

A list of species "reported" as occurring in Berks Co. follows the main list among which we note the Ruddy Turnstone "from near Tuckerton"—obviously, we should think, Tuckerton on the coast of New Jersey, a favorite spot for shore-bird gunners in the past. Mr. Poole has done well to keep this list separate from the main text and we doubt whether many of the birds contained in it really came from Berks Co., so easy is it to make mistakes in cases depending upon memory and to get specimens and data confused.

Well prepared lists such as this are of the utmost importance as they form the basis for state and national catalogues and Mr. Poole is to be congratulated upon an excellent contribution to regional ornithology. An excellent half-tone plate of the Barn Owl from a painting by the author appears as a frontispiece.—W. S.

Wilkinson's 'Shanghai Birds.'—This attractive volume' written and published in Shanghai presents descriptions and brief accounts of the habits of the birds found in the vicinity of the city, with colored plates of most of them from paintings by Grönvold. There are also several introductory chapters on identification, bird "sounds," naming of birds, migration and orientation.

The author is to be congratulated upon his success in producing a book that will prove of the greatest assistance to beginners in the study of oriental ornithology and as a result of its publication the next generation should show a great increase in the number of residents in China able to recognize the bird life about them.

The details under each species are well arranged; first a brief statement to aid in field identification bringing out the most striking characters, then a more detailed description with remarks on habits and times of migration, and finally a description of the nest and eggs.

In discussing migration the author has some original remarks on the possibility of an extra sense in birds "which enables them to communicate with one another over long distances," citing the concerted actions of flocking birds and the success of an individual in locating a flock of its own kind at a distant point.

The book is excellently printed and forms a valuable work of reference on the common birds of China.—W. S.

Acworth's 'This Bondage.'²—'This Bondage,' is a curious production, partly because it is a thoroughgoing example of special pleading. The main objects of the work, which are not evident in the early chapters,

¹ *Shanghai Birds. A Study of Bird Life in Shanghai and the Surrounding Districts.* By E. S. Wilkinson. Shanghai North China Daily News and Herald Ltd. 1929. pp. i-xxi + 1-243.

² *This Bondage: A Study of the "Migration" of Birds, Insects, and Aircraft, with some reflections on "Evolution" and Relativity.* By Commander Bernard Acworth, D. S. O., R. N. pp. XXIV-229; 6 figs. London (John Murray), 1930. 8 vo.

appear to be first, to discredit the theory of evolution and "to bring evidence to the aid of faith . . . to assist people . . . to believe implicitly in the actual and active personality of God"; and second, to discourage the hope that aviation has a future of any economic importance.

There is much information on flying—both of birds and aircraft—in this book which is undoubtedly sound and very illuminating. The author brings out forcefully, but at almost too much length, the fact that birds in flight do not ordinarily feel the "pressure of the wind," since they form an intrinsic part of the moving medium, with their own speed superimposed, plus or minus, upon that of the wind, the direction of flight being a resultant vector. From this it follows that, regardless of the strength of the wind, a bird flying in any direction feels only the pressure from directly ahead, which is proportional to its rate of speed. The situation is precisely like that of a fish moving within a current in the sea, or of a fly being carried along by the apparently still air enclosed within a railroad carriage or a ship's cabin. The author, however, boasts of the fact that he arrives at his conclusions from "deduction" rather than observation, and the resulting errors are manifold.

He fails to take the physical fact of inertia sufficiently into consideration, nor does he grant to most birds the superiority over normal meteorological conditions which they undoubtedly have. He builds up an elaborate theory in which zoological dispersal, migration, and other natural phenomena are dependent ultimately upon temperature plus the winds. While his deductions and reasoning are not without considerable value, they are undoubtedly of most value to one capable of realizing the weakness of Commander Acworth's ornithological information. As a matter of fact, the distribution of birds, fossil and extant, bears practically no relation to his idea of this subject. He is obviously innocent of knowledge about any recent experimental work on the incipience of migratory impulse in birds. In developing his own special theories he sets up one straw man after another and succeeds to his own satisfaction in knocking it down.—R. C. M.

Collinge on British Corvidae.¹—Supplementing previous separate reports on the Jackdaw and Rook, the present paper deals with four other members of the family occurring in the British Isles. In an introductory way Dr. Collinge says: "Among the whole of our British wild birds there are few families more difficult to deal with and to estimate the economic status of the different species than the Crow family, for their activities affect a wide series of interests, the least important of which—from an economic standpoint—is perhaps the noisiest and most persistent in their wholesale condemnation. It is therefore highly important that we draw no hasty conclusions, but endeavor to sift all the evidence and take a wide view of the sum total of their activities. The persecution of the members of this family is due entirely to the fact that for a few weeks of the year

¹ Collinge, Walter E., *The Food and Feeding Habits of some Corvidae*, Journ. Ministry Agr., May 1930, pp. 151-158, 4 graphs.