

and highly original mind." Original may not be the proper word, for in the course of his incredible dissertations the author not only proves to his own satisfaction that all evolutionists from Darwin on are in error, but also casts grave doubts on Einstein's theory of relativity and characterizes Newton as "something very near a charlatan."

Part I of the book deals with bird migration. Evidently a partly re-written version of an earlier book, *This Bondage*, published in 1929, it includes no references to work of the past 25 years except for a few notes of observations which seem to support the author's ideas. Much space is used to refute statements made by "distinguished ornithologists" who refused to take the author's theories seriously in 1927 and 1928. These include an "anonymous but presumably authoritative writer" who contributed an article to the *London Times*.

In his discussion of bird flight Acworth starts with the fact, which has sometimes been ignored by ornithologists, that the path of a bird flying over the earth's surface is the resultant of the bird's motion through the air and the movement of the air in which it is flying. On this firm foundation he builds an unbalanced, illogical structure, bound together by chains of circular reasoning and propped up by fallacious assumptions, which purports to "prove" a great many things about bird flight and bird migration which are not borne out by observation. The kindest possible appraisal of Captain Acworth's theories of migration is that they might be true if birds acted in the way he thinks they do and if they flew in an atmosphere in which there was no turbulence and in which the only winds were the prevailing winds of the climatic charts. But his theories do not hold in the imperfect real world in which ornithologists must work.

Part II is a detailed restating of the author's preposterous thesis that cuckoos are hybrids between the male cuckoo and the female foster parent, which he still maintains stoutly despite all evidence to the contrary. Part III on "Butterfly Migrations and other Phenomena" I had neither the time nor inclination to read.—William H. Allen.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

The 1956 volume (208 pages) was the longest since 1949, and we hope to make 1957 longer yet. A modest but steady rise in our circulation makes an increase financially possible, provided we can get enough good papers. Though a number of such papers have been received in recent months, we can still offer early publication.

The April issue will contain a very long paper on the Arctic Tern by Dr. Oscar Hawksley, who worked with the species at Machias Seal Island, off the coast of Maine.

The annual meeting of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, held on September 29, 1956, at Drumlin Farm in South Lincoln, Mass., was highly successful, with an attendance of over 90, including many newer banders. It is probable that the 1957 meeting will also be held there, as the facilities are outstanding and the location will be even more convenient after the Massachusetts Turnpike is opened.

Readers are reminded that the Association is now selling Japanese mist nets. For details, write to E. Alexander Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 7, Conn.