

size of the negative from which they are reproduced. The illustrations, therefore, in several instances (*c. g.*, the Gannets on the Bass Rock and Puffins on Lunga) fail to do justice to the exceedingly interesting subjects they represent. However, the difficulties to be encountered in photographic work of this nature are so innumerable that perfection is out of the question, and far from criticising Mr. Lee for a failure to always reach his own high standard, we should remember that his skill and energy has given us the best work of its kind which has thus far appeared. — F. M. C.

Butler's 'Birds of Indiana.'¹—In 1890 Mr. Butler published an excellent, extensively annotated 'Catalogue of the Birds of Indiana' (See Auk, VIII, 1891, pp. 383, 384), embracing 301 species, with a supplementary 'Hypothical List' of 79 species. The present 'Birds of Indiana' is a much more comprehensive work, the former enumeration being not only brought down to date, and expanded by the introduction of much new matter relating to the habits and nature of the occurrence of the species in Indiana, but by technical descriptions and keys to the genera and species, and by many additional illustrations. It is thus well adapted to furnish the information demanded by the present greatly increased interest in birds, in the State of Indiana as elsewhere, in reference to their varied economic and other relations. In the present treatise of nearly 650 octavo pages, the number of species recorded as positively known to occur in the State is 321, with a supplemental list of 81, given as of more or less probable occurrence, from their having been taken in adjoining States.

The work opens with an 'Introduction' (pp. 515-531), treating of the position and physiographic features of the State, and of the changes that have taken place in its bird life and their causes, and a comprehensive bibliography (pp. 532-548). While this report is based largely on the notes of the author, "made principally in southeastern Indiana within the past twenty-one years," all other available material bearing on the subject is apparently utilized, for which due acknowledgment is formally made. Most of the 'keys,' for example, are (by permission) from Mr. Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds,' and the technical descriptions are in many instances transferred from the same or similar standard sources. Many of the cuts are from Dr. Coues's 'Key to North American Birds,' while those of the publications of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the kindness of Dr. Merriam, have been extensively drawn upon, particularly those relating to the Hawks and Owls, the Wood-

¹ The Birds of Indiana. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Birds that have been observed within the State, with an account of their habits. By Amos W. Butler. Report of the State Geologist of Indiana for 1897, pp. 515-1187. Indianapolis, Ind., 1898. Also separate, same pagination.

peckers, and numerous other species whose economic status has been considered in the various 'Bulletins' and other publications of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy. Throughout the treatise the utility and economic status of the species is kept well in view, and the work therefore cannot be otherwise than educational in the best sense to the people of Indiana, whether as an aid in determining the species or as a guide to their proper treatment. It is a hopeful omen of better times, not only for the birds but for the people, that a State legislature proves itself sufficiently far-sighted to place within reach of the public such an admirable aid to a better knowledge of their natural surroundings.

As is usual in recent works on North American birds, strict adherence is given to the nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List. — J. A. A.

Blanford's 'Birds of British India.'¹—The first two volumes of the 'Birds of British India,' by Mr. E. W. Oates, were published in 1883, and volume III, by Dr. Blanford, in 1895; the present and fourth volume, also by Dr. Blanford, completes the series, which furnishes us with a most convenient and useful work on the Birds of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. "The number of Indian birds regarded as distinct species in the present work," says Dr. Blanford, "amounts to 1626." "The precise number," he adds "is naturally dependent on a personal factor, some writers being more liberal than others in admitting the claims to specific rank of races which are distinguished by small differences of plumage or measurement, or which are connected by intervening links with the typical form. Such races or subspecies, as they are called, have not, as a rule, been separately numbered and described in the present work, but they have received due notice and their characters have been explained." In other words, subspecies are not formally recognized, and form no part of the 1626 species. And, as said by a friendly reviewer of the work, "modern vagaries in nomenclature are not usually countenanced." Linnaeus is taken at 1766, and in other respects the nomenclature is in accord with what this implies.

The present volume treats of 347 species (exclusive of 10 added in the appendix to those enumerated in the first three volumes), beginning with the Columbæ and ending with the Pygopodes. About a page is devoted, in the average, to each species, besides the space given to the higher groups; this suffices to give the principal bibliographical references, an

¹The Fauna of British India, | including | Ceylon and Burma, | Published under the authority of the Secretary of | State for India in Council | Edited by W. T. Blanford, | — | Birds,—Vol. IV. | By | W. T. Blanford, F. R. S. | — | London: | Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, | Calcutta: | Thacker, Spink & Co. | Bombay: | Thacker & Co., Limited | Berlin: | R. Friedländer & Sohn, 11 Carlstrasse, | 1898.—8vo, pp. xxi + 500, and 127 figures in text.