

## RECENT LITERATURE

**A Connecticut garden.**<sup>1</sup>—This is the story of a garden planted by Dr. Alsop and a friend who felt the urge to own a country place and purchased an old house in Connecticut, with its surrounding acres, for a week-end home. Here they experimented with gardening, sometimes according to the rules but as frequently according to impulse. The failures and successes are alike recounted in the month-by-month log, from April to November.

It is not, however, a formal garden calendar, nor yet a continuous narrative, but is rather a series of essays in which the progress of the garden takes its place, bringing in personal experiences in other times and places and discussing nature in general or certain of its aspects in particular. Since birds frequent gardens, they are accorded occasional mention, but it is the garden itself which is the undoubted center of interest and the birds are of secondary importance. The book will be read, therefore, not for its ornithological information but rather for its literary flavor.—J. T. ZIMMER.

**Bent's 'Life Histories.'**<sup>2</sup>—Mr. Bent's progress in this monumental work is a matter for sincere congratulation. When one marks the extent of the source material from which the accounts of the various species have been drawn, the mere work of assembling the data assumes gigantic proportions. In this work, as in the writing of a few of the biographies and other details, assistance is acknowledged as in past numbers, but putting this extensive material together into its final shape can have been no easy task.

There is no need to comment on this number, the fifteenth in the series, beyond making the statement that it follows the excellent pattern of its predecessors, giving the life histories of the jays, crows, and titmice as far as they are recorded in literature or known to the author and his contributors. It has become a commonplace, when some question arises concerning the nesting or other behavior of a North American bird to say: "What does Bent say about it?" The chances are that he will have something bearing on the problem.

In the present bulletin, Winsor M. Tyler, Jean M. Linsdale, B. W. Tucker, Edward von S. Dingle, Alfred O. Gross, and Alexander Sprunt, Jr. have contributed one or two life histories, each, and 42 new contributors of notes are added to the list of nearly 500 individuals who have cooperated in furnishing pertinent data for the preceding numbers. As Mr. Bent remarks in his introduction, if an observer knows something about one of our birds that fails to find a place in these volumes, it is his own fault for not sending the information to the author. The amount of data that Mr. Bent has uncovered and published makes this series a work of extreme utility and one of which American ornithology can well be proud.—J. T. ZIMMER.

**Spring in Washington.**<sup>3</sup>—Spring undoubtedly means different things to different people. To many dwellers in large cities, even those places with extensive parks or easily accessible countryside, it carries but little comprehension of the rapidly changing face of nature. If their attention be called to some outstanding feature of the procession, such as the blossoming of the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin in Washington, they become aware of it and may even grow to look forward to its

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<sup>1</sup> ALSOP, GULIELMA F. 'April in the Branches.' 8vo, pp. 1-257, decorations (by John Shayn), April 1, 1947. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$3.50.

<sup>2</sup> BENT, ARTHUR CLEVELAND. 'Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice.' U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 191, pp. XI + 495, pls. 1-68, 1946.

<sup>3</sup> HALLE, LOUIS J., JR. 'Spring in Washington.' 8vo, pp. 1-227, 47 figs. + jacket illustr., end-paper map, April 24, 1947. William Sloane Associates, Inc., New York. \$3.75.

repetition, but of the vast and equally significant, though less obvious, periodicity, they remain ignorant or indifferent.

Mr. Halle is not among the unobservant ones. He is, on the contrary, keenly aware of the first premonitory signs of awakening spring in the song of the Cardinal in January, of the Carolina Wren in February, and of the first Robin in March. To him, moreover, these are not simple milestones in the progress of the seasons but equally important as cornerstones on which to build a philosophy of life and mark man's advancement in his responses to nature through the ages.

Some of all of this he has given us in the pages of his newest book. Primarily it concerns his rambles around Washington and its environs and his observations there of birds and their ways, but it is filled with commentaries and speculations that often carry the reader a long way from the nation's capital. This is a book that may be read at a sitting or in fragments and to which the reader will wish to return for browsing or to re-read some passage that caught his eye at first perusal. Those who love nature will find many such passages. Perhaps those to whom nature is less familiar will find here an incentive to look about them. Even in a city they have not far to look as the author amply demonstrates.

The illustrations by Lee Jaques are as satisfying as the text and carry the feeling of the woods and fields even against the background of man-made structures that, in a city, are never far away.—J. T. ZIMMER.

