

point of view, soon constitute another! Mr. Stead, referring to the cats, quotes the old rhyme

“Ding, dong dell, Pussy’s in the well,  
Who put her in? Little Tommy Thin.” etc.

and suggests that following London’s statue to the memory of Hudson for his interest in birds, New Zealand might erect a monument to Little Tommy Thin!

We congratulate Mr. Stead upon a valuable contribution to bird biography and also his publishers who have spared no pains to make a most attractive book.—W. S.

**Taka-tsukasa’s ‘The Birds of Nippon.’**—Prince Taka-tsukasa, president of the Ornithological Society of Japan has begun the publication of a sumptuous work<sup>1</sup> wholly in English on the birds of the Japanese Empire of which the first part is before us. The work is limited by political, not faunal boundaries, and includes Sakalin Island, Korea (Chosen), and the Pacific islands under Japanese mandate, etc., as well as Japan proper. After a brief introduction explaining the scope and plan of the work and calling attention to the fact that of the three works on the birds of Japan, those of Temminck and Schlegel and Seebohm are out of print, while that of Uchida is written in Japanese, the author proceeds at once to a consideration of the Gallinaceous birds of which two species of megapodes and two pheasants are covered in the present part.

The accounts of plumage, relationship, variation, and life history are very full and satisfactory and the illustrations numerous and excellent. Each species is depicted in colors and there are artistic photographic views of haunts reproduced in photogravure. The work is excellently printed on heavy paper and makes a fine appearance.

Prince Taka-tsukasa’s book bids fair to be our authoritative work on the Japanese avifauna and we wish him success with his great undertaking.—W. S.

**LaTouche’s ‘Birds of Eastern China.’**—The latest part of this important “Handbook”<sup>2</sup> appeared in December last and covers the remainder of the birds of prey, the pigeons, sand grouse, pheasants, quail and rails.

To those who, like the reviewer, have been making constant use of Mr. LaTouche’s excellent work the appearance of each additional part is welcomed as an indispensable aid to work on the birds of China, and his plan of including summaries of the races of widely spread species, from the

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Nippon. By Prince Taka-tsukasa. Vol. I, Part I. Introduction and Order Galli. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1. Yokendo, 7 Motozono-Cho, Kojimachi-ku. Tokyo. August 15, 1932. Pp. 1-70, Pl. I-VIII.

<sup>2</sup> A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China. By J. D. D. LaTouche. Vol. II, Part III. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Pp. 193-288, pl. XVIII and XIX. Price 7s. 6d. per part.

interior provinces, gives an added value to the publication. The present part is quite up to its predecessors in thoroughness and appearance.—W. S.

**Gorbunow's 'Birds of Franz-Joseph Land.'**—This work<sup>1</sup> is a detailed account of the bird life of Franz Joesph Land based on trips made by the author in 1927 and 1930 on Russian "ice-breaker" boats, and on collections made by previous Russian voyagers, as well as on the literature which he has studied exhaustively. Twenty-six species are found on the island of which all are water birds except the Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, Swallow, Snowy Owl, Gyrfalcon and Ptarmigan. We note that the Eider Duck is the northern race *S. m. borealis*. Some of the species like Bonaparte's Sandpiper have occurred only once or twice and only the true arctic birds breed there. This important work is printed in Russian but there is a much condensed German translation appended.—W. S.

**Pearson and Brooks on Crows and Jays.**—Continuing its excellent accounts of the birds of North America the 'National Geographic Magazine,' in its January issue, presents an account<sup>2</sup> of the crows, jays and their allies, by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, with attractive illustrations in color from paintings by the well known bird artist, Major Allan Brooks. There are sixteen of these representing the raven, crow, the two magpies, eleven species of jays and the nutcracker. The various subspecies into which these birds have been divided are mentioned by name with an outline of their distribution.

There are good accounts of the habits, history, and food of the birds and a popular introductory sketch of the group with anecdotes and many halftone illustrations. Students of our birds should secure the magazines containing these valuable papers which will eventually form a well illustrated and reliable history of the birds of North America.—W. S.

**Palmgren's Recent Publications on Animal Ecology.**—Mr. Pontus Palmgren has recently published a number of important contributions to animal ecology and related subjects which we, unfortunately, have not space to adequately review but we recommend them to the attention of all interested in this line of investigation. All are written in German.

One<sup>3</sup> deals with the principles of plant and animal ecological investigation while in another<sup>4</sup> he describes at length a quantitative investigation of the bird life of the woodland of southern Finland which is approached from

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Franz-Joseph Land. By G. Gorbunow, Transactions of the Arctic Institute, USSR. Vol. IV. Leningrad, 1932. Pp. 1-244.

<sup>2</sup> Crows, Magpies and Jays. By T. Gilbert Pearson. Nat. Geographic Mag., January 1933. Pp. 50-79.

<sup>3</sup> Zur Synthese Pflanzen- und Tierökologischer Untersuchungen. von Pontus Palmgren, Acta Zool. Fennica 6 Helsingforsiae 1928. Pp. 1-51.

<sup>4</sup> Quantitative Untersuchungen über Die Vogelfauna in den Wäldern Südfinnlands. von Pontus Palmgren. Acta Zool. Fennica 7 Helsingforsiae 1930. Pp. 1-218.