

and, had I missed it, I should have maintained all my life that I had missed a Killdeer. However, I hit, and, rushing up, found that I had slain an immature Grey Plover, whose white rump had been stained by the blood from a previous wound, which had apparently also affected its flight; it was the sort of occurrence which tends to make one lose faith in records of rare birds 'seen'."

To make adequate comment on the 51 color plates is a difficult task, for they are original in their interpretation and execution. One would certainly not mistake Arnold's work for that of any other artist. A few are open to honest criticism—inaccuracies of color and unconvincing attitudes. On the other hand, many of them are very exceptionally pleasing. It is refreshing to have a series of paintings of such a favorite group of birds from an original viewpoint, and so far removed from the usual stereotyped pattern. The author, who is not a professional artist, certainly deserves congratulations on the successful completion of a very big undertaking.

The book is most tastefully designed and flawless in its production.—WILLIAM ROWAN, *University of Alberta, Edmonton.*

SWANN'S "MONOGRAPH OF THE BIRDS OF PREY."*—There is a great attraction in sumptuous books, in publications combining large size, broad page margins, beautiful illustrations and generally elaborate treatment. When the subject matter, too, is unusual in its appeal, and is technically well handled, such a work cannot fail of a cordial reception. Swann's "Monograph of the Birds of Prey" presents just this combination of pleasing appearance with authoritative systematic treatment. An added interest lies in the fact that this work deals with a group of birds that (save for the same author's "Synopsis of the Accipitres" of a few years ago) has not been accorded comprehensive treatment of any sort for many years, not since the publication in 1874 of volume I of the Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum.

The present monograph, judging from part one, leaves little to be desired so far as book-making is concerned. The finished

publication will assuredly form a beautiful set of books. The treatment, too, is for the most part satisfactory. The Introduction is in large part concerned with the characters and classification of the Accipitres, including a tabular arrangement of genera showing the distribution of species throughout the world. We also find therein a statement of the author's attitude toward the concepts of species and subspecies. He objects to the latter term, but merely as a term, preferring the word "form" instead. A critical mind might find some inconsistency between the author's expressed opinion "that each species is only a group of forms, neither one of which is a variety of the other", and, in the systematic accounts, the different typography he uses for the first "form" listed of each species, as compared with the others.

Nearly one-half of the Introduction is devoted to a dissertation upon falconry. Following the Introduction, the remainder of part one contains systematic accounts of the New World vultures and of about one-half of those of the Old World. There are five plates in this "part", all illustrations of exceptionally high grade; three of these illustrate in color five different species, one (also in color) figures the eggs of twelve different species, and one (photogravure) shows the nest of the Griffon Vulture.

The account of each species is prefixed by small-type paragraphs, including a synonymy with a fairly extensive list of references, statements of "distribution" and "characters", and descriptions of male, female and young, all concise and, for the most part, excellent. Following are one or two pages of general accounts, and it is here, I feel, that there are features that are open to criticism.

These paragraphs consist largely of quoted matter. This is inevitable, since no one man could be expected to have personal knowledge of all the species concerned; but the selections are not always carefully chosen. At any rate, this is the case in the one or two species with which I happen to be familiar. In the account of the California Condor the quotations are all from early writers, recording some inconsequential facts and some statements that have never been substantiated, while the careful work of later observers is all ignored. The statement that the Condor formerly nested in hollow trees is here twice repeated, unquestioningly, but it is doubtful if there is any sufficient ground for the belief.

* A Monograph of the Birds of Prey (Order Accipitres) by H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. Corresponding Fellow of the Amer. Orn. Union. Illustrated by Plates reproduced in colour from drawings made expressly for this work by H. Gronvold, also Coloured Plates of Eggs, and Photogravure Plates. London: Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd., 2, 3, & 4 Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W. C. 2. Part I. November 15, 1924. Pp. 1-xi + 1-52, five plates (unnumbered). Price 26s. net.

