

continent even though it may have been forced southward at the time of the Glacial Period. The caption of the Cowbird plate which attributes the bird's parasitic habit to "laziness" is doubtless chargeable to the editor rather than the author. While this is a popular explanation of the peculiar habit, parasitism is hardly to be explained so easily. The ninth article covering the Ducks and Geese is promised for an early issue and will be looked for with much interest since it is with these birds that Major Brooks is at his best.—W. S.

La Touche's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.'—The final part of this important work¹ begun in January, 1925, appeared in May of the present year. In our reviews of the ten preceding parts, as they were issued, we have commented upon the excellent plan of the work and the admirable way in which it has been carried on. It only remains to say that the concluding part is quite up to the standard of its predecessors. It covers the remainder of the Anatidae and the Podicipidae and Colymbidae with thirteen pages of corrigenda and addenda.

Mr. La Touche has completed an excellent piece of work which merits the thanks of all ornithologists who deal with Asiatic birds. The 'Handbook' will be our authority on the birds of East China for many years to come.—W. S.

Taverner and Sutton on the Birds of Churchill, Manitoba.—This report² on field work in the immediate vicinity of Churchill covers several expeditions made during the years 1930 to 1933. P. A. Taverner, A. C. Lloyd and V. E. Gould, representing the Canadian National Museum, in 1930; John B. Semple, A. C. Lloyd, G. M. Sutton and O. S. Pettingill representing the Carnegie Museum, and another party consisting of A. and D. Twomey, Frank Farley and H. A. McGregor, both in 1931. Mr. A. Twomey visited the spot again in both 1932 and 1933 accompanied on the latter occasion by Miss Marguerite Heydweiller.

With an interesting historical introduction and a description of the country the report passes on to an annotated list of the 142 species of birds observed. This is replete with interesting field observations and in many cases comments on specimens collected. The importance of securing the information presented in the report is evident when we learn that Churchill at the southern end of Hudson Bay and exactly at the limit of tree growth has become an ocean port and railway terminus! At the time of the authors' visits "an army of men were at work with transit, shovel and hammer and docks, round houses and elevators were being erected with feverish haste, while steam shovels leveled the inland gravel ridges and filled the marshes. A shallow lagoon where many of the

¹ A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China. By J. D. D. La Touche. Vol. II, Part VI, May, 1934. Pp. 1-xxiii+497-566. Price, per part 7s. 6d. net. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet St., London, E. C. 4.

² The Birds of Churchill, Manitoba. By Percy A. Taverner and George Miksch Sutton. Reprinted from the Annals of the Carnegie Museum. Vol. XXIII, 1934. May 1. Pp. 1-83, pl. I-XIV.