

Quito, Cuzco, La Paz, Buenos Aires and Asuncion. An account of this trip¹ prefaced by one to Yucatan and Mexico (no dates are given) is presented in the volume before us.

While the author had little time for ornithological study there is frequent mention of conspicuous birds especially on the guano islands of Peru, but the book deals mainly with countries, inhabitants and scenery, with many historical references and personal experiences.

It is very good reading and interesting to anyone who has covered part or all of his itinerary or contemplates following in the author's footsteps. The reviewer's experience is limited to the chapter on Yucatan and Mexico but so accurately does Dr. Townsend's account tally with conditions as he found them there over forty years ago that comparatively little change seems to have taken place.

A number of illustrations from photographs by the author depict characteristic scenery. 'From Panama to Patagonia' is a worth while book of travel and should prove of interest and value to a large circle of readers.—W. S.

Delacour and Jabouille: 'Les Oiseaux de l'Indochine Francaise.'—

Since December 1923 until February 1930 Messrs. Delacour and Jabouille have been spending the winter months in ornithological explorations in French Indochina, their five trips yielding some 20,000 specimens. These have been reported upon in the 'Revue de Ornithologie' and 'The Ibis' and the papers noticed in the pages of 'The Auk.'

The authors have now embodied their observations and such other information as has been published on the birds of the country in an elaborate work² in four volumes entitled 'Les Oiseaux de l'Indochine Francaise' constituting one of the outstanding ornithological publications of the year. It is a royal octavo with wide margins, beautifully printed on light weight paper and illustrated by 67 colored plates from paintings by Grönvold, some of which have appeared in the previous publications on the individual expeditions. There are addenda and systematic and alphabetical indices to each volume and each has its own pagination although the plates are numbered continuously.

¹ From Panama | to Patagonia | By | Charles Wendell Townsend | Author of "A Labrador Spring," "In Audubon's Labrador," "Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes," "Beach Grass, etc." | With Forty-five Illustrations | from the Author's Photographs | and a Map | H. F. & G. Witherby | 326 High Holborn London W. C. 1. Pp. 1-224, pl. not numbered. Price 12s. 6d.

² Exposition Coloniale Internationale | Paris 1931 | Indochine Française | Les Oiseaux | de | l'Indochine Française | par | J. Delacour & P. Jabouille | Tome I. [Colymbiformes, Procellariiformes, Lariformes, Pelecaniformes, Ardeiformes, Anseriformes, Charadriiformes, Gruiformes and Galliformes]. Pp. 1-lvi + 1-279 + addenda, one page + i-xlvi. Pl. I-XIV, figs. three. Tome II. [Columbiformes, Falconiformes, strigiformes, Psittaciformes, Cuculiformes, Piciformes, Trogoniformes, Cameluliformes, Apodiformes, Coraciiformes]. Pp. 1-339 + addenda one page + i-lxi. Pl. XV-XXVII. Tome III. [Passeriformes] Pp. 1-348 + i-lxxiii. Pl. XXVIII-L. Tome IV. [Passeriformes]. Pp. 1-296 + i-lxvi. Pl. LI-LXVII. Date of publication August 15, 1931.

Besides the original reference to the species and a limited synonymy relating to French Indochina the matter is presented under the headings, Description, Measurements, Habits and Distribution; the first being accorded the most space. There are also descriptions of family and generic characters under the respective headings. The birds figured seem to comprise the forms most characteristic of the country.

We note that the authors have been troubled with the same problem that now confronts all compilers of lists or faunal works, i. e. how to treat and number species and subspecies. They have adopted the plan of numbering every form regardless of rank. The binomial name is always given, however, whether the "typical" race occurs in the region or not, with the trinomial following it—much as in the 1910 edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' but it is left unnumbered if divided into races. The vernacular name is quoted only after the binomial.

Volume I contains a chart of a bird with explanations of terms used in plumage description; introductory explanations of nomenclature and classification; an historical account of the explorations of Indochina with two maps; a discussion of geography and zones; and a bibliography. The zonal treatment seems to require much further study since the authors have simply suggested three regions from south to north, each with zones limited respectively by the 100 m.; 1000 m.; 2000 m. levels and over 2000 m.

Ornithologists the world over will be indebted to the authors for this magnificent work which gives us such an accurate account of the ornithology of a little known region and it will form the basis for work in Siam and many other adjoining countries for some time to come making a splendid companion to Robinson's 'Birds of the Malay Peninsula.' We tender them our heartiest congratulations.—W. S.

Swann and Wetmore: 'A Monograph of the Birds of Prey.'—After an interval of a year and a half publication of this notable work is resumed and we have before us Part X, constituting the first part of Volume II.¹

Some of the largest species of the order are now treated including the Lammergeyers and eagles of the genera *Uroaetus* and *Aquila*—the Wedge-tailed Eagle of Australia and the Golden Eagle and its allies; the colored plates represent the first two.

As with the other parts issued since Mr. Swann's death, Dr. Alexander Wetmore is responsible for editing the work from the Swann manuscript and for bringing it up to date.

We are pleased to see this important monograph continued as it was rumored that with the completion of the first volume the publication would cease and a good work on the birds of prey is badly needed.—W. S.

¹ A | Monograph | of the | Birds of Prey | (Order Accipitres) | By | H. Kirke Swann | Edited by | Alexander Wetmore | [etc.] London | Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd. | 2, 3 & 4, Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W. C. 2. | Part X, December, 1931. Pp. 1-64, 2 plates. Price £1 0s. net, per part.