

from the authors, and this comprehensive work will immediately establish itself as the standard in a field where all too many previous books have only sampled the commoner birds of this vast area's rich avifauna. It will even be of substantial value to purely European ornithologists, for a surprising number of western Palaearctic birds extend or migrate southwards into India.

It is also good to have a revised second edition of Salim Ali's 16-year-old *Birds of Travancore and Cochin*. This has been enlarged and renamed *Birds of Kerala*, to match the political change that recreated the pre-British state of Kerala, by adding Malabar to, and subtracting Nagercoil from the area covered by the first edition. Much the same range of information is covered as in the larger book, but usually in different words.

RICHARD FITTER

Antarctic Bird Studies, edited by **Oliver L. Austin, Jr.** American Geophysical Union, 1968. \$16.50.

Symposium on Antarctic Oceanography. Scott Polar Research Institute, 45s.

With the opening up of Antarctica and the establishment of permanent research stations, biological studies have proliferated and the pioneer work of the heroic age has been followed by intensive professional research carried out by university-based scientists. Antarctic Bird Studies is a report on this modern phase of Antarctic research, and forms volume 12 of the American Geophysical Union's "Antarctic Research Series". Of its eight papers, five deal in detail with various aspects of the biology of the Adelie penguin. Of the remaining three, one (by W.L.N. Tickell) discusses the biology of the great albatrosses *Diomedea exulans* and *D. epomophora*, another (by M.E. Pryor) gives a full account of the avifauna of Haswell Island, and the third (by W.J.L. Sladen, R.C. Wood and E.P. Monaghan) describes the progress and results of the USARP Bird Banding Programme, with a general review of other bird-ringing projects in the Antarctic. This is a book for specialists, and a valuable one.

The same applies to the Symposium on Antarctic Oceanography, but more emphatically. This 268-page paper-covered volume contains in some cases full versions, in other cases abstracts (and a few listed by title only) of 59 papers presented at a symposium held at Santiago, Chile, in 1966. The aim of the symposium was "to identify the extent of present progress in oceanographical research in the Antarctic, and to endeavour to draw attention to those fields in which future work might most profitably be encouraged". Thus most of the papers presuppose a good deal of background knowledge, although the 'main review papers' provide some of this. Very much a publication for the specialist.

D.W. SNOW

Peregrine Falcon Populations—their Biology and Decline, edited by **Joseph J. Hickey.** University of Wisconsin Press, 95s.

The widespread decline of the peregrine in many countries of western Europe and its complete extinction in the eastern United States has caused some puzzlement as well as widespread concern. British scientists, led by D. A. Ratcliffe, argued that there was strong circumstantial evidence to implicate the persistent organochlorine pesticides; the manufacturers, and some biologists, were not convinced. So, in 1965, the University of Wisconsin organised a conference of international experts to review the