

The two volumes before us cover the water birds (except the Steganopodes and one plate of Herons, which appeared in Vol. 2), the Gallinaceous Birds and Pigeons. The Ducks, Pheasants and Grouse give the artist his best opportunities and he has prepared some superb plates. As in all such works the pleasure which we derive from the beautiful pictures is mingled with regret that it is not possible to give each species a plate to itself instead of having to crowd so many together. This is, of course, not the artist's fault and as we said in connection with the earlier volumes he has displayed wonderful ability in grouping his subjects, so that each plate appears as a single finished painting, while each figure is displayed to the best possible advantage.

All in all we think that Mr. Thorburn's work will take its place as the best series of colored illustrations of British birds that has yet appeared, and is a work that should be in all reference libraries. It will appeal moreover to many lovers of the beautiful in art and in illustration, to whom birds are of only secondary interest.— W. S.

**Evans' 'Birds of Britain.'**<sup>1</sup>— "This little work" we are told in the preface "though primarily intended for schools, may be found useful by those who require a short hand-book which includes the results of the most recent observations." With such a plan and with an author of Mr. Evans' reputation and ability we are led to expect an authoritative and thoroughly up-to-date treatise. This expectation has apparently been realized in the main text, but a perusal of the introductory chapter covering the more general principles of ornithology, is decidedly disappointing.

In his treatment of migration the author has nothing to say of the work of the late W. W. Cooke, while he seems to be quite ignorant of the experiments of Dr. J. B. Watson, with terns on the Dry Tortugas islands, which have probably thrown more light on the subject of migration than any other recent investigation. The time-honored causes of migration — changes of temperature and abundance of food supply — are cited, but no mention is made of periodic physiological activities; while the statement that "Hardy birds such as Penguins. . . need hardly migrate at all," does not accord with the accounts of the recent Antarctic expeditions, in which regular migrations covering hundreds of miles, from the pack ice to the nesting grounds, are described.

The half-tone illustrations are of varying merit and unfortunately we are not told which are photographs from nature and which from mounted specimens. In some the figures are so minute as to be of little value and this obscurity has led to the printing of the cut of the Spotted Flycatcher upside down.

The book will, however, prove of much value in spreading a knowledge of the British avifauna, which after all is its chief object.— W. S.

---

<sup>1</sup>The Birds of Britain, their Distribution and Habits. By A. H. Evans. Cambridge, 1916. Small 8vo., pp. 1-275, numerous text figures. \$1.25. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)