

## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Van Oort's 'Birds of Holland.'**<sup>1</sup>— A year ago we had the pleasure of noticing the appearance of parts 1 and 2 of this important work. We are now in receipt of parts 3 and 4 which, however, were issued in May last. These fully maintain the high standard set by the first parts and both plates and letter press are excellent.

The plan of the work was fully set forth in our previous notice so that it is not necessary to repeat it here. The present instalments complete the Cormorants, cover all of the Ardeiformes, the Flamingo and the Swans. The twenty plates, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  by 14 inches are admirably colored and represent the principal variations in plumage to be found in each species. As might be expected the subjects lend themselves to more artistic treatment than those of parts 1 and 2 and many of them are a distinct improvement in this respect. The text runs from page 57 to 120 and is beautifully printed and typographical errors seem to be rare. An errata page is included in this fasciculus calling attention to the presence of parentheses about the names of authors in a number of cases where they should have been omitted — the result of an effort for uniformity on the part of the printer or proof-reader which is the despair of editors in America as well as in Holland! We trust that Dr. Van Oort may be enabled to proceed rapidly with the remaining parts of his great work. — W. S.

**Taverner's 'Birds of Eastern Canada.'**<sup>2</sup>— This notable work has been prepared to meet a growing demand for a handbook that will present in concise form the more important information on the habits and distribution of the birds of East Canada and keys and descriptions that will enable one to identify them. In providing for all these needs we think that the author has been remarkably successful.

The key carries one as a rule only to the familus but the numerous figures with which it is supplied illustrate the heads of several of the most striking species in each. In large families like the Warblers and Finches, however, the reader must work from the several descriptions without any key to guide him. The descriptions are usually divided into two sections entitled "Distinctions" and "Field marks" and there are two others "Nesting" and "Distribution." There is also a paragraph headed "Subspecies" in which the geographic races are briefly mentioned after which comes a

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<sup>1</sup> Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Directeur van's Rijks Museum van Natuurlijke Historie te Leiden. Met ongeveer vierhonderd gekleurd platen. Martinus Nijhoff. Lange Voorhout 9, The Hague, Holland. Aflevering 3 and 4.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of Eastern Canada. By P. A. Taverner. Memoir 104, No. 3, Biological Series. Canadian Geological Survey. Ottawa, 1919. pp. 1-297, figs. 1-68, colored plates I-L. Price 50 cts.