

something over an hour on the average, although they frequently made it in less time.

A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches appeared during the summer with their nine offspring. A nest of Migrant Shrikes was successful, but unfortunately data were not secured. On May 31 young Maryland Yellow-throats were seen in three separate localities.

While the nests and notes given above seem to overbalance on the "successful" side, I believe this is because young birds are so much more conspicuous than deserted nests. Certainly the difficulties met by some of the above birds show that it is not an easy matter to raise a family in the wilds. The loss of life between the time of leaving the nest and fall must be appalling. Evidences of Ruffed Grouse, Thrushes, Woodpeckers, and other birds killed by Hawks were common all summer. These notes give only a meager idea of the mortality occurring at nesting time, but to me the following of the histories of nests is a very fascinating pursuit. WALLACE B. GRANGE, *Ladysmith, Wisconsin.*

Scarcity of Arctic Birds in Europe.—Dr. Graham Renshaw, editor of 'Natureland', (published in Manchester, England,) has very recently returned from his trip to the coast of Norway; and in a letter to me, dated the 22d of July last, he says: "My Norway trip was zoologically *most* disappointing! At Hammerfest certainly there were plenty of Ravens; also I saw a few Hooded Crows. On the way to North Cape I saw five seals, but at a great distance; another of the party saw a whale. These however, with a few Skuas, Gulls, and Guillemots (=Loons) made up the lot; it was a regular wash out for me who had hoped to see one or two porpoises, dozens of seals and *hundreds of thousands* of Eider Ducks! What a pity the boat turned back at North Cape instead of continuing to Spitzbergen, where I might have seen the thousands of Little Auk that Professor Newton used to write about!"—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Stuart Baker's 'Game Birds of India.'¹—There are many ornithologists who combine with their love of birds a love for beautiful books and to these particularly Mr. Stuart Baker's volumes on Indian game birds will make a strong appeal. Beautifully printed on heavy paper, bound most attractively and illustrated by numerous excellent colored plates by Grönvold, Lodge and Keulemans, they seem to combine all that could be asked for in the makeup of a book.

¹ The Game Birds of India, Burma and Ceylon, Vol. I. The Ducks and their Allies, Vol. II. The Snipe, Bustards and Sandgrouse. By E. C. Stuart Baker. Published by the Bombay Natural History Society.

Since 1896 Mr. Baker has been publishing illustrated articles on the Indian game birds in the 'Journal' of the Bombay National History Society, and in 1908 those dealing with the ducks and their allies were published as a separate volume by the Society, with additions and corrections. The first volume of the present series is a new edition of this earlier work with further additional matter. The second volume covers in a similar way the Snipe, Bustards and Sandgrouse, while two other volumes, to appear shortly, will treat of the Pheasants and Partridges.

The text is full and replete with information on the distribution and life histories of the various species, making a valuable handbook for the sportsman as well as an authoritative work of reference for the ornithologist.

Mr. Baker is to be congratulated on bringing his nomenclature up to date, something that is too often neglected in semi-popular works of this kind. He seems also to have followed the original spelling of the names in most cases, although we notice that *Aix* appears in the emended form *Aez*.

Among the rarer species treated is the Pink-headed Duck (*Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*), one of the most remarkable ducks from the standpoint of coloration. It may not be generally known to American ornithologists that a full plumaged male of this species is preserved in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy, being part of the famous Rivoli collection. We can heartily recommend this work as an authority on the Indian Game birds and while we await the appearance of the subsequent volumes with interest, we congratulate both author and publishers on a fine piece of work admirably brought out.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'¹—The two latest parts of Mr. Mathews' work conclude the treatment of the Sylviidae, although, through an apparent error, these birds as well as the Babblers are included in the family Orthonyctidae in the "contents" of Vol. IX which accompanies part 9.

The treatment follows that of recent issues, subspecies being discussed at length in the text but placed in the synonymy of the species. The difficult Grass Warblers and Brown Tits are considered in much detail, and as a result the author places all of the latter as subspecies of *Acanthiza pusilla* including *A. ewingi* and *A. diemenensis*.

We notice one new subgenus *Subacanthiza* (p. 449) for *Acanthiza lineata* and the following new subspecies: *Cisticola exilis diminuta* (p. 373) Cape York; *C. e. exaggerata* (p. 373), S. Victoria; *Acanthiza pusilla lingeraudi* (p. 430) Lingeraudi; *A. p. dundasii* (p. 431), Lake Dundas, W. Australia; *A. p. northi* (p. 431), Wilson's Inlet, S. W. Australia; *A. p. cobborensis*

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. IX.—Part 8 (May 22, 1922) pp. 361–416. Part 9. (Aug. 3, 1922) pp. 417–518. H. T. and G. Witherbp, London.