

BOOK NOTICES.

THE BIRDS OF GREENLAND.¹—This work, edited by Montague Chamberlain, consists of two parts—the first, an annotated list of the birds of Ivigtut, by A. T. Hagerup, is based upon observations made at that place during a residence of fifteen months, published in the *Auk*, Vol. VI, Nos. 3 and 4. An additional fifteen months' residence at the same locality has enabled the author to "add considerably" to his former notes and to correct a few errors that had crept in.

Much interesting information is given respecting the habits of many species, particularly with regard to nesting and migration. Considerable attention appears to have been given to the vexed question of the Gyrfalcons, with the result that "as Holboll and Fencker repeatedly observed mated pairs, one of which was white (*F. islandicus*) and the other dark (*F. rusticolus*), and as Holboll also found light and dark young in the same nest, I conclude that there is only one species of Gyrfalcon found in Greenland." This certainly is strong evidence, but it is weakened by the statement that the light-colored birds breed chiefly in North Greenland, while the dark birds are chiefly restricted to South Greenland; perhaps further observations may show that they are now equally distributed. The second part, a Catalogue of the Birds of Greenland, "is based on the works of Holboll, Reinhardt, Alfred Newton Ludwig Kumlien and others. Use has also been made of the late Alfred Bewgon's collection of birdskins and eggs," and the author's own observations add much to its value. "The Catalogue comprises all the birds discovered up to date in that part of Western Greenland which is settled by the Danes, namely, the country lying south of 73° N. lat. This is divided at 68° N. lat. into North Greenland and South Greenland. Of the one hundred and thirty-nine species here enumerated, one is extinct, and fifty-three are merely accidental stragglers, while twenty-four others are so rare that they might be classed with the accidentals, leaving but sixty-one species that should be recognized as regular inhabitants of Greenland, and of these several are of quite uncommon occurrence. M.C."

The whole work forms a convenient handbook, its value being much enhanced by Mr. Chamberlain's critical notes, his knowledge of our northern forms pre-eminently fitting him for the task. It will be welcomed by all interested in the avifauna of Greenland.

F. B. C.

¹ The Birds of Greenland. By Andreas T. Hagerup. Translated from the Danish by Frimann B. Arnglimson. Edited by Montague Chamberlain. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1891.