

species undetermined, Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), and Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*), and for *Juniperus virginiana*, Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and Redbird (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).

The author's principal conclusions are that: "Birds are responsible for most of the dissemination of the junipers," and "General observations seem to point to the dense southern stands as a center for the dissemination along the lines of bird migration."—W. L. M.

MCGREGOR'S "MANUAL OF PHILIPPINE BIRDS."<sup>1</sup>—This work admirably meets the heretofore keenly felt need for a single volume of convenient size, containing descriptions of Philippine birds. In fact the only previous reference work covering the region is the bulky Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, not only the size of which but its rarity precluding general use.

McGregor's Manual strikes us as having been planned with great care to secure essentials and leave out non-essentials; and the plan is followed consistently thruout. The scientific name, an English name, and such native names as seem to be commonly used with some degree of accuracy are given for each species. A well selected synonymy provides references to the important literature pertaining to each species. Detailed distribution, by islands, is given in each case. Concise descriptions, including metric measurements are given for each and where there are plumage variations, these are separately described in detail. Brief characterizations of the genera and larger groups, together with simple but direct keys, render identification a less formidable task to the reader unfamiliar with oriental birds than would otherwise be the case.

The system of classification followed by McGregor is that set forth in Sharpe's Hand-List. The reason advanced for adopting the system is the adequate one, that it is "both convenient and well known." It is a pity that American ornithologists cannot allow themselves to fall into line with the rest of the world, to the end that uniformity of arrangement may be attained. There will always be differences of opinion over the relative positions of certain groups; but such minor points might well be conceded in the faunistic treatment of birds, "for the sake of convenience and uniformity."

We are interested to observe that McGregor, an independent, systematic student of the bird-life of a large archipelago where there are

many closely allied forms in a group and where the problems of speciation are manifold, thruout his book wholly ignores the *trinomial* designation. And this too in view of the historical fact that McGregor used to be an ardent trinomialist, describing "subspecies" galore! Everything nameable at all is treated in his new book as a binomial, just as does Sharpe and many other English authorities always referred to by Americans in this connection as "conservatives." Do we not see the pendulum beginning to swing back again from trinomialism towards the consistent and non-ambiguous binomial?

Perhaps the dogged adherent to the *trinomial* will before long be referred to as the "old-fashioned conservative!"

The present reviewer is unable in the rather brief time allotted to the perusal of McGregor's Manual, to find anything in it not worthy of commendation in a work of this sort. Of course, if the reviewer were familiar with the Philippine ornithology, it is quite probable that he might differ with the author in minor details of characterization, or range. But he is not; and in common with a host of other students will always turn to the Manual when information within its scope is desired, with confidence that it is in its entirety unimpeachable as an authority in its field.—J. G.

THE VERTEBRATE FAUNA OF CHESHIRE AND LIVERPOOL BAY. Edited by T. A. COWARD, F. Z. S. Volume I. The Mammals and Birds of Cheshire. By T. A. Coward and C. Oldham, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. With illustrations from photographs by Thomas Baddeley. Witherby & Co., London, 1910; 8 vo., pp. I-xxxii + 1-472. Price 26 shillings net.

The two volumes of this work cover the mammals, birds, reptiles, and batrachians of the region, about as much space being devoted to the birds as to all the other groups combined. This is partly due to the fact that there are many more species of birds in the region than of the other classes of animals, and partly because the birds' habits and life histories are so much better known as to warrant treatment in greater detail.

In the introduction some space is given to a quotation of the local regulations for the protection of wild birds and a discussion of their effectiveness, the conclusion being that on the whole the laws are futile and inadequate, tho it is admitted that a few species have noticeably increased in numbers thru their enforcement.

A discussion of the migratory movements of the birds follows, in which they are divided into groups—summer residents, winter residents, birds of passage, partial migrants, irregular migrants, and casual wanderers. In the body of the work two hundred and thirty-one species are treated, as having been satisfacto-

<sup>1</sup> A Manual of Philippine Birds by Richard C. McGregor | Part I | Galliformes to Eurylaemiformes | [Seal] | Manila | Bureau of Printing | 1909 8 vo., pp. I-X, 1-412. Part II | Passeriformes (otherwise same title page), pp. I-XVI, 413-769. Part I was issued April 15, 1909, and Part II, January 31, 1910.