

Stuart Baker's 'Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire.'—The third volume of this excellent work¹ is now before us and maintains the high standard set by its predecessors. It completes the Passeres and covers also all of the Coraciiformes. Besides the description of nest and eggs, compiled from personal experience and the works of various authors, there is much detailed information on distribution and habits of the 704 species and subspecies enumerated in the volume, so that it becomes a valuable work of reference to ornithologists at large as well as to oölogists.

The illustrations comprise a view of the Diyng River, "a haunt of the Broadbills and Pittas," and nests of seven species of birds, all from photographs by Col. R. H. Battray and Capt. R. S. P. Bates. We congratulate Mr. Baker upon the progress of his work.—W. S.

The Birds of Nippon.—The third part² of Prince Taka-Tsukasa's sumptuous work has appeared. It comprises pp. 27-56 of the introduction, which are devoted to a history of Japanese ornithology, and pp. 129-168 of the main text covering the three races of *Phasianus colchicus* and *Gennaëus swinhoii*. There are three colored plates and three photogravures, two of scenery and one showing the natives of Formosa in dancing regalia, with head-dresses of tail feathers of Swinhoe's Pheasant.

The historical sketch of Japanese ornithology is very interesting, dating back to the Shinshu Yokyo, the oldest book on the subject, printed in Japan in the year 818 A. D. although mention of birds occurs in still earlier works. An extensive natural history of Japan was published as early as 1713, comprising, in a later edition, no less than 48 volumes of which two dealt with birds. A standard work on cage birds, a subject in which the Japanese have long been interested, appeared in 1710. The first work on Japanese birds by a European author was Kämpfer's 'Historia Imperii Japonici,' 1727, based upon his visit to the country in 1690. Siebold, who lived at Nagasaki from 1823 to 1830, later published his 'Fauna Japonica,' the 'Aves' by Temminck and Schlegel forming the basis of modern Japanese ornithology. Nothing was known of the birds of other parts of Japan until Cassin's report on the birds of the Perry Expedition, 1852-1858. Until this time the policy of exclusion had prevented natural history studies being made in the empire by foreigners.

The beautiful make-up and typography of Prince Taka Tsukasa's work is fully maintained in this number.—W. S.

Weygandt's 'The White Hills.'—Dr. Cornelius Weygandt's delightfully written books on the 'Wissahickon Hills' of Philadelphia, and the

¹ The Nidification [of] Birds of the Indian Empire | By | E. C. Stuart Baker, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.Z.S., etc. | Volume III | Ploceidae—Asionidae | With eight plates | London: | Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C. 4, | 23rd April, 1934 |. Pp. 1-568. Price 30 shillings.

² The Birds of Nippon | By Prince Taka-Tsukasa | [titles etc.] Volume I | Part 3 | History of | Japanese | Ornithology | Order Galli | H. F. & G. Witherby | 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1 | Yokendo | 7 Motozono-Cho, Kojimachi-Ku, | Tokyo | 11th April, 1934.

'Red Hills' of the so-called "Pennsylvania Dutch" have already been mentioned in these columns. His latest volume¹ deals with the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where he for years has had a summer home, and their inhabitants. While not so rich in bird lore as its predecessors it is full of that appreciation of nature which characterizes the author's work. In two chapters, "The Cock of the Woods" and "Crows on the Barn" the birds take first place.

It is interesting to see this Pennsylvania writer trespassing into a field which New Englanders have long considered peculiarly their own.—W. S.

Priest's 'Birds of Southern Rhodesia.'—Just as we go to press we have received the second volume² of Captain Priest's excellent work on the birds of southern Rhodesia. It fully maintains the standard of the former volume both in style and make-up. There are ten color plates and 172 text figures.

The four Orders comprising (1) the Rails and their allies; (2) the Shore-birds, Sand-grouse and Doves; (3) Cuckoos, Parrots, etc., and (4) Rollers to Woodpeckers are covered in the present volume. The Passerine families will be treated in succeeding volumes.

We congratulate Captain Priest upon the progress of his work which will be a great boon to ornithologists of Rhodesia as well as to visitors from elsewhere.—W. S.

Brooks and Wetmore on North American Birds.—Another installment of Major Brooks' paintings of North American birds, with text by Dr. Wetmore, has appeared in the May issue of the 'National Geographic Magazine' (pp. 575-596). It covers the Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, Dipper, Kinglets and Gnatcatchers. The color plates are very pleasing, on gray tinted backgrounds with the birds in little groups, after the fashion of Thorburn's 'British Birds,' with branches of trees or sprays of flowering shrubs and bits of hazy scenery.

Dr. Wetmore in his sketches of the various species has combined brief notes on field experiences with general information on relationships and habits, which makes interesting and instructive reading. Why it is necessary to present such valuable matter under such modern newspaper publicity headlines it is hard to understand—Dr. Wetmore's contribution appears as "Winged Denizens of Woodland, Stream, and Marsh" while Major Brooks plates are termed "Blithe Birds of Dooryard, Bush, and Brake!" This we presume is the work of an editor not of the authors.—W. S.

DeSchaunsee on 'Birds from Siam and the Southern Shan

¹ The White Hills. Mountain New Hampshire, Winnepesaukee to Washington. By Cornelius Weygandt. Henry Holt and Company, New York. 1934. Pp. i-xi+1-309. Price \$3.50.

² The Birds of Southern Rhodesia. By Captain Cecil D. Priest. Volume II. William Clowes and Sons, Limited, London and Beccles. 1934. Pp. 1-553. To be obtained at 94 Jermyn St., London, S. W. 1. Or the Herald Book Store, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. Price £ 1. 10.