

Japan, while five families appear only in the Japanese column and two only in the British. These figures, however, do not have much weight as, in comparing faunas, the resident and summer resident species count for much more than the transients or occasional visitors.

We trust that the author of this valuable list will follow it up with a discussion of the composition of the two faunas, the relative tendency of the species to differentiate in the two environments, the origin of the elements and other problems which will naturally present themselves.—  
W. S.

**Canon Raven's 'In Praise of Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>—"This little book," says its author, "makes no pretension to literary beauty or to scientific importance: it is the work of an amateur who has neither the genius to create a prose poem nor the knowledge to contribute effectively to the expert study of ornithology. His only excuse for writing must be that he was born with a love of nature, particularly of birds, and that in a very busy life he has found them a constant source of health and refreshment."

In spite of this modest estimate of his ability we find his "little book" a delightful account of his experiences in studying and photographing British birds and if some of his passages are not prose poems they are most pleasing pictures of rural England, of country side and seashore. There are also several chapters covering his experiences in Holland in photographing birds of the Dutch dunes, and his association with Monseur Burdet and other kindred spirits.

Mingled with it all is much philosophic comment upon nature study and human character, and upon the joys of gardening, such as only a thorough nature student and a well read and broad minded man could write. "In any case," says our author, "whatever the trade that fills our working days, a love of Nature will sweeten it. We have all met men and women who have given the best of themselves to the life of the open air, to helping the green things grow and watching the ways of beasts and birds. Such people, whatever their station, have a peculiar fragrance of character."

Those who, like Canon Raven, have the proper appreciation of Nature, will find great pleasure in reading his book and an American can gather much of the character of the British birds and the atmosphere of their haunts from perusing its pages.

The text is handsomely printed and it is profusely illustrated with reproductions of the author's photographs. These are all printed in sepia and many of them seem to us unfortunately hazy, possibly due to enlargement, although the effect is as if they were out of focus and they do not compare with the usual run of half-tone bird pictures of to-day.—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> *In Praise of Birds. Pictures of Bird Life. Described and Photographed by Charles E. Raven, D.D., Canon of Liverpool and Chaplain to the King. London, Martin Hopkinson & Co. Ltd., 14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W. C. 2. 1925. pp. i-xiv + 1-148, pll. I-XLVIII. Price 14 shillings net.*