

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.

casuals, American species of circumpolar genera, solely Nearctic genera, and circumpolar species. Of the 118 species of established and regular status, 46.5 per cent are considered to be of boreal origin and are Holarctic in distribution; 21.2 per cent are of boreal origin and Nearctic distribution; 21.2 per cent are of southern origin and Nearctic distribution; pelagic forms make up the remaining percentages.

The comments upon the probable origin of local subspecies in relation to Pleistocene climate are worth serious reading. This subject, being fraught with many deficiencies in basic data, can not but remain controversial. Although readers may not concur with Austin in all phases of his discussion, they must admit, I think, that his statements are well-considered contributions to current thought in this field. Comments under each species summarize the entire distribution of the species and often give some indication of the distribution of related species of the genus, or even of related genera. In so doing the author places the Labrador occurrences in proper perspective in a cosmopolitan picture.

The treatment under species in the main list gives, as synonyms, local vernacular, Eskimo and Indian names where these are known. The records of occurrences are well detailed, together with concise summarizations of regional distribution. All published data and much information from unpublished sources are added to the author's personal field experiences gained during three summer expeditions. Aside from purely distributional records, seemingly all notes, published or otherwise, pertaining to the region and relating to nesting, migration, habitat and food are reviewed. The extent to which this information is new or valuably compiled is impressed upon the reviewer in the case of the Northern Shrike, to take an example. The scarcity of authentic breeding records east of the Hudson Bay has been such that some persons in conversation with me have queried the existence of any real breeding population of this species in that area. Although Austin says the Northern Shrike is uncommon, he cites no less than ten specific summer-season localities and mentions four sets of eggs, indicating thereby regular status as a summer resident in the coastal section of Labrador.

Little space is devoted to systematic comment, but some important notations are made regarding subspecies, especially

in the genera *Lagopus*, *Picoides*, *Perisoreus*, *Pinicola*, and *Passerculus*. These comments often are rather curt. They very possibly represent considerable study, yet fail in the written version to detail adequately the reasons lying back of decisions as to validity of races. Such renditions of opinion are objectionable even on the part of persons much versed in systematic matters. This style of treatment is exemplified in the following statement: "I have not seen any material of *L* [*agopus*]. *l* [*agopus*]. *alascensis* Swarth, but it strikes me that he has not used any of the eastern Siberian races for comparison, and his measurements are too few in number to be a good criterion. Shades of color in breeding dress vary greatly in individuals from the same locality, and while the race may in the future prove to be perfectly good, there does not seem to me to be sufficient evidence at present to warrant its establishment. The same is true of *ungavus* and *albus* (specimens of these two races were examined)."

Most exhaustively dealt with of all species is *Perisoreus canadensis*. The author doubtless is entirely correct in his remarks about certain eastern races, but the distribution of the race *capitalis* north to the Yukon as indicated on the map on page 159 can not be regarded as anything but faulty by those who have examined series of *P. c. canadensis* from various points in central and northern British Columbia.

Systematic comment, however, is not the principal aim of the book. As a chapter in the study of boreal faunas, as a compilation of information on the birds of a circumscribed region, and as an account of a fascinating piece of ornithological exploration, the book should receive much commendation and appreciation.—ALDEN H. MILLER, December 12, 1932.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday, December 22, 1932, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with about sixty members and guests present and Dr. Linsdale in the Chair. Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for Novem-