 Action Photographs. Dodd, Mead & Co. 1935. Pp. i-xii + 1-234. Price \$4.00