

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.