

in greater fullness, so as to make the work strictly an original contribution to the life history of such species as he had had opportunity to study personally in the field.

Pearson's 'Beyond Petsora Eastward.'¹—While the principal scientific results of the voyages here detailed have previously been published, in 'The Ibis,' 'The Journal of Botany,' and the 'Quarterly Journal of Geology,' 'Beyond Petsora Eastward' will be welcomed by both the general reader and the naturalist as a most interesting contribution to the history of Arctic exploration. Mr. Pearson was accompanied by Colonel Feilden, so well known for his important contributions to the natural history of various portions of the high North, and on the first voyage by the Rev. H. H. Slater, an ornithologist and botanist of large experience, his place being taken on the second voyage by Mr. Frederick Curtis, a student of Guy's Hospital. While the book is written by Mr. Pearson, he acknowledges his indebtedness to Colonel Feilden for the use of his diaries in the preparation of the work. The narrative takes the diary form, which greatly increases its interest for the general reader. Mr. Pearson in speaking of the work in his preface says: "It may be complained that the whole thing is far too 'birdy,' and without doubt birds and their doings occupy the largest portion; but the study of bird-life was the first reason and object of the voyages. Birds also are my excuse for adopting the form of a strict diary; for one of the chief interests connected with the study of their habits during the breeding season is the date at which they complete the various stages from nidification to the appearance of the young birds in full plumage on the wing."

We have here outlined the objects of the expeditions and the method of presentation of the results. It need only be said that every page is full of interest, and especially is the narrative replete with information for the ornithologist. Nearly one fourth of the 88 half tone plates relate to birds, giving excellent representations of the nests and breeding haunts of various Arctic breeding birds, few of which have been previously illustrated. Among them are nests and eggs of the Dotterel, Red-throated Pipit, Rough-legged Buzzard (including young of various ages), Little Stint, Shore Lark, Snow Owl, Red-throated Diver, Brünnich's Guillemot, Red-necked Phalarope, and other species. There is also a colored plate of the eggs of the Little Stint (*Tringa minuta*), showing three sets varying greatly in color.

¹ "Beyond Petsora | Eastward" | Two Summer Voyages to | Novaya Zemlya | and the Islands of Barents Sea | By | Henry J. Pearson | With Appendices | on the Botany and Geology | by | Colonel H. W. Feilden | London | R. H. Porter | 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W | 1899.—Royal 8vo, pp. i-xiv + 1-335, with 1 colored and 88 half-tone plates, and 8 maps and plans. Price, 22s. 6d., nett.

The voyages here described were made in 1895 and 1897. In 1895 considerable time (June 20-27) was spent on the Murman coast of Russian Lapland, and (July 5-15) on Kolguer Island; Novaya Zemlya was reached July 17, and ten days later the party started on their homeward trip, reaching Bergen, Norway, August 9. The expedition largely failed of its original purpose, owing to the condition of the ice and the unsuitableness of the vessel. The purpose of the second expedition was to explore the tundra-land between the Petchora River and the Ural Mountains. Owing to unfavorable weather and ice conditions this country was never reached, and the "Great Tundra, . . . lying between the Petchora and Karataikha rivers, yet remains an unknown land, as far as its bird-life during the summer season is concerned." The voyage occupied eleven weeks, and the time was occupied in "interesting work on Waigatch, Dolgoi Island, and Novaya Zemlya."

The narrative of the two voyages occupies pp. 1-168, and is followed by appendixes on the botany and geology, by Colonel Feilden, of the regions visited, and on the ornithology by Mr. Pearson. Thus 'Appendix G, Ornithology,' contains a summary of the observations on the birds, giving briefly the principal facts, while reference to the index will give a clue to the fuller details. The list altogether numbers 67 species, while tabular lists indicate the species met with at the different points visited; namely, Waigatch, with 38 species; South Island of Novaya Zemlya, 44 species; North Island of Novaya Zemlya, 32 species; Dolgor Island, 20 species, and Habarova, 25 species.

Of the sixteen species of passerine birds met with, the greater part were seen only in Russian Lapland, the birds found at the other points being the usual Arctic shore birds and water fowl, with a few species of raptorial birds. The colony of Brünnich's Murres found at Nameless Bay, Novaya Zemlya, was not only the largest met with, but "ranks as one of the most important in the Arctic regions." It is illustrated in plates 73 and 74 and described at length on pages 162 and 163. The higher parts of the same cliffs were occupied also by the Glaucous Gull in great numbers, — "handsome, well-fed birds, who looked as if they had not a care in life beyond the selection of the youngsters [young Murres] from the ledges below."

The book is well gotten up, and profusely illustrated with excellent halftone plates, showing the scenic, geological, and floral features of the coasts and islands visited, with many pictures of Lapps and Samoyedes, etc., as well as the many views illustrating bird life. — J. A. A.

Collett and Nansen's Birds of the Norwegian North Polar Expedition.¹

¹ The Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-1896. Scientific Results. Edited by Fridtjof Nansen, IV. An Account of the Birds. By Robert Collett