

Society, Mr. Hine presents an annotated list of thirty-seven species of birds secured by the party with notes on a number of others which he observed.

The notes are full and contain much of interest in regard to the habits and distribution of the species considered. Unfortunately there is no mention of the length of time that was spent in the district nor any sort of itinerary or even an indication of where Katmai might be. This is, of course, all contained in some of the other reports but as no reference to them is here given, the ornithologist who reads Mr. Hine's paper must needs do without this information. We notice several departures from the nomenclature of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' but no reason for them is advanced by the author — as for instance why he regards the Short-billed Gull as a subspecies of the European *Larus canus* or why he prefers the generic name *Glottis* for the Greater Yellow-legs and *Heteroscelis* for the Tattler. When we have an authoritative and generally used list it seems desirable to follow its nomenclature in a paper of this sort or at least to state when and why we depart from it.

The illustrations consist of three text figures from photographs and two full page half-tones of Cormorants and Puffins, Sparrows and Ptarmigan, from drawings.

Mr. Hine's paper is a welcome contribution to the ornithology of the great Alaskan region which still offers many opportunities for ornithological exploration.— W. S.

Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'¹— Part 4 of this notable work completes the Wagtails and covers the Creepers, Nuthatches Titmice, Kinglets and Shrikes. There is a colored plate of the Tits and two half-tone plates illustrating the seasonal plumages of the White and Pied Wagtails and the heads and juvenal plumages of various species, as well as numerous text figures.

The treatment follows the plan of the earlier parts and is quite up to the standard there established. Under the Creepers we notice one statement to which we would take exception, namely the disposition of the American Brown Creeper as a subspecies of *Certhia brachydactyla*. This on geographical grounds alone would seem very unlikely, and Dr. H. C. Oberholser has recently shown ('Auk,' October, 1918) that its relationship was, as we had always supposed, distinctly with *C. familiaris*. Mr. Witherby doubtless overlooked this paper as he states that this part is brought up to the date of July 31, 1919.

Part 5 completes the Shrikes and covers the Waxwing, the Flycatchers and most of the Warblers. The two latter groups are regarded as forming part of one great family to which belong also the Thrushes and most of the

¹ A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Part 4 (pp. 209-272), September 26, 1919. Part 5 (pp. 273-333) November 5, 1919. Witherby & Co., 326, High Holborn, W. C. 1, London. Price 4s. net per part.

"Timaliidae," and for which the name Muscicapidae is adopted. This will seem like lumping with a vengeance to most of our readers but let them try to define Thrushes and Flycatchers, when the species of the World are concerned or to separate the Warblers from the Timaliidae, or the latter from the Thrushes, and they may come to agree with the plan that Mr. Witherby and his associates have adopted. The other alternative would be to propose a lot of small families composed of the species that will not fit into the several groups above mentioned as strictly defined — a course which seems to us much more objectionable than combining them under one head. Nevertheless as the possibilities for increasing the number of genera which now seems to be such a fascinating pastime, begin to wane, we may expect activities in the discovery of new families! Two plates of Warblers, a name which still has a meaning even if the species are included in an all-embracing "Muscicapidae," one colored and one uncolored, illustrate this part. American bird students will of course understand that in the above remarks "Warblers" and "Flycatchers" refer to the old world groups so called, not to the entirely different families to which these names are applied here. The Kinglets and Gnatcatcher which we have usually regarded as belonging with — or close to — the Old World Warblers, are placed with the Titmice in Mr. Witherby's work.

The authors have now covered one fourth of the British species and we wish them all speed in completing their task.— W. S.

A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology.¹—The present work is a continuation of Mullens and Swann's 'Bibliography of British Ornithology' already noticed in these columns (Auk, 1916, p. 443, 1917, p. 227 and 1918, p. 98). That work has been styled the "biographical volume" since it consisted of biographical sketches of the authors with lists of their publications. The present undertaking on the other hand, is geographic, the titles of the articles being arranged chronologically under the various counties to which they refer, beginning with such as relate to the British Isles as a whole.

American ornithologists will be interested in the statement made in the advertising circular to the effect that "hitherto the only work dealing solely with the subject has been Elliott Coues' Ornithological Bibliography (Fourth Instalment): being a list of Faunal Publications relating to British Birds, Washington, 1880," and those who are not already acquainted with it will enjoy reading the memorial addressed to Dr. Coues by the leading zoölogists of England upon the completion of the first instalment of his

¹A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times to the End of 1918. Arranged under Counties. Being a Record of Printed Books, Published Articles, Notes, and Records Relating to Local Avifauna. By W. H. Mullens, M. A., LL. M., F. L. S., M. B. O. U., H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S., and Rev. F. R. C. Jourdain, M. A., M. B. O. U. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London. 1919. Svo. Part I, pp. 1-96. To be Completed in Six Bi-monthly Parts. Price 6 Shillings net per part.