

*Ovis ammon ammon* and *Ovis ammon hodgsoni*, run up to 48 inches—there is even one recorded shoulder height measurement of the former of no less than 53 inches, about 10 inches higher than a wild stag in Scotland. Although both these sheep are larger than the Marco Polo sheep *Ovis ammon poli*, the latter holds the world's record for horn length, with a distance of 75 inches over the curl and a tip to tip spread of 54½ inches.

This book is intended not only for the scientist but also for the sportsman, and to cater for the latter, the author has quoted freely from sporting literature describing the pursuit of the various sheep of the world. Some of these accounts, such as that by Carruthers in *Beyond the Caspian*, describing how he shot his fine *Ovis ammon ammon*, make good and exciting reading, but others, such as the somewhat bloodthirsty exploits of Theodore Roosevelt junior after his *Ovis ammon karelini*, or the irresponsible shooting of L. S. Chadwick after stone sheep, when he continued shooting at a ram which he could “no longer see with the naked eye”, would be better forgotten than repeated.

This is a useful book of reference on an animal which, for the most part, frequents those parts of the world about which little information has yet reached the western world.

G. KENNETH WHITEHEAD.

**Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets and their Allies, by Arthur Cleveland Bent.** Constable, 22s.

**Life History of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers and their Allies, by Arthur Cleveland Bent.** Constable, 22s.

It would be impertinent to attempt to review these unaltered reprints of two volumes in a well tried series, which were universally acclaimed when they were first published 17 years ago. They are standard works, and any British ornithologist who does not already possess them will be delighted at this opportunity to fill a serious gap in his library. Since the series includes also European species vagrant in America, this also gives the opportunity of acquiring some of the late Bernard Tucker's best work, his summaries for Bent of the redwing, fieldfare, blackbird, wheatear and bluethroat. Other birds closely related to European birds and included here are the American brown creeper and the various races of winter wren, conspecific with the common treecreeper and wren of Britain.

RICHARD FITTER.

**Birds of Prey in the World, by Mary Louise Grossman, John Hamlet and Shelly Grossman.** Cassell, £6 6s.

Lavishly illustrated and handsomely produced this book sets out to be a definitive work on the world's birds of prey, including all Falconiformes and Owls. The first half covers general biology, and includes chapters on prehistory, legends and myths, including a history of falconry, ecology and habits, adaptations for survival, and conservation. One may wonder if it was really necessary to include so much detail about evolution, legends and myths; space could have been saved here to give a fuller account of ecology and habits, about which there is much good information but one has to dig for it, and it is not systematically presented. The authors are inclined to accept too facile explanations of e.g. territorial behaviour, and in attempting to present the detail in a “popular” manner the whole becomes confused and scrappy. The chapter on conservation is up to date, but it could have been longer with advantage, and have reached some more definite conclusions and recommendations. The second half of the book is an Atlas and Field Guide. But the information is not sufficiently com-