

REVIEW.

The Scottish Naturalist, Vol. ix, No. 1, April, 1948. Edited by Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards and Dr. J. W. Campbell.

It is with real pleasure that we welcome the re-appearance of this old established and excellent journal under the able editorship of Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards and Dr. J. W. Campbell. The *Scottish Naturalist* was a deplorably early casualty at the beginning of the war and fears were not lacking that its eclipse might prove permanent. Every credit is due to the members of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club for their enterprise and initiative, in co-operation with the publishers, in getting the magazine re-started and securing at the outset a sufficiently long list of subscribers to place it, as we hope, on a secure footing. There is ample scope, and indeed a very real need, for a journal specializing in the natural history of what is in many respects, biological and otherwise, the most interesting part of the British Isles, and it should receive the support of everyone interested in the subject. It will be issued three times a year and will cover, as before, all groups of the animal kingdom, though we may anticipate that a large proportion of its space will go to ornithology. This is conspicuously the case in the number now before us, though we understand the emphasis may be somewhat less in subsequent issues.

The record of a bird, the Red-flanked Bluetail, new to the British List, is dealt with on another page (214), and a valuable paper by Miss E. V. Baxter describes "A century's changes in Scottish Ornithology." Other ornithological items which may be mentioned are papers on "Bird territory as a 'fixed address'" by the Rev. J. McWilliam, "The Rook roosts of the Lothians, winter 1946-47" by J. H. B. Munro, "The Magpie in north-east Scotland" by Adam Watson, and "The value of individual marking of birds" by R. Carrick. Short notes record Hawfinch in Perthshire, where the bird is uncommon, an immature Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) seen on Fair Isle on September 12th to 13th, 1946, a Collared Flycatcher (*Muscicapa albicollis*) obtained on Whalsay, Shetland, on May 11th, 1947 (the first Scottish record), a Turtle-Dove in Sutherland in August, 1946, and several broods of Eiders, as well as adults, seen on August 6th, at Brora, E. Sutherland, an area where regular breeding has not been recorded hitherto.

Our only regret is that the journal has adopted the practice of abandoning the use of capital letters for English species names. A spirited editorial defence of this decision seeks to forestall criticism, but we do not in the least accept the argument. The names of particular species of animals are proper names just as much as those of persons, places, countries or national groups, and there is no valid excuse that we can see for arbitrarily ignoring in this instance the universally accepted convention of the English language that proper names are spelt with initial capitals. We are sorry that our good friend prof. wynne-edwards—we beg his pardon—has lent the authority of his name to this practice, which is not made correct by the fact that two or three widely read biological writers, who might, we think, have known better, have adopted it. We think it is quite time a protest was raised against it lest it should gain more widespread acceptance simply, so to speak, by default, but we should be lacking in a sense of proportion if we laboured the point in a notice of a publication for whose essential contents we have nothing but praise and to which we most cordially wish the success which it merits and will surely achieve.