

is something disappointing in them. Aside from the crowding of several species on the same plate, and the numerous different reductions from the natural size of the birds, details for which the artist cannot be held responsible, there is also something wrong with the perspective. The birds are apparently too large for the landscapes or, to put it the other way, the landscapes are too small for the birds, as the human eye really sees them under ordinary conditions in nature. With our faces to the ground within a few inches of a Woodcock, he no doubt would look like plate 31, and the landscape of plate 2 would appear lovely if a group of Loons were not swimming on the very tips of our noses. Compare these compositions with the charming Pintails of plate 15, or the Hooded Mergansers of plate 11, where the disproportion of birds and landscapes is reduced to a minimum and every stroke of the artist's brush is pleasing. Bird artists of late years have been made victims of the popular demand for pictures showing birds as well as their surroundings at the same time and personally the reviewer is of the opinion that this combination is rarely successful and that the plates of long ago when devoid of background are more dignified and effective than any of the modern efforts to combine in one picture things that are really incompatible.— J. D., Jr.

Godman's Monograph of the Petrels.¹— Part V, published in May, 1910, brings to a close the most important and one of the most needed ornithological monographs of recent years, and we heartily congratulate the author on the successful completion of this great undertaking. As stated in the Preface, for many years the author's colleague, Osbert Salvin, was engaged in amassing a large and valuable series of specimens of Petrels from all available sources, with the intention, "on the completion of the 'Tubinares' for the twenty-fifth volume of the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, to write a fuller account of the Petrels, and publish it as a Monograph, illustrated by coloured figures of each species; for that purpose we had some forty plates prepared by Mr. Keulemans, but Salvin's untimely death, in June, 1898, put an end to this project." Although the work was delayed for many years, in consequence of Mr. Godman's occupation with the completion of the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' the preparation of the plates was continued, and on the completion of that immense undertaking he turned again to this long-projected Monograph,

¹ A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares) By Frederick Du Cane Godman | D. C. L. F. R. S. | President of the British Ornithologists' Union | With hand-colored Plates | by J. G. Keulemans | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn London | 1907-1910 — One Vol., large 4to, pp. (v + 381, 106 colored plates. Issued in 5 parts: Part I, December, 1907; Part II, March, 1908; Part III, September, 1908; Part IV, April, 1909; Part V, May, 1910. Edition, 225 numbered copies. Subscription price, £2 5s. per part, or £10 10s. for the whole work, if paid in advance.

For previous notices in 'The Auk' see Vol. XXV, 1908, pp. 244, 338; Vol. XXVI, 1909, pp. 95, 223.

and, he adds, "with the able assistance of Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe," he no longer hesitated to make a commencement. The work has been carried out on the lines projected by Salvin, and conforms in classification, with slight alterations, to Salvin's Catalogue of the Petrels in the British Museum Catalogue of Birds. His collaborator, Dr. Sharpe, "lived to see the practical conclusion of the Monograph and to revise the proofs of all but the last few pages."

The concluding Part V treats of the Diving Petrels (genus *Pelecanoides*) and the Albatrosses, which number 19 species, referred to the three genera *Diomedea*, *Thalassogeron*, and *Phaethria*,—perhaps the most interesting and in some respects the most difficult group of species to deal with in the whole order Tubinares. As in previous parts, the treatment is technical, historical and biographical, not only the history of each form being given, but also a summary of its life history and distribution, so far as these are known. This part also includes, besides the index and introduction to the whole work, a contribution by W. P. Pycraft 'On the Systematic Position of the Petrels' (pp. xv-xxi), and the 'Classification' (pp. xxxiii-iv), containing the diagnoses of the genera and higher groups, and keys to the species. The number of species recognized is 124, of which 104 are figured. The three largest genera are *Oceanodroma* with 13 species, *Puffinus* with 25, and *Æstrelata* with 32. As the nomenclature is strictly binomial, 'species' here means forms, many of which are apparently reducible to subspecies. The reader may be assured, however, that he will find here the substance of what is known of their status and relationships, given with full references to the original sources of information. It is almost needless to add that the plates are excellent, and that the letter press and general execution are of the high standard well-known to characterize the works of the publishers, Witherby and Co.—J. A. A.

Coward's 'The Vertebrate Fauna of Cheshire.'— This work, in two octavo volumes,¹ adds another excellent monograph to the long list of recent contributions to a detailed knowledge of the fauna of the British Islands. Its scope is the whole vertebrate fauna of Cheshire, a county in the north-west of England, bounded on the west by Liverpool Bay and the estuaries

¹ The | Vertebrate Fauna of Cheshire | and Liverpool Bay | Edited by | T. A. Coward, F. Z. S. | Author of "Picturesque Cheshire." | In two Volumes | | With illustrations from photographs by | Thomas Baddeley | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn | London | 1910.— 2 vols. 8vo, 26s. net.

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