

cordial enough to induce him to undertake a companion work covering the remaining provinces of this interesting country.—W. S.

Kuroda's 'Avifauna of the Riu Kiu Islands.'—This handsome volume¹ of small folio size may well be termed a monograph of the birds of the interesting island group known variously as the Loo Choo or Riu Kiu chain, which, as the author says, constitutes one of the most interesting regions of the world from a zoogeographic point of view. Lying between Formosa and Japan it forms the most eastern extension of the Oriental Region, connecting it with the Palaearctic, to which the Japanese Islands belong.

The text of the work is entirely in English which greatly increases its usefulness to ornithologists. The eight excellent color plates are from paintings by a Japanese artist, Juzo Kobayashi, and the printing, done by the Tokyo Printing Co., is admirable.

While Mr. Kuroda has apparently consulted all publications relating to the birds of the islands, his work is based primarily upon collections made for him by Mr. Orii who spent fourteen months on the islands, from August, 1921 to October, 1922, visiting practically all of them.

The treatment of the 281 species and subspecies now known from the Riu Kius, consists of references to the original place of publication, with the type locality; a discussion of specimens in the author's collection, consisting of 1621 skins, with field notes by the collector and extracts from previous publications relating to the form under consideration. In the case of the subspecies there is also a list of all the other recognized subspecies with their distribution, which extends the usefulness of the work far beyond the limits of the Riu Kiu Islands.

Under "Summaries and Conclusions" there is an historic consideration of Riu Kiu ornithology with lists of species described by the author as new in previous publications, and of species here recorded from the region for the first time. Also lists of forms peculiar to the group (58 in number) those common to the Riu Kiu group and Japan (63), and to the Riu Kius and Formosa (23). The author then divides the group into four regions and lists the forms characteristic of each, adding a table of the species and subspecies so far recorded from each of the thirty-three islands of the chain. There is also a map and a bibliography of 62 titles.

One of the plates illustrates the young and adult of the remarkable Jay, *Lalocitta lidghi*, apparently the most distinctive species of the islands, which was first described by Bonaparte in 1850 as from "Japan" The true habitat, Amami-Oshima island, the most eastern of the group, was not ascertained, according to our author, until 1904, when Owston's Japanese collectors Osa and Osada, visited this spot. Curiously enough, however,

¹ A Contribution to the Knowledge of the Avifauna of the Riu Kiu Islands and the Vicinity. By Nagamichi Kuroda, Rigakuhakushi with 1 table, 8 plates and 1 map (vignette). Published by the author. Tokyo, 1925. pp. i-vi + 1-293.

specimens were obtained in 1896 by the late Dr. Wm. H. Furness, Jr., which are in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and which seem to antedate the Owston examples. Unfortunately, they were not recorded at the time of collection.

From 1909 to 1914, we learn, some 8000 specimens of this rare and beautiful bird were exported by Japanese milinery collectors to Europe and America. This trade was stopped by the war and we sincerely hope that means may be found to prevent its recurrence, or this interesting species will undoubtedly become extinct.

Mr. Kuroda is to be congratulated upon an admirable piece of ornithological work and his publishers upon a handsome example of book making.—W. S.

Hachisuka's 'Comparative List of the Birds of Japan and the British Isles.'—This handsomely gotten up work¹ recalls Bonaparte's classic 'Comparative Lists' of the birds of Europe and North America and of Rome and Philadelphia and the names appear in parallel columns as in those publications.

Identical forms, or those that are truly representative of each other in the two countries, are placed opposite one another, while those that occur in one country, without a representative in the other, have a blank in the opposite column.

Inasmuch as the reference to the place of publication of each species and subspecies is given along with common names, in both Japanese and English as regards the Japanese column, the list becomes truly a check list of the birds of the two countries and is especially valuable in the case of Japan, since so many new subspecies have been described from there in recent years. The ranges are not given, it is true, but in many cases there is an indication as to whether the form is a breeder, an exceptional visitor or a rare visitor, and we presume that those with no such indication are regular visitors. The Japanese column, as explained by the author in the introduction, refers to the island of Japan only since Korea, Formosa and the Loo Choo Islands belong to other zoogeographic regions, and their inclusion would defeat the object of a list of this kind.

We regret that the author did not devote a few pages to a summary of the data that he has so carefully tabulated, in order to show in quantitative terms the relation between the two faunas. The numbers of his lists show 524 species and subspecies for Japan and 500 for the British Isles while a hasty count indicates 411 species for Japan and 420 for the British Isles and, considering the genera of land birds, we find 120 for the former country and 113 for the latter. There appear to be 39 genera found in Japan but not in the British Isles, and 32 in the latter but not in

¹ A Comparative Hand List of the Birds of Japan and the British Isles. By Masa U. Hachisuka F. Z. S. Member of the Ornithological Society of Japan, member of the British Ornithologists' Union. Cambridge at the University Press. 1925. pp. [i-vii] + 1-107.