

mating of a regularly mated bird; and the anti-Jackdaw flights when the whole rookery with the exception of incubating birds regularly takes after a passing flock of vociferous Daws—which are by the way, another and smaller member of the Crow family.

All in all 'The life of the Rook' is a most attractive and well written study of bird life while the chapter on Tree-top Photography will prove of especial interest and benefit to our bird photographers. Mr. Yeates says that he has never photographed a more interesting species, largely because there is "always something in the wind. There is activity enough in a big ternery or gullery, but it seems in some way a very stereotyped form of activity, and lacking the character and individuality of the Rook's ways." He also comments upon one of the obstacles to the proper interpretation of bird behavior, i. e. the prevalence of popular ideas and the difficulty to realize to what an extent we are influenced by "preconceived notions which arise from mere supposition and vulgar rumor."

Sixteen admirable plates, from photographs by the author, give one an excellent idea of the nest activities of the species while a text cut shows how a tree blind may be made. The book is handsomely printed on extra heavy paper and is a credit to all concerned.—W. S.

Thomson's 'Birds from the Hide.'—This book' of Mr. Ian M. Thomson will prove a delight to all who, like him, make bird photography a hobby and a diversion from a professional life. With but a page of preface, he plunges directly into the stories and experiences connected with his photography of British birds, some of them "extreme rarities" and others those "charming commoners, which all of us know."

While our author states that he has put down merely what he has seen and that his experiences may seem absurd to a "first rank" ornithologist we think that he has recorded not a little information with real value in the study of bird behavior during the hours spent in the cramped "hide" or tent, not to mention the beautiful pictures that his skill with the camera has produced. Sixty-three of these are published in full page sepia plates arranged with explanations at the end of the book. All are studies at the nest and not infrequently contain both parents as well as the young. Eighteen species are considered, the Bittern, Water Rail, Harrier, Bearded Tit, Short-eared Owl, Crested Grebe, Skylark, Lapwing, Tufted Duck, Curlew, Red-throated Diver, Hooded Crow, Twite, Northern Phalarope, Skua, Jaeger, Long-tailed Titmouse, and Bullfinch. From pictures and text the reader is able to form a close acquaintance with these birds of "Old England" and to compare them with their representatives in America.—W. S.

Mathews on the Procellariiformes.²—Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, as is well known, is engaged in monographing the Procellariiformes and has recently published two papers of a preliminary character in the hope that they may arouse interest in the subject and induce those in possession of additional information on any of the Petrels and Albatrosses to forward it to him, as well as their views upon his conclusions as to the relationship and "systematics" of this puzzling group.

His first paper covers the genus *Fregatta* and its allies in which he shows pretty

¹ Birds from the Hide | Described and Photographed | By | Ian M. Thomson | With sixty-three Plates | in Photogravure. A. & C. Black Ltd. 4, 5, & 6 Soho Square, London, W 1. 1933. Pp. i-xi + 1-108. Price 7 shillings, 6 pence.

² On *Fregatta* Bonaparte and Allied Genera. By Gregory M. Mathews. *Novitates Zoöl.* XXXIX, pp. 34-54, October, 1933.

A Check List of the Order Procellariiformes. By Gregory M. Mathews. *Novitates Zoöl.* XXXIX, pp. 151-206, December, 1934.