

author's "Contributions to the Ornithology of the Indo-australian Region." The first part is a revision of the Edible-nest Swiftlets, *Collocalia*, a group which Oberholser and Stresemann have both studied extensively.

The latter now recognizes five species, *C. francica* (20 subspecies), *fusiphaga* (10 subspecies), *gigas*, *troglodytes* and *esculenta* (15 subspecies). A table shows the distribution of the forms of the group in the various Malay islands in which they occur. *C. esculenta sumbawae* (p. 189) is described as new from Tambora and *C. e. minuta* (p. 189) from Kalao.

The second part of Dr. Stresemann's paper is devoted to a consideration of the Indo-Malay Screech Owls (*Otus*), of which he recognizes *O. sagittatus*, *rufescens*, *spilocephalus* (6 subspecies), *alfredi*, *brookei* (3 subspecies), *sylvicola*, *whiteheadi*, *bakkamoena* (3 subspecies in this region and 7 elsewhere) and *scops* (with 24 subspecies in all).

Dr. Stresemann has another paper<sup>1</sup> on 'Color Mutation in Nondomesticated Birds' in which he discusses such cases as the Blue and Snow Geese, Blue and White phases of Herons, the white Australian Goshawk, etc.—W. S.

**Relation of Palaearctic Birds to the More Important Forest Insect Pests.**—Written from the forester's standpoint, and with rather formal ecological arrangement and terminology, this paper,<sup>2</sup> is a resumé of the role of birds as enemies of the nun moth, bark beetles, and May beetles in German forests. The most valuable original contribution of the paper consists of the numerous analyses of contents of the stomachs of numerous species of European woodland birds. The general conclusions of the author, if we may so term certain excerpts from his introductory chapter, are: "Biological warfare upon pests is waged by parasites in the first line. Most important in the second line are the higher animals among which the birds play a leading role. . . . Only exceptionally can birds make effective warfare upon a calamitous insect outbreak. Birds are the police, not the army of the forest" (p. 2).—W. L. M.

**The Lone Swallows.**<sup>3</sup> Under this title Mr. Henry Williamson, author of 'Sun Brothers' puts forth another series of nature stories dealing with the south of England. In his preface he quotes some "literary authorities" who refer to nature writing as "a minor thing" and who much to his horror express the opinion that Richard Jefferies is like grass, "a little is enough." Fortunately however he was not discouraged by them from following his chosen field and has given us some of the most charming bits of literature that nature writers have produced.

<sup>1</sup> Über Farbungsmutationen bei nichtdomestizierten Vögeln. E. Stresemann Verh. Deutsch. Zool. Gesellschaft auf der 30. Jahresversamm. zu Jena, June 2-4, 1925.

<sup>2</sup> A. Frhr. von Vietinghoff von Riesch, Zeitschr. f. angew. Ent., 10, H. 1, April 1924, pp. 1-55, and H. 2, October 1924, pp. 327-352.

<sup>3</sup> The Lone Swallows and Other Essays of the Country Green. By Henry Williamson, author of "Sun Brothers." New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Ave. Pp. 1-227. Price \$2.50.

In setting forth the problems of life as he sees them, he draws upon all branches of nature and upon man as well, nor does he hesitate to touch upon the sadder side of existence treating of death as well as of life.

Everyone who wanders afield, his mind full of the joy of living and the mystery of life, will read Mr. Williamson's little book with intense interest.

While many subjects are touched upon, there is more of birds than anything else, and in each species he goes below mere form and habit to interpret character and the part it plays in the great structure of nature.—W. S.

**Brooks' 'Hand Book of the Outdoors.'** Here is a book<sup>1</sup> for the Boy Scout, camper, and the lover of the woods and streams, who would get all possible return from his outings. Part I—Outdoor Activities—tells of pathfinding, hiking, mountain climbing, water sports, etc. Part II—Woodcraft—takes up the study of birds, flowers and aquatic life, ecology, the laws of nature and the biology of leadership. Part III—Campcraft—tells of camps and their equipment, food and its cooking.

The bird information outlines distribution, migration, nesting and the bird's place in nature.

As we glance through the pages of this attractively gotten up book we are impressed with the amount of information contained and its admirable systematic arrangement. It seems to be just the book for the camper, traveler and hiker, giving him the information he desires in concise form and at the same time teaching the proper attitude toward nature and toward our companions in the field, the latter of no small importance in the intimacies of camp life.

Mr. Brooks' book is no mere compilation but a carefully prepared treatise by one who knows what he is talking about, and who from long experience knows human nature as well as wild nature.—W. S.

**Correction.** In noticing Mr. Kirke Swann's 'Two Ornithologists on the Lower Danube' in the January 'Auk' p. 113, the price was wrongly given as 26 shillings. It should have been 5 shillings net.

### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.**—XXVIII, No. 1. January–February, 1926.

Who Would Have Thought it of Bubo? By H. M. Holland—A captive Great Horned Owl which lays each year two eggs which are removed and hen's eggs substituted. The young chickens are reared by the Owl although suitable feed is given them. The bird is now seventeen years old and began to lay when seven years of age.

Mutual Enemies—The Crow and the Owl. By Henry R. Carey.

The Migration of North American Birds covers the Swifts while the

<sup>1</sup> A Handbook of the Outdoors. By Earl Amos Brooks, Instructor in Field Laboratory Sciences, School of Religious Education and Social Service, Boston University. New York, George H. Doan Company. (1925), pp. 1-238.