

RECENT LITERATURE

The Book of Bird Life.—By Arthur A. Allen, D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., New York.

Dr. Allen might well have taken *multum in parvo* for his motto when preparing this excellent little book, for it contains a vast amount of suggestive information in small space. As he says in the Introduction, "The present volume can scarcely be called a manual; it does not attempt to discuss the detailed habits of a single species completely. Rather, it aims to outline the underlying principles that govern the actions of any bird and to suggest methods of study." In this aim it succeeds admirably.

Much of the material used has already appeared in the School Department of "Bird-Lore" but there is also much new matter. There are frequent references to bird-banding as a source of information on the habits of birds, and on pages 328-332 there is a brief account of banding as a method of bird study.

As might be expected in a book by Dr. Allen, the illustrations, mostly from his own photographs, add greatly to the popular value of this decidedly interesting volume.—J. B. M.

Der Vogelzug, 1, No. 2, April, 1930, pp. 65-104.

The second number of this, the German counterpart of *Bird-Banding*, is considerably smaller than the first, but contains eight papers as well as a good number of shorter notes and reviews of current literature.

O. Kleinschmidt, in a short article on some aspects of the future study of bird migration, suggests that inasmuch as banding stations are too thinly scattered throughout Germany, and probably never will be very much more numerous than now, school-children should be taught to record their observations of local birds, and that all these records should be handed in and kept on file where they would be available for reference. In his work on the geographic races of birds, Kleinschmidt has proposed the term "pantogram" for a complete picture of the variations of a subspecies in one area of its total range. He now proposes to extend this term to the study of migration, in which sense a pantogram would be a complete picture of the migration of a single species in one place in a single season. Then, when a sufficient number of such pantograms are available, it should be possible to construct a "geogram" for the whole range of that particular species. All this seems to be a rather unnecessarily elaborate way of saying that we need more exact data on the migration of every species, but the thing that he seems to have in mind is that a mere statement of geographic range is no longer adequate; we must also know how the individuals in any part of the range get to that particular area. Distribution is always temporary; the birds are here to-day and gone to-morrow, and before we can truly say we know the range of a species we must have some idea of the geographic position, at any one time, or at all times, of all the component groups of individuals which collectively comprise the species.

E. Schüz contributes some notes on the common Swift (*Apus apus*), his paper being a contribution from the famous station at Rossitten. He finds that as many as three sets of eggs may be laid by one bird in a season; that the birds are known to return to the same spot, in one case for as many as six consecutive years; that not infrequently the same birds are found paired together in successive years, although exceptions are not uncommon.

R. Drost has brought together some data on banded Crossbills (*Loxia c. curvirostris*) and finds that the majority of the birds that invaded Helgoland in 1927 and 1929 were young ones, although 22.8 per cent of the birds in the 1927 flight were adults, and in the 1929 invasion 21.3 per cent were adult birds. He also records the wing-lengths and weights of all the birds

banded (over one hundred fifty) and finds a slight positive correlation between the two sets of data. With regard to the dextral or sinistral crossing of the bill, he finds that the 1927 birds were evenly divided in this respect, while the 1929 flock contained two sinistral to every dextral individual.

E. Schüz contributes some notes on the migration of the Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), and R. Drost similar observations on the Blackbird (*Turdus m. merula*). In the latter species, birds banded at Helgoland, have been recovered in various places in northern France and even in Spain on the one hand, and in southern Norway and in Latvia on the other. Drost finds that the breeding-grounds of the migrants that pass through Helgoland are chiefly in Denmark and southern Scandinavia. The main migration route in autumn is southwesterly, and the winter quarters extend as far as Spain. In Germany the species is only partly migratory and partly a permanent resident, but the migration route in that country is also southwesterly, and the winter quarters of the German breeding birds extend to Belgium, France, and Italy.

In another paper on the migration of the Wagtails of Germany (*Motacilla alba*, *M. cinerea*, and *M. flava*) Drost finds that all three follow a southwesterly path, and that German breeding specimens of *M. alba* go as far as Spain in winter.

Schüz continues and concludes his report on the observations made by a chain of coöperating observers near Rossitten, and Dobbrick has a paper on the migration of the Curlews (*Numenius a. arquata* and *N. p. phaeopus*) near Danzig.

Among the short notes are observations on Crossbills and Nutcrackers in the Ukraine, on Crossbills, Woodpeckers, and Nutcrackers near Danzig, and invasion of the Large Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates m. major*) at Helgoland, and a February record of a European Woodcock, also at Helgoland. A few short notes on banding technique and reviews of literature complete the number.—H. F.

CORRESPONDENCE

A NOTE ON A PROPOSED ADDITION TO BANDING TERMINOLOGY

Editor of Bird-Banding:

With reference to the question of proposing a common term for use by bird-banders to include all such terms as "repeat," "return," and "recovery," which was dealt with in a previous letter (*Bird-Banding*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 93-94), with an expression of the hope that such a term would be proposed by Mrs. Mabel Gillespie, who had already published detailed "Suggestions for a Revised Bird-Banding Terminology," it may be stated that Mrs. Gillespie, in correspondence, has expressed preference that any such term that may be proposed should be proposed by me, as she has scarcely felt the need of it in her work. She has, however, kindly given me the benefit of her comment and opinion on the matter. As the outcome, I propose that the word "retake" be used as a substantive to indicate any individual recognition of a banded bird subsequent to its banding, if such use meets with the general approval of bird-banders.—HARRISON F. LEWIS.
Ottawa, Canada, March 23, 1930.