**Panantarctic ornithology.**<sup>1</sup>—This exceedingly useful paper is described as the first comprehensive Norwegian report on antarctic birds. Based mainly upon material obtained by Olstad during the cruises of the *Norvegia* between 1927 and 1930, it includes also published accounts of specimens collected by at least a dozen Norse explorers. Among these are birds brought back by Amundsen after his South Pole Expedition of 1910–1911 and others dating from the voyages of Captain C. A. Larsen in the early years of the present century. Particularly important items are the *Norvegia* specimens from such previously unworked stations as Bouvet and Peter I Island, the collections of Ring from the Crozets and Kerguelen, and those of Lars Christensen from Gough Island. As will be seen from this summary, the area encompassed extends outward across the subantarctic zone to the edge of the subtropics, but nearly all representatives of the sea bird fauna are species with antarctic affinities.

The systematic part of Dr. Holgersen's paper is based directly upon specimens and therefore does not cover certain species, such as *Diomedes chlororhynchos*, which were apparently not available in the collections studied at the University Museum in Oslo. The birds thus omitted are, however, listed in the second section of the paper, which comprises a faunistic analysis of the Antarctic Mainland, Peter I Island, the Graham Land area, the South Shetlands, South Orkneys, South Sandwich group, South Georgia, Bouvet, Marion and Prince Edward Islands, the Crozets, Kerguelen, Heard, Macquarie and Gough. In no other single publication is it possible to find such a simple and practical compendium of the birds of the entire panantarctic area.

Most notable among Holgersen's zoogeographic data are those which confirm and extend the relatively high antarctic status of Bouvet Island, in the South Atlantic. Bouvet is in the approximate latitude of South Georgia but, lying well to the east, it is affected by great masses of ice carried out of Weddell Sea into the west-wind belt. Consequently, it proves to be the northernmost breeding station of the Adélie

<sup>1</sup> HOLGERSEN, HOLGER. 'Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic Birds. Scientific results of the Norwegian Antarctic Expeditions 1927–1928 et seq., instituted and financed by Consul Lars Christensen.—No. 23.' Norske Videnskaps-Akad. Oslo, 100 pages, 23 text figs., 1945.

Penguin as well as of the Ringed Penguin. Another penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*) and such high-latitude petrels as *Daption*, *Priocella*, and "probably *Pagodroma*" also nest there. The scarcity or absence of soil at Bouvet limits the breeding petrels to cleft-dwellers rather than burrowers.

Holgersen's notes on the Gentoo Penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) call attention to variations of possible taxonomic and geographical significance. His conclusions, as well as those of earlier writers, are confused, however, because of the fact that a very strongly marked racial distinction between the subantarctic and the truly antarctic representatives of this species has not yet been recognized. In order that this source of misunderstanding may be eliminated, the antarctic race of *Pygoscelis papua* is described on page 454 of this issue of *The Auk*.—R. C. MURPHY.

**Distribution and migration of terns.**<sup>1</sup>—This paper is a careful and exhaustive study of the widely distributed yet closely related group of terns of the genus *Sterna*, comprising the species *hirundo*, *macrura* (= *paradisaea*), *hirundinacea*, and *vittata*. These include two relatively sedentary terns of the southern hemisphere and two migratory terns of the northern hemisphere. One of the latter is believed to perform the longest migration among birds, since certain individuals probably nest north of the Arctic Circle and winter south of the Antarctic Circle.

Kullenberg's approach is gratifyingly ecological, taking full advantage not only of ornithological literature but also of correlative data from whaling and fisheries investigations and from the oceanographic findings of the *Dana*, *Meteor* and other recent expeditions. Titles of more than 70 consulted publications reflect the new breadth of source material required in a consideration of marine birds. Unfortunately, the war seems to have deprived the Swedish author of access to several papers important to his researches. Among these are Falla's masterful volume on the B. A. N. Z. Antarctic Research Expedition (Reports, Series B, II, Birds, 288 pages, Adelaide, 1937), and Murphy's revision of Pan-Antarctic terns (*Amer. Mus. Novit.*, No. 977, 17 pages, 1938). The latter corrects certain untenable conclusions in the same author's 'Oceanic Birds of South America.'

Still another, and more recent, report which he would have found applicable is Palmer's behavior study of the common tern (*Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 42: 1-119, 1941), in which ecological or "adaptive" distinctions between the species *hirundo*, *dougalli* and *paradisaea* are pointed out with singular clarity.

Kullenberg offers highly reasonable and suggestive, even though partly speculative, opinions to explain the kinship and present distribution of the terns under consideration, taking account of climatic changes since the latter Tertiary and keeping his theories well anchored to fundamental requirements of food supply along migration routes and of the increased hours of daylight in higher latitudes. His ecological comparison of the Arctic and Common Terns is original and convincing, matching well the heritage-habitus relationship exhibited by many other "paired species" of organisms.—R. C. MURPHY.

