

REVIEWS

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WE are glad to see that Ornithology is well represented in this year's *Transactions*. There is an excellent photograph by Mr. P. J. Hanson of a Norfolk nest of Montagu's Harrier, taken in 1899, and, in addition to the Report of the Research Committee for 1916, no fewer than three papers are concerned with Ornithology. Mr. F. J. Stubbs contributes an article on "The London Gulls," in which he shows that previously to the winter of 1894-95 they were only known as rare stragglers, with the exception of the winters of 1887-8 and 1892-3, when some numbers appeared. Mr. J. A. Simes's paper on "Aspects of Bird Life in Europe," though interesting and showing signs of originality in thought, nevertheless betrays entire ignorance of the work of scientific workers of late years. Dr. Sharpe's views of the division of the genus *Garrulus* as enunciated in 1877 are somewhat out of date at the present time, and cannot be said to represent the views of modern Ornithologists. The suggestions with regard to the Russet Wheatear and Spanish Sparrow are also quite untenable. A new departure, which should prove useful, is the "Report on the Birds of Epping Forest for 1916," as the list in Mr. Buxton's Guide was first published in 1884, and the status of many species has undergone considerable alteration since that time. We are glad to learn that the Wanstead Park Heronry contained seventy-two nests in 1916, and think it probable that the presence of large numbers of Jays is detrimental to the smaller passerine birds, as suggested in the Report.

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