

and the Gurneys, to the author of the present volume, the literature of British ornithology has been well supplied with notes from Norfolk and several volumes have appeared on the subject.

The present attractive and well printed publication¹ brings the county ornithology down to the end of the year 1929 and is a well written entertaining work, presenting an excellent resume of the history of each species in the county with an account of the physical features of Norfolk and an excellent map. The nomenclature wisely follows that of Witherby's 'Handbook.'

We learn that game preserving which has been brought to such a high pitch in Norfolk has undoubtedly had a marked influence on the avifauna of the county and the planting of coverts for the Pheasants and the seclusion of the preserves, has greatly benefitted passerine birds. But, says the author, "to game preserving we probably owe the extinction as breeding species of the Peregrine Falcon, Buzzard, Raven, Hen Harrier and Hobby and the general scarcity of raptorial birds." The recent reestablishment of the Harriers he adds "shows a better spirit than formerly." Let us hope that those responsible for the regrettable destruction of Marsh Hawks in America will give heed to this statement.

In the interesting discussion of migration there is much comment on the relation between wind and flight for Norfolk, with its ninety miles of seacoast bounding two sides of the county, is the landing place for migrants crossing the North Sea and as in America Mr. Riviere finds that the birds prefer to fly into the wind and their migration is "held in abeyance" during a "tail wind."

The book is well gotten up with a number of half-tone illustrations of birds and nests, one of which shows a male Harrier passing food to a female while both are flying in mid air.—W. S.

Stuart Baker's Game Birds of India, Burma and Ceylon.—Volume III of this splendid work² covers the Pheasants and Bustard Quail with colored plates from paintings by Grönvold. The text is replete with interesting matter, full discussions of the relationship of the various species and races, their varied plumages and molts and descriptions of the nesting habits and eggs, the last accompanied by careful measurements. Many appropriate quotations from other authorities add to the value and completeness of the work.

Speaking of the diminutive Bustard Quails as game birds the author

¹ A History of the Birds of Norfolk. By B. B. Reviere with sixteen plates and a map in colour. London. H. F. and G. Witherby 326 High Holborn, W. C. 1930, pp. i-xlviii + 1-296. Price 25 shillings net.

² The Game Birds of India, Burma and Ceylon. Pheasants and Bustard-Quail. Vol. III. By E. C. Stuart Baker. O. B. E., F. L. S., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., H. F. A. O. U., with eleven colored and nine black and white plates. Published by the Bombay Natural History Society; London. John Bale, Sons & Danielson, Ltd., Oxford House, 83-91 Great Titchfield Street, W. 1. 1930, pp. i-x + 1-341. Price £ 2 2s. net.

says: "Their flight is much like that of the English Quail but they are so tiny that if fired at close and hit there is nothing left to pick up, whilst if time is allowed for them to get a fair distance they take advantage of it to make one of their disconcerting dives into the grass."

There is much of interest in the accounts of the Pheasants. Speaking of the Peafowl Mr. Baker says: "It is wonderful the way a Peafowl in all the pride of plumage and gorgeous lengthy train will slip through jungles which one would imagine dense enough to stop his movements altogether with such an encumbrance. He seems to be as sinuous as a snake in his movements, as stealthy as a cat, in his tread, and as wary as an old bull bison in watching for foes." Old Peacocks he tells us are not much good as game, the meat being "desperately tough and stringy" but young birds are good eating.

We congratulate Mr. Baker upon another of his attractive volumes which must interest all lovers of sport as well as ornithologists and which makes a notable addition to any library.—W. S.

The Birds of Switzerland.—This comprehensive work¹ which had advanced to the end of the fifteenth livraison at the time of the death of Gustave Burg, its editor, is being continued by Walter Knopfi and the sixteenth livraison is before us, covering the Rails, Herons and Shorebirds.

Each species is treated at length with a discussion of synonymy vernacular names, nesting, migration, winter quarters, biological notes, geographic distribution, economic value, hunting (in the case of game birds), etc.

The work is entirely in French and the nomenclature not always up to date, while the arrangement is rather confusing. Each species is treated independently and its closest associates may or may not follow. Thus the species of Rails and Herons are interpolated between sections of the Charadriidae and yet the pagination is continuous.

The work contains a vast amount of information and should be a standard authority on the birds of Switzerland for many years to come.—W. S.

Hortling's 'Birds of Finland.'—The fourth part of this important work,² which was noticed in the October 'Auk,' is now before us, covering the remainder of the Ducks and the Petrels, Cormorants, Grebes, Loons, Doves and portion of the Shorebirds. Apparently another part is required to complete the work. The present instalment is equal in every way to its predecessors and like them entirely in the Finnish language.—W. S.

¹ Les Oiseaux de la Suisse (Catalogue des Oiseaux de la Suisse de V. Fatio et Th. Studer). Parait par livraisons. XVIIe livraison: Echassiers, Rallidés, Scolopacides, Pluviers, et espèces parentes. Elaboré par ordre du Département fédéral de l'Intérieur (Inspection des forêts, chasse et pêche) Par Gustave von Burg et Walter Knopfi avec le concours de nombreux collaborateurs de tous les cantons. En commission chez Georg & Cie, S. A., librairie, Genève, 5, Corrairie. 1930, pp. 3171-3606. Price Fr. 12.

² Ornitologisk Handbok. By Dr. Ivar Hortling. Part IV, pp. 601-800. Price 75 Fmk. per part.