

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 work<sup>1</sup> 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 report<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

observations on shore birds were made, is to become a switching yard and covered with oily trackage'.

A colored plate of the Hudsonian Curlew, from a painting by Brooks, forms the frontispiece of the report and there are twelve plates of half-tones from photographs of birds and nests and a sketch map, forming altogether a most valuable and interesting contribution to Canadian ornithology.

A curious feature is the use of binomials only in the headings of the list following the practice of the senior author. Inasmuch as subspecific names are used in the body of the text wherever specimens have been secured (and in several cases where they were not!) it is hard to see that this practice serves any purpose except to cause annoyance and waste of time for the subsequent author who may wish to quote references under the proper subspecific headings.—W. S.

'**Birds of the Chicago Region.**'—This excellent little booklet<sup>1</sup> presents a list of the 371 species or subspecies of birds recorded from the area surrounding the southern end of Lake Michigan, and including portions of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. The character of occurrence, migration and nesting dates, and more exact data on rare forms, are given and 92 species are marked with an asterisk to indicate that they are extinct, accidental or listed on the basis of sight records only. A map and a bibliography complete the work.

We have but one suggestion to offer on the plan of the list, i. e. the use of "Transient" instead of "Migrant" for birds which pass through in the spring and autumn. The "Summer Residents" and "Winter Visitants" are also "migrants" and the more distinctive term would appear more satisfactory.

It is more than twenty-five years since the appearance of Mr. Woodruff's list covering practically the same field and with the vast increase in local bird students in that time a new publication on the subject is most welcome.—W. S.

**Ball on 'Hybrid Ducks.'**—This interesting paper<sup>2</sup> is mainly devoted to detailed descriptions of a cross between the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) and the Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*) recently obtained by the author and another in the Boston Society of Natural History. He also discusses some hybrids between the Golden-eye and Smew recorded by Suchetet and a Black Duck and Mallard hybrid.

By way of introduction a list of hybrid Ducks recorded since 1907 is presented. While its date of publication is prior to 1907 we might call

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<sup>1</sup> Birds of the Chicago Region. By Edward R. Ford, Colin C. Sanborn and C. Blair Coursen. Program of Activities of The Chicago Academy of Sciences, Vol. 5. Nos. 2-3, May, 1934. Pp. 1-80. The Chicago Academy of Sciences, 2001 North Clark Street, Chicago. Price 50 cents.

<sup>2</sup> Hybrid Ducks, including Descriptions of Two Crosses of *Bucephala* and *Lophodytes*. By Stanley C. Ball. Bulletin 3, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University 1934. Pp. 1-26, pls. I-III.