**Attracting birds to the garden.**<sup>2</sup>—This book, first published in 1939 by Reynal & Hitchcock, has been out of print for some time and is now reissued under the aegis of the University of Minnesota Press. It shows no textual or other changes other than in the rearrangement of the introductory matter, the addition of a list of the illustrations, and a different grouping of the plates. The paper is thinner but of excellent quality and the book is consequently lighter and thinner, which is an advantage.

<sup>1</sup> KULLENBERG, BERTIL. 'Über Verbreitung und Wanderungen von vier Sterna-Arten.' *Arkiv för Zoologi*, Band 38A, No. 17, pp. 1-80, 19 text figures, Stockholm, 1946.

<sup>2</sup> MCKENNY, MARGARET. 'Birds in the garden and how to attract them.' Superroyal 8vo, 16 pp., pp. 1-349, 48 pl. (16 col.), pl. I-V, Sept. 14, 1946. University of Minnesota Press. \$5.00.

Since the original edition escaped review in *The Auk*, it may be well to state that this is a very useful work for those who wish to encourage birds to visit their gardens. There are discussions of the value of birds to the gardener, the construction of bird boxes, the care of stray birds, food and cover, with a long list of plants and the birds that feed on each of them, and other similar topics of interest and value. With this book as a guide, the householder with a little garden space should be able to make the most of his opportunities to have at least some attractive birds about him.

The colored plates, taken from Roberts's 'Birds of Minnesota' or 'Bird Portraits in Color' add greatly to the attractiveness of the volume and are augmented by numerous photographs and a number of diagrams.—J. T. ZIMMER.

**Index to Strong's 'Bibliography.'**<sup>1</sup>—The present long-awaited volume makes considerably more accessible the extensive list of references contained in the two preceding parts (*cf.* *Auk*, 57: 264–265, 1940). One hundred and nineteen general headings have been selected, most of which are broken up into a succession of sub-headings, culminating in small groups of references to the same limited topic, cited by author and year. The list of general headings is given in the table of contents, but since these are arranged alphabetically in the volume, it is easy to find them without reference to the table; the subheadings under each are not so easy to find without running over the pages.

Admittedly not all the topics covered by the first two volumes are included in this index although presumably all the titles are so embraced (by author and date). The scheme of classification is not entirely consistent, as the author admits. In any case, in a work of this kind there is always some question as to the best classification of certain papers, especially when they are broad in nature, and in some cases articles dealing with the same subject will be found under different headings. Extensive, but incomplete, cross-referencing has overcome some of this difficulty. It is doubtful if it could be completely remedied within the space allotted which is but little over half the space given to the original references. Anyone who has undertaken cross-referencing extensive literature will appreciate the problem.

In spite of this difficulty, there is a vast amount of bibliographic information laid bare by this index. There is mention in the preface of a 'Finding Index' from which it would appear that there is to be a fourth part with the subheadings and headings also indexed. This should overcome much of the difficulty that still remains with the appearance of this third part.

The literature on ornithology today is so vast, even excluding most taxonomic papers as Dr. Strong, perforce, has done, that some selectivity was required. In the preface to the first volume, Dr. Strong explained the basis for some of the selection which excluded many minor articles and some major ones. When one considers that about 2000 different periodicals, aside from books, are cited in the bibliography, the extent of the author's labors becomes obvious, especially since many of these publications were not immediately accessible to him. A researcher on any topic, therefore, is quite certain to find that he knows of certain papers that have not been included. What Dr. Strong has done, however, is to give a more than ordinarily extensive survey of the whole subject. In some of the articles cited under the various headings, the worker will find special bibliographies which will supplement those given in the present work. Here he not only is shown where to begin walking, but is carried a long way down the road.—J. T. ZIMMER.

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<sup>1</sup> STRONG, REUBEN MYRON. 'A bibliography of birds, Part 3. Subject Index.' *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 25 (3): 1–528, 1946. \$4.50.

**Massachusetts birds.**<sup>1</sup>—This recently received work is more than a list of species for the county. Each species or subspecies of bird or mammal is given a line or two of brief description, its status as resident or visitant and its comparative rarity are stated, and a paragraph of discussion is added regarding its habitat, behavior, song, or other characteristic including, if it is rare, the pertinent records of its local occurrence. The topography, faunal position, and ornithological and mammalogical history of the county are treated in preliminary sections. The catalog of bird skins and eggs list the specimens preserved in eight institutions and private collections. A bibliography follows.

This is a good foundation for future distributional work in Worcester County. Species likely to occur or to breed in the county are pointed out as are numerous forms commonly accepted as occurring but of which there are no authentic specimens. Local ornithologists thus have a guide to the points needing further clarification.—J. T. ZIMMER.

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