In the "distribution" of the California Condor, that species is said to occur casually east to Arizona. This, too, is a statement that appears in many other books, handed down from early writers and with no basis of fact. On the other hand, *Coragyps urubu urubu* is not stated to extend westward, casually, to Arizona, although there is a well-attested published record of such occurrence in recent years. Curious, in how many different forms of study there reappears this (often unconscious) reverence for accepted beliefs of bygone times, together with a contempt for recent discoveries! Then, one would like to know what authority there is for the statement that the North American Turkey Vulture "attacks newly born lambs, pigs, and sick or wounded animals". It is disappointing to find the author thus uncritical in his acceptance of legendary beliefs. It is in a book of this sort that we would hope to see old errors quashed, not perpetuated.

The "Monograph of the Birds of Prey" will, of course, take its place as the authoritative *systematic* treatment of this group of birds, and it will probably remain so for years to come.—HARRY S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley.*

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

DECEMBER.—The December meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, at 8 o'clock, December 18, 1924. President Dixon called the meeting to order with the following members present: Misses Atsatt and Pringle; Mesdames Grinnell, Mexia and Mikesell; Messrs. Borell, Bryant, Clabaugh, Cooper, Evermann, Grinnell, W. Grinnell, Hall, Hudson, Hunt, Labarthe, Mailliard, Simpson, Storer and Swarth. Visitors were Misses Furlong and Zeile; Mesdames Furlong, Hudson, Hunt, Labarthe, Perine and Swarth; Messrs. Foster, Hall, McGowan and Perine.

Minutes of the Northern Division for November were read and approved. Minutes of the Southern Division for November were read. Resignations were read and accepted from Mrs. Anna J. Kaseberg and Mrs. W. H. Smyth. Officers of the Northern Division for 1925 were nominated as follows: for president, Mr. C. B.

Lastreto; for vice-president, Mrs. Amelia S. Allen; for secretary, Mrs. Hilda W. Grinnell. A note was read from Mr. W. L. Finley stating that in all probability the waters will be turned again into Lower Klamath Lake. All members listened with pleasure to the reading of a Christmas greeting from Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, who is now "Fording" in Greece and studying the birds there.

The December meeting proved to be a surprise party for Mr. Joseph Mailliard, as the Northern Division of the Cooper Club, acting concurrently with the Southern Division, waived the regular rule and at the first reading of the motion unanimously elected Mr. Mailliard to Honorary Membership in the Cooper Ornithological Club. This action was taken by the Club in recognition of Mr. Mailliard's life-long work with California birds and of his genial interest in the welfare of the Club.

The contribution of the evening, entitled "The Pittsburgh Meeting of the A. O. U.," was presented by Mr. Joseph Grinnell; but since the gist of it has appeared in THE CONDOR (p. 44), the Secretary will not give further report of the evening's talk. However, since, following a precedent of long standing, no poetry finds sanction in the pages of our magazine, let us attempt to save for posterity, in these Minutes, Mrs. Charles B. Graves' clever lines to the Dipper, as taken down and reported by Mr. Grinnell:

Did you ever see an ouzel wink?
It's more of a trick than you would think!
He bobs his tail and bats his eye,
And lets his nictitating membrane fly!

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary.*

JANUARY.—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on January 22, 1925, at 8 P. M. President Dixon was in the chair, with the following members present: Misses Atsatt, Flynn, Head, Pringle, Wythe, Van Gaasbeek; Mesdames Delpont, Grinnell, Kibbe, Mikesell, Mead, Mexia, Perry, Schenck, and Stock; Messrs. Bryant, Clabaugh, Cooper, Dixon, Elmore, Evermann, Gignoux, Grinnell, W. Grinnell, Hall, Kibbe, Labarthe, Mailliard, Ray, Schenck, Simpson, Swarth, and Trost. Visitors were: Misses Smoot and Zeile; Mesdames Clabaugh, Gignoux, Evermann, Hall, Ray, and Swarth; Messrs. Dietz, Foster, Perry, and Walford.

Minutes of the Northern Division for December were read and approved. Min-