

## REVIEWS.

**The Common Birds of Bangkok.** Under this title Mr. C. J. Aagaard of Bangkok has brought out an attractive little volume of 239 pages printed in Copenhagen in 1930.

A preface, showing the scope and purpose of the work, is ascribed to "The Editor", but as there is no evidence of editorial supervision we may assume that the author is meant.

Of approximately 220 species and subspecies of birds now known from the Bangkok region, 110 are considered in this volume. The author believes that Bangkok can boast a larger number of birds recorded within its limits than any other town in the world.

The uniform method of treatment is to show for each bird the approved scientific name as used by Robinson and Kloss in their paper on "The Birds of South-West and Peninsular Siam" (*Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam*, vol. V), the English name, and the scientific name employed by Oates and Blanford in "Fauna of British India". The text consists of a description of the bird, taken chiefly from Oates and Blanford, followed by the author's observations and comments under the heading "Habits etc." Each species is illustrated by a half-tone cut from a photograph of a preserved skin, and in most cases both ventral and lateral views are shown.

From long residence in Bangkok, and from having made extensive collections and close study of the local birds, Mr. Aagaard possesses a more intimate and complete knowledge of the subject than any other person. His friends are glad that he has recorded in this work at least a part of the large fund of information which he has been accumulating.

In only one instance is the Siamese name for a bird given. It seems unfortunate that the Siamese names were not supplied in all cases, as this would undoubtedly have increased the usefulness of the work among both Siamese and foreign students and bird lovers.

For more than 15 per cent of the birds listed the generic name which, with the family name, serves as a caption to the pages and an outline of the classification, is not the one used in the approved scientific name of the species. While this in itself is of no great consequence, it indicates careless proof-reading, of which unfortunately there is further evidence in the very large number of typographical and grammatical errors, some of which mar every page. It is hoped that these defects may be remedied in a subsequent edition.

H. M. S.

**A Further Collection of Birds from Siam.** By Rudolphe Meyer de Schauensee. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural*

Sciences of Philadelphia, Vol. lxxxii, 1929, pp. 525-588.

This collection, made during the winter of 1928-29, comprises a total of 750 skins, representing 255 species. About 100 skins were collected in Central Siam, and the rest at Chiangmai, Chiengrai and Chiengsen. Special attention was paid to the avifauna of Doi Sutep.

The collection yielded two species, *Niltava williaminae* and *Myiophonus stonei*; and two new subspecies, *Leioptila melanoleuca laeta* and *Bhringa remifer latispatula*. Other species obtained, which are of especial interest, because either hitherto unrecorded, from Siam, or known from only one or two records, are *Machlolophus spilonotus*, *Psittiparus gularis*, *Sitta magna*, *Leioptila annectens*, *Microscelis leucocephalus*, *Cerasophila thompsoni*, *Certhia discolor*, *Herbivocula schwarzi*, *Melophus melanicterus*, *Delichon urbica*, *Zosterops erythropleura*, *Dryobates atratus*, *Aceros nepalensis*, *Esacus recurvirostris*, *Charadrius placidus*, and *Mareca penelope*.

We believe this to be one of the most comprehensive papers yet published on the birds of North Siam, although much work must still be done before we shall have so complete a knowledge of its avifauna as we possess of other parts of the country.

H. G. D.

**The Flora of Doi Sutep, Siam.** By T. D. A. Cockerell, Torreyia, Vol. 29 (1929), pp. 159-162.

This is an interesting, but all too short account by Professor Cockerell of a trip to Doi Sutep in February 1928. The author was mainly concerned with insects, but kept an observant eye on the flora as well, and made a small collection of dried plants. In the present paper he gives the results of his observations on the flora, mentioning the most striking flowers in bloom at the time of his visit and some of the more noteworthy trees. Professor Cockerell expresses some doubt about the indigenous character of *Pinus khasya* on Doi Sutep. It has, indeed, sometimes been planted near houses, but it is unquestionably indigenous on the mountain.

The paper ends with a comment on the various ways of spelling 'Sutep'. It is not surprising that the visitor is puzzled by the variations that he can get in the spelling of even the simplest word.

A. K.

**Descriptions and Records of Bees—CXIX.** By T. D. A. Cockerell. Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Ser. 10, Vol. iv. (1929), pp. 296-304.

In this paper, under the heading 'Xylocopidae from Siam', Professor Cockerell lists eight carpenter bees recently collected in Siam, including three new varieties and one new species. A series