

ignore the bird's point of view, "for," says Dr. Allen, "a well-known biologist has warned us that Man is likely to mislead himself when he puts his own meaning into Nature."

In considering the possible sense of smell in the Turkey Vulture, he cites the most plausible experiments and points out where each is unconvincing because of the neglect to consider the presence of air currents and to guard against all sorts of factors which could easily have influenced the action of the birds, a care that is required in all modern investigations of animal behavior with the technique of which Dr. Allen is thoroughly acquainted.

In every chapter the reader will find most interesting discussion presented in a way that holds one's attention and avoids technicalities.

The volume is one that every bird student should read and that every ornithologist should have within reach, as it will prove invaluable as a work of reference, while the general reader will find its pages most entertaining and instructive.

There are forty-five full page illustrations mainly from photographs of living birds, selected to supplement the text, as well as half a dozen text figures, while the frontispiece is a reproduction of Benson's painting of Wild Geese rising. There is a bibliography of important papers and books and a good index, while the printing of both text and plates is beautifully done.—W. S.

Kirke Swann's 'Two Ornithologists on the Lower Danube.'—

This well printed brochure¹ describes a trip by the author and Mr. J. H. McNeile through the Dobrogea and the Danube Delta, in Rumania, during April and May, 1925. Their object was to study the birds of the region and to obtain eggs of the nesting species in which they were apparently quite successful, to judge from the annotated list of 172 species and the numerous interesting oölogical notes contained in the text. One of the most important specimens obtained was the race of the Tawny Eagle, known as *Aquila rapax culleni*, which seems to have been seldom recorded and to be little known to ornithologists.

The narrative of the trip is an interesting account of experiences, oölogical and otherwise, in a little travelled and unfamiliar country although, since we learn that it is only a three days' journey from London by the Oriental Express, we wonder why it has not been more frequently undertaken. However, when one reads that travelling, collecting, photography, shooting and carrying fire arms are all forbidden, and that the securing of permits is almost impossible, the ornithologist may well hesitate to journey

¹ Two Ornithologists on the Lower Danube. Being a Record of a Journey to the Dobrogea and the Danube Delta with a Systematic List of the Birds Observed. By H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S. M. B. O. U. (Corresponding Fellow American Ornith. Union.) Illustrations from photographs taken by J. H. McNeile, M. B. O. U., London, Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd. 2, 3, & 4 Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W. C. 2. 1925. pp. 1-67. [Size 12¼ × 10 ins.] Price 26s. net per part.

thither. The experiences of egg collectors seem to be the same the world over, as we read of the authors' search for nests of the Black Vulture and their discovery, after successfully reaching one, that it had been plundered by some Polish oölogists a few days before.—W. S.

Brooks' and Swarth's 'Distributional List of the Birds of British Columbia.'—This excellent publication,¹ No. 17 of the Cooper Club's 'Pacific Coast Avifauna' series, follows the plan of the previously issued "Distributional Lists" of the birds of California and Arizona and gives us for the first time a carefully compiled and exact statement of the distribution of the birds of British Columbia. The extent of this western Canadian province is much greater than is generally recognized, being twice that of California, and equal to the combined area of the sixteen eastern states from Maine to North Carolina and west to Ohio, while its extreme diversity of topography greatly complicates the task of working out the ranges of its birds or mammals. With these facts clearly in mind, we are able to appreciate the enormous task that the authors have faced, and the admirable way in which they have handled it. They wonder why no realization of the complicated nature of the distribution of British Columbian birds seems to have entered the heads of the compilers of the A. O. U. 'Check List' and criticise rather severely the handling of British Columbia in that work.

While making no apology for the shortcomings of the 'Check List,' a word or two of unwritten history may not be out of place in this connection.

As the time approached for putting the last edition through the press, it was at first decided to reprint the distributions as they were in the second edition but as these were so obviously out of date the writer of the present review offered to compile new distributions from Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' so far as then published, and the latest state lists, including several manuscript lists for some of the southern states. Lack of time at his disposal forbade going any farther, but his work was revised by Prof. W. W. Cooke of the Biological Survey and some records in his possession added and some statements altered. The two errors cited by Messrs. Brooks and Swarth, as examples of the shortcomings of the 'Check-List,' did not, as a matter of fact, originate there, but will be found in Ridgway's work above cited, so that the compiler can at least be credited with accurate compilation even though he lacked knowledge of the zoogeography of British Columbia!

An interesting feature of the list before us is the frequent interpolation of maps showing graphically the distribution of the various races of the more plastic species which it is often very difficult to define in words.

¹ A Distributional List of the Birds of British Columbia. By Allan Brooks and Harry S. Swarth. Contribution No. 423 from the Museum of Vetrebrate Zoology of the University of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 17, Cooper Ornithological Club, Berkeley, California. Published by the Club September 15, 1925, pp. 1-158, figs. 1-38, ppl. I-II. Price \$5.00.