

## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

J. D. D. LA TOUCHE: A HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF EASTERN CHINA. PART I. . . . Taylor and Francis, London, July, 1925. Octavo, pp. 1-96, plates I-III. Price 7s. 6d. net.

David and Oustalet's *Les Oiseaux de la Chine* has been out of print for a long time, and the works of Dresser, Hartert, and Oates (second edition re-written by E. C. Stuart Baker) have of late been widely used by students of Chinese birds. These books are valuable in themselves, but not particularly applicable to the avifauna of China. La Touche's work now appearing gives every evidence of providing at last a good manual of Chinese birds.

The author is uniquely qualified to prepare such a handbook. For many years he served in the Chinese customs service, and spent most of his leisure time in the study of Chinese birds. His previous contributions to a better knowledge of the Oriental avifauna are to be found scattered through *The Ibis*, *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, and several other journals. I have examined part of his collections in the Shanghai Museum and also met his Chinese collectors T'ong Wang-wang and T'ong Ch'un-K'ai while I was in China. The birds treated in the present work are limited to the eastern portion of the Republic, that is, Chihli, Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Foukien, and Kwangtung.

The 95 species and subspecies of passerine birds herein mentioned cover the families Corvidae, Paridae, Panuridae, Sittidae, Certhiidae, Troglodytidae, Paradoxornithidae, Timaliidae, and Pycnonotidae. Two subspecies are described as new: *Pycnorhis sinensis major* (p. 72), and *Pycnonotus sinensis stresemanni* (p. 94).

For each form, the author gives scientific name, common name, synonyms, detailed description of color and form, together with some measurements, geographical distribution, and some field notes. The system of classification is based upon Baker's Avifauna of India. The completion of this handbook will require seven or more "parts".

It is a little unfortunate that there are no keys for identifying the families, genera and species, though some brief keys to certain groups of subspecies are given. It is to be hoped that the author will make up this lack somewhere in the later "parts". I feel convinced that keys and some text figures would be a great aid to beginners as well as even to experts.

I wish to congratulate both the author and the working students in Chinese

ornithology upon the appearance of so useful a handbook.—TSENHWANG SHAW, *Berkeley, California, November 16, 1925.*

BAILEY'S BIRDS OF FLORIDA.—The close of 1925 saw the appearance of still another bird book of the more sumptuous class. This is Harold H. Bailey's "The Birds of Florida", privately published for the author by The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland. The book is of quarto size—hardly a handbook. Yet it is the only publication now available on Florida bird-life aimed to suit the needs of the layman.

The outstanding feature of this work lies in the colored plates, 76 of them, each averaging 7 x 10 inches. On each plate there are from four to nine figures, and the majority of the smaller species are depicted life size. Practically every bird of Florida is presented in lively color, and the whole constitutes an atlas of striking bird portraits. As to outline of each bird, detail of structure and markings, these portraits do great credit to the artist, Mr. George Miksch Sutton.

The text (xxii + 146 pages) aims chiefly to supplement the pictures with such information about each species as the lay reader would seem to require.

We feel confident that this book will prove to have fulfilled the author's purpose in publishing it, namely, to stimulate more wide-spread popular interest in the bird-life of Florida and in the conservation of the wild life generally in that state, where just at the present time the processes of settlement are going on at an accelerated rate.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, November 28, 1925.*

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

## NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular monthly meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Northern Division, was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on August 27, 1925, at 8 P. M. President Lastreto was in the chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for July were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for July were read. Harry R. Caldwell of Ketchikan, Alaska, was proposed for membership by H. S. Swarth.

The seating facilities of the Museum were exhausted, even to the attic camp stools, in an effort to provide chairs for club members and friends from far and near who gathered to listen to Mrs. James T. Allen's account of her observations upon the birds of a classic land.