

mode of handling worth the attention of paleontologists generally. The report recognizes eight forms of eagles, large buteonids, and Old-World vultures present in the deposits, but in addition constitutes a review of all the fossil records of these types in North America. The only new species, a *Urubitinga*, from Hawver Cave, California, is described, perhaps too informally, in the body of the text on page 25. The work is revisionary; family and generic allocations are importantly altered. It is gratifying to see the Rancho La Brea materials, which in quantity frequently outnumber available modern skeletons, continue in the hands of so competent a worker as Miss Howard.—A. H. M.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

SIEWERT'S "STÖRCH" AND HEINRICH'S "DER VOGEL SCHNARCH".—Two German nature books have just appeared, differing in subject matter, for one treats of the home life of two native birds, the other of a collecting expedition in the Malay Archipelago; yet they have much in common.

It is seldom that a book combines notable pictures, scientific accuracy, and literary style, yet Horst Siewert's "Störche"¹ has this distinction. A number of his studies have already appeared in the *Journal für Ornithologie*, chiefly on the great birds of prey; he now gives us a book on the home life of the two storks.

The tale of the rare, shy Black Stork that lives in deep forests has a special appeal. From day-long vigils in a blind in a tree top the author learned that the female did most of the incubating, the male taking her place for some hours each morning. When the young were three weeks old, the parents relieved each other in two and a half to four hour shifts, bringing, however, a total of only five meals, two in the early morning and three late in the day. With the White Stork the female incubated all night, but during the day the birds changed places at intervals ranging from one to four and a half hours, the male assuming the larger share of the task.

There is not a trace of nature faking nor of anthropomorphism here; on the contrary, instead of glossing over the fact that the Black Storks let one of their babies die of cold and hunger on the rim of the nest, the author uses the incident as an occasion to discuss bird mentality. In connection with the White Storks he

brings up the vexed question whether bird language is uttered with the intention of communication, or is always an expression of emotion. The scientific value of the book is attested by the fact that 16 pages of the observations on *Ciconia nigra* are reprinted in the last *Journal für Ornithologie*.

Too often the object of nature photography appears to be chiefly entertainment; here on the contrary every one of the 80 pictures is significant of some phase in behavior, for Horst Siewert's purpose was primarily that of understanding the life of his subjects.

In "Der Vogel Schnarch", Gerd Heinrich tells of the adventures of himself, his wife and sister-in-law in the high mountains and terrible swamps of Celebes, a two years' expedition which resulted in a rich array of new forms of both birds and mammals for the American Museum of Natural History and the Zoologisches Museum and Zoo of Berlin. With vivid description of the primeval forests and strange birds and beasts, and occasional flashes of humor, the author recounts difficulties and rewards, discouragements and triumphs and the final capture of the two rare rails, *Habroptila wallacei* and *Aramidopsis plateni*—"der Vogel Schnarch." The undaunted courage of all three participants, and their dogged determination to achieve the allotted task, give an example of devotion in the service of science which may well serve as inspiration to the rest of us.

These books, despite their low price, are masterpieces, each in its own phase of bird study.—MARGARET M. NICE.

THE BIRDS OF NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR.—This work of Austin's appeals to the reviewer as much more than a regional annotated list, especially in that considerable emphasis is placed upon the origin and history of Holarctic avifaunas. In treating of the Newfoundland Labrador avifauna as a whole, which is comprised of 177 species and subspecies, interesting and useful nominal lists of various groups of species are given, such as: species of uncertain status, species classified as

¹ 1932. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer; 208 pp., 80 pls. 4.80 RM.

² 1932. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer; 200 pp. 69 pls. 4.80 RM.

³ The Birds of Newfoundland Labrador, by Oliver Luther Austin, Jr. *Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, No. VII. Cambridge, Massachusetts, published by the Club, September, 1932 (received here, November 21, 1932); 299 pp., with 2 maps, index and bibliography.