

There are three excellent colored plates from paintings by N. Higashi presenting not only the forms described, but hybrids as well, while five beautifully printed photographic plates in brown and green on tinted paper depict habitats, nest of *P. v. versicolor* etc. There is also a large folded physiographical map of the Japanese Empire.

We cannot too strongly praise the completeness of Prince Taka-Tsukasa's treatment of his subject.—W. S.

**Stuart Baker's 'Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire.'**—Volume II of this excellent work<sup>1</sup> has recently appeared and fully maintains the high standard set by Volume I which we reviewed in the April issue of 'The Auk.' In the present instalment our author has treated the thrushes, flycatchers, shrikes, warblers, orioles, starlings and related families. Six half-tone plates from photographs illustrate nests and habitats.

Upon glancing through the pages of Mr. Baker's book we are impressed with the extent of his knowledge not only of his subject but of the literature relating to it and with the manner in which he has made good reading of what might easily have been tedious compilation.

His account of the nest-making of the Tailor-bird is particularly interesting. The bird, he tells us, usually employs vegetable cotton or cobwebs for her "thread" and with this she sews together the edges of a single pendant leaf or of two adjacent leaves puncturing them with her slender bill and knotting the threads, in some way not yet ascertained. Other near-by leaves are often sewed to the first ones rarely four or more. The nest proper is built inside the pocket formed by the sewn leaves. Silk from cocoons is sometimes used for sewing and when nesting near human habitations, bits of cotton, silk, or thread are often stolen for the purpose.

In making use of human assistance in the matter of nesting material or nest sites it is amusing to read that the Magpie-Robin often builds in the little spirit or "Pi" houses erected by superstitious natives for wandering spirits to dwell in!

Mr. Baker in his volumes has reached the highest point in "oological" literature and we wish that more of the countless "oölogists" could follow his example in making real use of their collections.—W. S.

**A Vermont Bird List.**—The Department of Agriculture of Vermont has published a very handy list of the birds of the state by Messrs. H. C. Fortner, Wendell P. Smith, and E. J. Dole.<sup>2</sup>

Two hundred and ninety-eight species and subspecies are listed, some

<sup>1</sup> The Nidification | of | Birds of the Indian Empire | By | E. C. Stuart Baker, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.Z.S., etc. | Volume II | Turdidae—Sturnidae. | with six plates. | London: | Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C. 4. | 31st May, 1933. Pp. i-vi + 1-564.

<sup>2</sup> A List of Vermont Birds (With descriptions appended) Bulletin No. 41. By H. C. Fortner, Wendell P. Smith, and E. J. Dole. Published by Department of Agriculture E. H. Jones, Commissioner [1933]. Pp. 1-54.

of which are included on the authority of early lists without definite corroboration while in the case of rare species detailed modern records are given. The nomenclature of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' is wisely followed both as to technical and popular names for in such a work uniformity is of far more importance than the exercise of personal opinion.

There is appended to the list brief descriptions of the more common Vermont birds which will prove of assistance to beginners or to those who do not have access to standard works; while a preface treats of the economic value of birds.

While there is still plenty for the bird students of the state to do in the matter of working out detailed distributions etc., this list will furnish an excellent basis for future work and will fill a need on the part of many who as the authors state are asking: "What birds do we see in Vermont?"—W. S.

**Wetmore and Brooks on Eagles, Hawks and Vultures.**—Dr. Alexander Wetmore reappears as author in the latest instalment of the bird articles being published by "The National Geographic Magazine,"<sup>1</sup> while Allan Brooks continues to furnish the excellent illustrations.

Dr. Wetmore's wide ornithological experience has enabled him to present a most readable general account of the "Eagle and his Kin," while the individual sketches of the various species are all that could be desired. Many half-tones from photographs by A. A. Allen, the Finleys, George Shiras and others add to the interest of the article.

Major Brooks has contributed sixteen beautiful plates from original paintings representing thirty species, those of the California Condor, Golden and Bald Eagle, and Osprey being full page illustrations.

We should like to hope that the sportsmen who advocate the extermination of the wonderful birds of prey for their own selfish ends will read this article and appreciate the beauty of its subjects and the importance of their place in nature's scheme before it is too late.

The article is a worthy successor to those which have gone before and the series when completed will form one of the outstanding popular works on the birds of North America.—W. S.

**Annual Report of the Hawk and Owl Society.**<sup>2</sup>—Whether anything can be done to save our hawks and owls may be a matter of opinion but certainly the greatest needs to that end are education and the arousal of popular indignation against the selfish attitude of the majority of sportsmen, and the Hawk and Owl Society is on the right track in its efforts to arouse such popular opinion.

The pages of its annual report are full of accounts of the ruthless slaugh-

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<sup>1</sup> *The Eagle, King of Birds, and his Kin.* By Alexander Wetmore with Paintings from Life by Maj. Allan Brooks. *Nat. Geogr. Mag.*, LXIV, No. 1. July, 1933, pp. 43-96.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Report of the Hawk and Owl Society.* Bulletin No. 3. March, 1933. pp. 1-36 with many illustrations.