

when from two-thirds to three-quarters of the year is spent elsewhere, is not convincing. It is probably not too much to predict that if environment and variation can ever be effectively correlated in birds, the year-round environment will have been taken into account, as with other organisms. Granted that races must be distinguishable and their ranges delimitable without the aid of any marking system, none the less knowledge of the manner in which the *indistinguishable* component fractions of races or undivided species are isolated, or are likely to have been isolated before differentiation—of the nature of the units from which we must believe races to have sprung—must be of great importance to the theory of geographic differentiation among birds. Such facts, reasonably self-evident for most land vertebrates, require proof among creatures of unlimited mobility. To become conscious of such a problem and to take long steps toward solving it in some cases, marks an important point of progress.

It is an extraordinary fact that under present world conditions Germany can issue such a piece of work (assistance was received from the Prussian Ministry of Science, Art, and Public Instruction) in so sumptuous a style, while the results of American banding, increasing at such a rate as soon to be beyond hope of reduction and organization in usable form, continue to accumulate, of little use to anyone who cannot go to Washington and work there at length.

Dr. Schüz is stationed at the Rossitten bird observatory of the Kaiser Wilhelm Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Weigold is director of the Natural History Museum at Hannover, and has spent much time at the Helgoland bird observatory. Both have published many papers on similar subjects. Dr. Schüz's *Ergebnisse der Vogelberingung* in the Proceedings of the VII International Ornithological Congress is the best general commentary on the contents of the present publication.—T. T. McCABE.

THE BIRDS OF FRANCE (Les Oiseaux de France, Par A. Menegaux. Volume I. Introduction à l'Etude de l'Ornithologie Rapaces, Gallinaces, Colombins, Pici-formes. Paul Lechevalier, Paris, 1932).—This book, volume XXVI of the *Encyclopedie Pratique du Naturaliste*, is the first of three in process of preparation upon the birds of France. A short introduction

explains rules of zoological nomenclature, and discusses briefly general distribution of birds over the surface of the globe (with map). The first part contains chapters upon the topography and anatomy of birds; eggs, nests and incubation; migration; longevity; manner of collecting and preserving skins and eggs; and insect parasites of living birds.

The second portion of the book contains classification of the four included groups: birds of prey; gallinaceous birds; pigeons and doves; woodpeckers. When subspecific names are reached in the keys the reader is referred by plate numbers to the "atlas," which constitutes the third portion of the book. Here each of the included sixty-four representatives of the avian fauna of France is given one page of descriptive information, accompanied by a full-page colored portrait. Method of treatment is the same for all: scientific name, common names (French, German, English, Italian, Spanish); color description; measurements; habits and habitat; geographic distribution. The volume ends with: list of black-and-white figures (appearing throughout the text); list of colored plates; table of contents; alphabetical index of all names used.

The author has thus gathered together under one cover a useful handbook of general information upon birds for the purpose of aiding both French bird students and foreign visitors more readily to become acquainted with the avifauna of France. As stated in the preface, of the volumes to complete the series the next will deal with water birds, the third with passerine birds. This last volume will include chapters on usefulness of birds and on the protection of birds.—MARGARET W. WYTHE.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on January 26, 1933, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2003, Life Sciences Building, Berkeley, with about seventy-five members and guests in attendance. In the absence of officers Mr. Alden Miller presided. Minutes of the Northern Division for December were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for December were read. Proposals of names for membership were as follows: