

Heinroth's 'Birds of Middle Europe'.¹—The first part of this epoch-making work on the breeding birds of central Europe has already been reviewed in 'The Auk' for January, 1925. The first ten parts, which appeared from July, 1924, to April, 1925, continue the treatment of the passerine birds. These parts include the Wren, Water Ouzel, Accentors, Thrushes, Flycatchers, Waxwing, Shrikes, Swallows, and the beginning of the Old World Warblers, in all thirty-one species.

The author gives a brief general account of the families and other groups as well as more detailed information regarding the species in each. No attempt is made to give a complete life history of the birds treated, nor to go into technical details. Neither is there a complete description of the adult plumage, although measurements and geographic distribution are included. Notwithstanding that the book is not a technical treatise but a contribution to the behavior of birds, we notice that the nomenclature is commendably up to date.

The text is made up largely of original life history observations in the field and in captivity, and therefore the accounts of the various species differ greatly in length, according to the opportunities of the authors. Much interesting information is given on song notes, nesting, young, and the general behavior of the various species. The evident exactness of the data presented indicates the care with which the observations have been made.

Of particular value are the notes on the development of nestling birds with exact data on the age of each stage of plumage—information which is difficult to obtain and all too rare in books on birds, and which Dr. Heinroth's opportunities for rearing birds in captivity have given him an unexampled opportunity to gather. Especially good among others are the accounts of the life history of the Nightingales (*Luscinia megarhyncha* and *Luscinia luscinia*), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), and Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).

The wealth of illustration in this work adds greatly to its value. The numerous plates are, however, issued at random, and in but few instances do they illustrate the species that are described in the parts in which they appear. Both the colored and the black plates are intended to show the development of the species figured from the egg to the adult, and they represent various stages of plumage at precisely known ages, in this well supplementing the text descriptions. This is one of the most valuable features of the book. If the standard already set is maintained in the parts yet to be issued, it is probably not too much to say that 'Die Vögel Mitteleuropas' is one of the most important contributions to the life history of European birds that has appeared in many years. It should be in the library of everyone interested in European ornithology.—H. C. O.

¹ Dr. Oskar u. Frau Magdalena Heinroth, Die Vögel Mitteleuropas. Herausgegeben von der Staatl. Stelle für Naturdenkmalpflege in Preussen. Hugo Bermühler Verlag, Berlin-Lichterfelde. Lieferungen 1-10; 1924-1925; pp. 1-80; 16 colored plates; 42 uncolored plates.