

scenic features of the county, nests and eggs, and birds from life or from historic specimens. The volume is beautifully printed on heavy unglazed paper, and forms an attractive and important addition to the series of works relating to local faunas in the British Isles.— J. A. A.

Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in England and Wales in the Spring of 1909.¹— This is the Report (the fifth of the series) of the Committee of the British Ornithologists' Club on the spring immigration of the summer resident birds into England and Wales in the spring of 1909, and on migratory species observed in the Autumn of 1908. In respect to the species reported upon and in form of treatment the present report conforms closely to its predecessors, previously noticed in this journal, although containing about one third more pages, due mainly to a fuller treatment of the autumn records. The stream of spring migrants, while "fairly continuous," was at its height from the 9th of April to the 13th of May, with the usually large 'waves.' "The main immigration took place on the 9th, 17th and 25th of April, and on the 2nd-5th, 10th and 13th of May, the largest on the 17th of April, when the arrival of at least twenty species was observed."— J. A. A.

Beetham's 'The Home-Life of the Spoonbill, the Stork and Some Herons.'— This is the second volume² of the "Home-Life" series, published by Witherby & Co., the first being Macpherson's 'The Home-Life of a Golden Eagle,' already noticed in these pages (Auk, XXVII, Jan. 1910, pp. 101, 102). The present volume treats of the Spoonbill, the White Stork, the Common Heron, and the Purple Heron. These four species were carefully studied and photographed from screens or blinds erected near nests, and the text and accompanying beautiful illustrations are an important contribution to the life histories of these species. The author takes us to the haunts of these birds, without however telling us just where he found them, but the setting and the allusions indicate, at least for three of the species, the marshes of Holland.

Of the Spoonbill the author says: "The manner of feeding was quite distinct from that of the cormorant-like birds, where the young thrust their heads far down their parents' distended gullets, for here the food was regurgitated into the top of the throat and the trough at the base of the lower mandible, whence the young could pick it out without their heads

¹ Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1909: also Notes on the Migratory Movements and Records received from Lighthouses and Light Vessels during the Autumn of 1908. By the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club. = Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, Vol. XXVI, October, 1910. Edited by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. 8vo, pp. 347.

² The Home-Life of the | Spoonbill | the Stork and some Herons | Photographed and described | by | Bentley Beetham, F. Z. S. | With thirty-two mounted Plates | London Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. | MCMX.— Large 8vo., pp. viii + 47, with 32 plates. 5s.

entering the throat at all." The closing paragraph of the account notes the "tone of gentleness" of these birds, and their "silent dignity," but adds: "True, to be exact, their silence is more a necessity than a virtue, since they are possessed of no true vocal organ, but it so befits their other actions that it may well be laid to their credit without too close examination."

In the home-life of the Common Heron its checkered history is noted. In early times it was protected as royal game, but since the breechloader has ousted the falcon, he is no longer *protected* to be *destroyed*, but *from* destruction, since the angling fraternity are now "clamoring loudly for his blood."

Mr. Beetham's narrative is entertainingly written and adds greatly to our knowledge of the intimate home-life of these shy and interesting birds, while the beautiful photographic plates add a realism that no amount of word-painting can supply.—J. A. A.

Simon on the Hummingbirds of Ecuador.¹—Ecuador is divided into three regions, (1) the low hot region between the Pacific and the western Cordillera, (2) the area between the two Andean ranges, and (3) the basins of the Rio Napo and Rio Pastassa. The characteristic forms of Hummingbirds of each are indicated and the ranges of various genera, as represented in the three districts, are commented upon. The list numbers 152 species, with notes on their ranges, and with pertinent technical comment. *Taphrospilus* is proposed as a new genus, with *Aphantochroa hyposticta* Gould as type; *Prasitis vitticeps* is described as new. The catalogue is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the species of Hummingbirds thus far recorded from Ecuador and of their distribution.—J. A. A.

Gunning and Haagner's 'A Check-List of the Birds of South Africa.'²—The northern boundary of the area here included is approximately latitude 16° S., or "a line formed by the Cunene River on the east and the Zambesi River on the west." As said in the Introduction, Dr. Reichenow's 'Vogel Afrikas' is taken as the basis of the list, this being "the only complete modern work on African Ornithology, and as he has evidently bestowed much time and care on the subject of the nomenclature of South African birds. Where we have cause to differ from Dr.

¹ Catalogue général des Trochilidés observés jusqu'à ce jour dans la République de l'Écuador. Par E. Simon. Revue Française d'Ornithologie, Nos. 17 et 18, Sept.—Oct., 1910, pp. 257–270.

² A Check-List of the Birds of South Africa, Being a record of all the species known to occur south of the Zambezi-Cunene line (the 16th degree of south latitude). By Dr. J. W. B. Gunning, President, South African Ornithologists' Union, and Alwin Haagner, F. Z. S., Colonial Member, British Ornithologists' Union, Honorary Member, Royal Hungarian Bureau of Ornithology, Honorary Secretary South African Ornithologists' Union. Annals Transvaal Museum, Vol. II, July, 1910, Suppl., pp. 84.