

Experiments as to the effect of marked changes in climatic conditions upon deer mice were also undertaken and animals of a rather dark race were subjected to hot arid conditions artificially induced. Young, born under these conditions, did show a paler coloration in the first or juvenal pelage as compared with control individuals kept under normal climatic conditions, but this paleness was lost in the next molt and the individuals actually became darker with each molt as they advanced in age. This was doubtless due to factors incident to the almost pathologic conditions necessary in the experiment, some individuals actually dying of the heat.

The importance of this test lies in the fact that the results are directly opposite to those obtained in Beebe's meagre experiments with birds which have been so widely quoted by the writers who argue for the instability of subspecific characters. The reviewer has always maintained that other factors might be involved in the change effected by Beebe and that the experiment should be repeated very carefully before too much reliance were placed upon it; and now we have Prof. Sumner's similar experiment with diametrically opposite result.

Too much praise cannot be given to the careful work of Prof. Sumner which furnishes another excellent example of the danger of jumping to conclusions.

In summing up his results he says that "regarding the more difficult question whether climatic influence may not have a cumulative effect in the course of sufficiently great periods of time, our views must at present be decided by considerations of a taxonomic and distributional nature rather than by any available experimental evidence."—W. S.

Allen's 'Birds and Bird Lore.'—Under the title of 'Birds and Bird Lore' Dr. Arthur A. Allen has had bound together the chapters on birds which he has contributed to 'The Book of Popular Science' published by the Grolier Society of New York. The headings of the several chapters give one a good idea of their contents, viz.: 'Birds as Man's Helpers'; 'Our Common Birds,' covering eight chapters and running from the Thrushes to the water birds; and 'Bird Migration and Home Life.'

Dr. Allen's ability as a popular writer and a teacher is well known and in the work before us he has presented an admirable review of the ornithology of the eastern United States with casual reference to birds of other parts of the world.

Dr. Allen is equally well known as a photographer of birds and the remarkable series of pictures, almost all of his taking, which illustrate these pages, is quite as noteworthy as the text. Unfortunately the crowding on some of the full page plates detracts from their beauty and makes us wish for full space and larger reproductions for all of them.

¹ *Birds and Bird Lore.* By Arthur A. Allen, Associate Editor of 'Bird-Lore' Illustrated. From *The Book of Popular Science.* The Grolier Society. New York. pp. 2746-59, 2873-83, 3004-12, 3126-36, 3200-8, 3342-53, 3467-81, 3582-91, 3730-50, 3858-73, (1924).

Practically all of our familiar birds are represented feeding or nesting, with views of the nest, eggs and young of most of them. Two colored plates by L. A. Fuertes illustrate a number of common land and water birds, also unfortunately crowded, but very skillfully and effectively grouped never-the-less.

Both text and illustrations in this work, contrary to the usual case, are the work of the author and from his own observations, and if the other chapters of 'The Book of Popular Science' measure up to Dr. Allen's standard the book should be well worth while. We heartily commend Dr. Allen's chapters as forming an admirable work of reference for the bird student, and only regret that they are not obtainable as a separate volume such as he has made of his 'separates.'—W. S.

Kirk Swann's 'A Monograph of the Birds of Prey.'—The second part of this beautifully printed work¹ is before us, covering the remainder of the Vultures, the Secretary birds, Caracaras and *Gymnogenes* and most of the Harriers. The treatment follows the plan established in the initial part, especial pains being taken with the synonymy, references, etc.

The three color plates depict (1) two races of *Gymnogenys typicus*; (2) *Circus spilonotus* and *approximans*; and (3) *Climacocercus ruficollis* and *gorilla* all from paintings by Grönvold, while the two photogravures are from photographs of nests of the Hen Harrier and Montague's Harrier.

It seems a little unfortunate that the keys are carried only as far as species, because a bird such as the Marsh Hawk, which is quite generally regarded as a distinct species but which Mr. Swann considers a subspecies of *C. cyaneus*, does not appear in the key at all. As we have frequently maintained, species and subspecies differ only in degree and a monograph should give them similar treatment throughout. This is, however, a minor matter and subspecies are given full consideration in the main text.

We congratulate both author and publisher on what bids fair to be one of the handsomest and most accurate monographs that has appeared in recent years.—W. S.

White's 'Birds of Concord, New Hampshire.'—To the desk of the reviewer, piled high with technical revisions, descriptions of new forms and the usual type of annotated lists, there comes occasionally a work¹ which for carefulness of compilation, perfection of language and literary style, and neatness of typography is a delight to the eye and a relief to the tired brain. Such a work is Mr. F. B. White's little pamphlet on the birds of Concord, New Hampshire.²

¹ A Monograph of the Birds of Prey (Order Accipitres). By H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. Corresponding Fellow of the Amer. Orn. Union. Illustrated by Plates reproduced in colour from drawings made expressly for this work by H. Grönvold also Coloured Plates of Eggs and Photogravure Plates. London, Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd. 2, 3 and 4, Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W. C. 2. Part II, January 31, 1925. pp. 53-124, five unnumbered plates. Price 26s. net.

² A Preliminary List of the Birds of Concord, New Hampshire, with notes. By