

Stuart Baker's 'Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire.'¹—Although the author has presented much important information on the nesting of Indian birds in the bird volumes of the 'Fauna of British India' he has in the present work greatly elaborated this branch of the subject, the one in which he has always been especially interested.

While the nests and eggs are described with satisfactory detail there is also a full account of the habitat of the bird as well as its distribution and not infrequently something on its habits, while the works and observations of others are quoted where they supplement the author's own wide experience. The work therefore constitutes not only an indispensable book for the oölogist but an important reference volume for the general ornithologist.

In an interesting and instructive introduction Mr. Baker traces the history of oölogy in India for the past hundred years, from the work of Hume, Oates, Hodgson, etc., to the present day, and also presents a justification of the science and a reply to those who claim (to use his own words) "that all egg collecting is not only cruel but absolutely useless, that it can never be a science, and that all egg collectors should be sentenced to penal servitude for life in a birdless, eggless, country!" The author's present volume is, we think, the best refutation of such claims although we agree with him in endorsing Dr. Hartert's statement that "oölogists may be counted on the fingers of two hands but egg collectors are beyond numbering," and in decrying the taking of eggs merely because of their beauty. That we need more oölogists, in the strict interpretation of the term, goes without saying.

In this well gotten-up volume the author covers the crows, tits, nut-hatches, babbling thrushes, bulbuls, creepers, wrens and dippers. Several excellent photographs of nests *in situ* serve for illustrations. We congratulate him upon another valuable contribution to Indian ornithology and shall look forward with interest to the succeeding parts.—W. S.

Ticehurst's 'History of the Birds of Suffolk.'—In a beautifully printed volume² of some 500 pages Dr. Ticehurst presents the ornithological history of the British county of Suffolk which lies in southeastern England on the North Sea. It is nearly half a century since the appearance of Babington's 'Catalogue of the Birds of Suffolk' so that it was high time for the publication of the present, far more pretentious, work. The author has been collecting information for upwards of twenty years and the book is the result of his personal observations combined with those of his many correspondents. A standard English name heads each account, with the

¹ The Nidification | of | Birds of the Indian Empire | By E. C. Stuart Baker, [etc.] | Vol. I | Corvidae-Cinclidæ. | With eight plates | London: Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C. 4. 30th November, 1932. Pp. i-xiii + 1-470. Price 30 shillings.

² A History of the | Birds of Suffolk | By Claud B. Ticehurst [etc.] | Illustrated | Gurney and Jackson | London: 33 Paternoster Row, E. C. | Edinburgh: Tweeddale Court | 1932. Pp. i-xi + 1-502, with map. Price 24 shillings net.

technical and additional vernacular names below. The illustrations are attractive photographs of characteristic bits of scenery.

There is something particularly attractive about intensive studies of a limited area especially when, as in the present case, the matter has been carefully digested and written up in a scholarly manner. To local ornithologists and to those comparing the bird life of different parts of England such a work as this must be most welcome and even an American bird lover far removed from the local environment will find it delightful reading.

Our American states are usually too large and diversified for such treatment and the task of writing a comprehensive state bird book is both difficult and unsatisfactory, especially if, as it would appear, it is necessary to include colored plates of all the species, involving frequent duplication. We wonder if there be not a demand in this country for well compiled and written histories of the birds of smaller areas comparable to the British Counties, in which literary style rather than colored plates may be the chief objective.

We congratulate Dr. Ticehurst upon an excellent piece of work.—W. S.

Menegaux's 'Birds of France.'—As volume 26 of the 'Naturalist's Practical Encyclopedia'¹ Dr. Menegaux has published the first volume of a popular work on the birds of France, covering the birds of prey, gallinaeous birds, pigeons, woodpeckers and cuckoos.

The introductory pages deal with the anatomy of birds, bird-banding, collections and the preparation of specimens, as well as a list of bird parasites and a key for the determination of the species. The latter half of the little volume consists of descriptions of the various birds with brief accounts of their distribution and life history with vernacular names in several languages. There are many excellent line drawings, illustrating the introduction, and sixty-four colored plates of the species considered, which serve very well for purposes of identification.

The book, which is of pocket size, will be most welcome to local students and to visitors who desire a knowledge of the birds of continental Europe and who may desire to improve both their French and their ornithological knowledge. It is to be regretted that the entire work could not have been published in a single volume. Dr. Menegaux's name is a guarantee of the accuracy of the information conveyed.—W. S.

Anderson on Methods of Collecting and Preserving Specimens.—There have been various instructions published for the preparation of museum specimens but this bulletin by Dr. Anderson, published by the National Museum of Canada,² seems to be the best, including as it does a

¹ Encyclopedie Pratique du Naturaliste XXVI, Les Oiseaux de France par A. Menegaux. Vol. I. Introduction a l'Etude de L'Ornithologie Rapaces, Gallinaces Colombins, Piciformes. Paul Lechevalier & Fils, 12 Rue de Tournon, Paris. 1932. Pp. 1-93. Price 50 Francs.

² Methods of Collecting and Preserving Vertebrate Animals. By R. M. Anderson. Bulletin 69, Biological Series No. 13, National Museum of Canada. Ottawa, 1932. Pp. i-v + 1-141. Price 25 cents.