

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.

conclusively that the bird taken as a straggler off St. Marks, Florida, and called *Fregetta tropica tropica* (Gould), in the last edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' should be called *Fregettornis grallaria grallaria* (Gould)—providing, of course, that one agrees to subdivide the genus *Fregetta*. We find one new name viz.: *Fregetta guttata* (p. 45), proposed tentatively on p. 45 and formally on the next page as *Fregettornis guttata*. *F. leucogaster deceptis* which appears on p. 4 without authority, and apparently new at that point, was really described in the previous year in the Bulletin of the British Ornith. Club.

Mr. Mathews' second paper is a complete list of the Procellariiformes with original references and synonymy, distribution and breeding localities. There is also an elaborate key to which much thought has evidently been given, and a nominal list of species according to breeding areas.

Several names heretofore apparently overlooked have been discovered by the author and listed in the synonymy—fortunately they do not affect existing nomenclature. Such are: *Procellaria grönlandica* Gunn.; *P. melanonyx* Nilsson and *P. cinerea* Gunn. (p. 160); *P. harlic* Voigt (p. 164); *P. vulgaris* Wood and *P. scotorum* Partington (p. 178); *P. propontidis* and *P. bysantina* Acerbi (p. 179), and *P. atlantica* Bon. (p. 189).

We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Mathews for the amount of time and labor which he has devoted to the unravelling of the complicated history and nomenclature of these pelagic birds and we trust that those in a position to offer helpful criticism will not hesitate to do so in order that his completed work may be as nearly accurate as it is possible to make it.—W. S.

Hachisuka's 'Birds of the Philippines.'—The third volume of this work¹ is before us and maintains the high standard of typography, etc., of its predecessors. It carries the systematic treatment of the subject from the birds of prey to the end of the groups formerly associated as the "Picariae," leaving the Passerine families for the remaining volumes.

The text follows the plan explained in previous reviews of this work (cf. Auk 1931 and 1933), presenting very good descriptions, usually taken verbatim or nearly so from McGregor's 'Manual of Philippine Birds,' although the author seems to have forgotten to mention the fact. There are comparisons with extra-limital forms and very short notes on habits and distribution often based on the same work. The book is lavishly illustrated, the present part containing forty-one plates, most of them in colors and a number of text figures. Some of the color plates by a Japanese artist, S. Koyabashi, are reproduced by an off-set process and the effect is rather vivid; but most of them, apparently from paintings by J. G. Keulemans, are delicate three-color half-tones printed on egg-shell paper with beautiful results; the uncolored plates are from wash drawings printed in sepia or chocolate brown.

A number of new races are described in the present volume and a careful examination of the pages reveals the following: *Otus rufescens burbridgei* (p. 51), Sulu; *O. r. malayensis* (p. 52), Mt. Ophir, Malacca; *Tanygnathus lucionensis moro* (p. 87), Sulu; *Halcyon winchelli nigrorum* (p. 142), Negros; *H. pileata palawanensis* (p. 142), Palawan; *Hydrocorax h. basilanica* (p. 154), Basilan; *Collocalia whiteheadi tsubame* (p. 176), Palawan; *Eudynamis scolopacea paraguera* (p. 213), Palawan; *E. s. onikakko* (p. 214), Mindoro; and *Centropus melanops banker* (p. 221), Samar. Five of the type speci-

¹ The Birds of the Philippine Islands with Notes on the Mammal Fauna | By | The Marquess Hachisuka | F.Z.S., F.R.G.S. | * * * * | Part III | Pages 1-256 | H. F. and G. Witherby | 326 High Holborn, London, W. C 1 | November 26, 1934.