

pecially by Murphy in his 'Oceanic Birds of South America.' It is also stated that the Swift uses its wings alternately in flight, a theory that has not yet been proven. There are a few other ornithological misstatements or assumptions but they are not important.

The series of photographs which the author has brought together is truly remarkable: the frontispiece of an Egret taking off, by Middleton; Arthur's diving Coot; his own flying Mallard; Bailey's flying Snowy Owl; and Schroder's diving Pelican are among the more notable, though it is hard to make selections. There is also an astonishing photograph of a Mourning Dove with wing feathers fully expanded, taken by H. E. Edgerton and Kenneth Germeshausen in one 75,000th of a second. These pictures are worthy of very careful study as they throw much light on all phases of bird flight especially the position of individual feathers in various sorts of wing action.

The presentation of the theories of Curry and Lilienthal on soaring are interesting and illustrate the many factors that must be considered in such discussions. Mr. Aymar has given us a popular book that presents one of the most attractive and puzzling of the bird's activities in a way that can be understood by all, while the illustrations will be of the greatest interest to photographers as showing once more the possibilities of their craft, while the artist should find much of value to him in his efforts to portray accurately the bird in flight. The chapter on aerodynamics covers a phase of the subject about which ornithologists know but little. It is extremely interesting but we are not competent to discuss it. Apparently the author is thoroughly familiar with this phase of flight. There is a good bibliography but unfortunately it is arranged alphabetically by titles instead of by authors so that it is difficult to find a given work.—W. S.

Brooks and Wetmore on the Auks and their Allies.—The 'National Geographic Magazine' continues its series of illustrations and accounts of North American Birds¹ with an admirable sketch of the Alcidae. Brooks depicts the various species on eight colored plates, most interesting of which is his conception of the Great Auk. While it resembles to some extent Fiertes's drawing used on the 'Auk' cover in 1913 and 1914, both bill and wing are relatively smaller and the same is true when compared with the present 'Auk' design prepared by Fiertes at the request of the A. O. U. Council which was dissatisfied with his first effort and desired a more "conventional" Auk.

It is interesting to have the ideas of different artists as to what the bird really looked like for as the lovable and versatile Fiertes wrote upon submitting his second attempt: "nobody lives who knew the beast and there are so more to see!" (cf. Auk, 1915, p. 144).

The text by Dr. Alexander Wetmore is fully up to his previous contributions to this series and is fully illustrated with photographic reproductions. The 'Geographic' is doing a splendid service in furnishing this series of papers, which will eventually form a standard 'American Ornithology' for general readers.—W. S.

Linsdale's 'The Birds of Nevada.'—This publication,² like preceding 'Pacific Coast Avifaunas' emanating from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California, constitutes a painstaking and reliable summary of the region of

¹ Birds of the Northern Seas. By Alexander Wetmore. Auks and their Northland Neighbors. By Maj. Allan Brooks.

² Cooper Ornithological Club | Pacific Coast Avifauna | Number 23 | The Birds of Nevada | By | Jean M. Linsdale | Contribution from the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology | Berkeley, California | Published by the Club | February 7, 1936. Pp. 1-145. Price \$4.00. W. Lee Chambers, Bus. Manager, 2068 Escarpa Drive, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, California.