

Sixteen quarto plates, many of them in colors and all from drawings by Dr. Wilson, illustrate the heads and feet of many birds and flight poses of various Tubinares sketched from life. Forty species of birds were collected or observed, including two Penguins, three Skuas, twenty-two Petrels, seven Albatrosses, two Boobies and two Frigate-birds.

Beside Dr. Wilson's notes which are reproduced verbatim and a list of the specimens, data are presented on many additional specimens in the British and Tring Museums and there are full discussions of the relationship of species and plumages so that the report becomes a most important contribution to Antarctic ornithology. The perplexing phases of plumage presented by many of the Tubinares are discussed and much light thrown upon their significance.

The authors deserve our thanks for the care that they have taken in the preparation of this publication.

American ornithologists will recall that Dr. Wilson, well known for his previous Antarctic report on the birds of the "Discovery" expedition and other papers, was a great-nephew of Dr. Thomas B. Wilson one time president and patron of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and donor of many of its most important collections notably the Gould collection of Australian birds and the famous Rivoli collection.—W. S.

Vertebrates of the Lassen Peak Region.—Dr. Grinnell and his associates of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology have put forth another massive volume¹ concerned with the vertebrate fauna of California. This time they deal with northern California covering a section 24 x 124 miles in extent cutting through the Lassen Peak region from east to west.

Numerous trips by members of the museum staff to various parts of the section have resulted in a collection of 3592 specimens and voluminous notes, which form the basis of the report. The objects of the work as outlined by the authors are to determine the species of vertebrates present in the region, their relative abundance, their habitat distribution and factors governing it, their annual cycle of activity and "the determination of a way to analyze vertebrate communities and successions."

The factors accounting for habitat limitations of terrestrial vertebrates as determined by the authors are (1) inherent structural peculiarities, (2) vegetation, (3) nature of ground surface, (4) presence of water, (5) altitude, (6) physiographical relation to surrounding territory, (7) presence of absence of other animals. The thirty-seven habitats of the region they group under aquatic, low vegetation, brush-land, wood-land, forest, rock-land, and human made. These are discussed in great detail with numerous photographic illustrations.

We then pass to a consideration of the life zones of the area with lists

¹ *Vertebrate Natural History of a Section of Northern California through the Lassen Peak Region.* By Joseph Grinnell, Joseph Dixon, Jean M. Linsdale. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool., Vol. 35, pp. i-v+1-594, 181 text figs. Berkeley, Calif., 1930. Price \$6.

of characteristic trees and shrubs and vertebrates, with maps of actual records of distribution within the Lassen section.

Another part of the report discusses bird population with many lists of species showing the actual numbers of each seen in a given time and area.

The main portion of the work consists of a very fully annotated list of all of the 387 forms of vertebrates arranged systematically. The amount of detailed data contained in this publication is enormous and not only the California naturalist but the student of the broader problems of animal distribution and ecology will find it a veritable reservoir of information.

We have but one criticism of the work and that is the nomenclature employed. We fully realize the radical difference of opinion on various phases of this perplexing subject, but personally we are always ready to sink our opinion when a majority of any Committee appointed to deal with the subject is against us, as we feel that uniformity is far more important than the exploitation of personal opinion. We refer, be it understood, to general or popular usage. In a technical systematic discussion one is of course at liberty to state his opinions and uphold them by argument. It is the English names of the present report to which we take exception. These follow Dr. Grinnell's personal views although they are the names which the general public is supposed to use and by which they must refer in other works. The latter almost without exception adhere to the A. O. U. 'Check-List' and the Committee in charge of the new edition of this work at the almost unanimous request of all who have been consulted will adhere as closely as possible to the names now in use. Dr. Grinnell however sets up an entirely original set of vernacular names which not only confuse the reader but, when used alone as they often are, make it difficult for one to know what bird is meant. "Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch," "Red-bellied Red-shouldered Hawk," "Sierra Nevada Oregon Junco" and "California Acorn-storing Woodpecker" are, to use a slang expression, a "mouth-full" and quite impossible for labelling purposes or easy quotation. Also with only the 'Check-List' and other standard works to refer to how is the general reader to know what the "Ladder-backed Woodpecker" or the "American Water Pipit" may be? Why not let the Latin names indicate relationship and change them as we must in accord with our code of rules, but at least let us enjoy the stability of common names and adhere to those that have a respectable literature back of them.

These remarks are merely a side issue and in no way affect our admiration for Dr. Grinnell's excellent work or the splendid volume that he and his staff have given us.—W. S.

Riviere's 'Birds of Norfolk.'—In none of the English counties have birds been studied so continuously or so intensively as in Norfolk. From the time of Sir Thomas Browne, in the seventeenth century, down through a long line of able local ornithologists—the Pagets, Stevenson, Southwell,