

First, that Dr. Matthews and his fellow workers have established this as the most economical hypothesis to cover all avian navigation, including homing; namely, that birds can observe a portion of the arc described by the sun in its apparent travel through the sky, evaluate it and extrapolate it to the highest point of the arc; and that they have a time sense; and that this is enough to account for all the facts resulting from all observations and experiments that have ever been made. Secondly, that only one who is the possessor of a high faculty of scientific thinking and imagination, and at the same time a master of lucid exposition, could have compressed this thesis (together with an entirely satisfying and fair historical survey of all previous theories) into so economical a space. And if I may add a third matter for congratulation, Dr. Matthews has combined this clearness and fairness with a good measure of wit and humour. This book is not to be missed.

J. F.

EAGLES. By LESLIE BROWN. London, Michael Joseph, 1955. pp. 274, 38 photographs. 18s.

Eagles in Africa and the golden eagle in Scotland are the subjects of this very interesting book. The author has spent a great deal of time over a period of years studying these birds, and this record of his observations adds much to the knowledge of their lives, though, as he says, there is still a lot to learn and it will not easily be learnt. He devotes a chapter to "Unsolved Problems".

The photographs deserve a word of especial praise; they could only have been obtained by one of Mr. Brown's skill, enthusiasm—and agility!

J. J. Y.

RECORDS OF BIRDS OF PREY BRED IN CAPTIVITY. By ARTHUR A. PRESTWICH. London, 1955. Arthur A. Prestwich. 10s. 6d.

For some thirty years Mr. Prestwich has been collecting records of the breeding of birds of prey in captivity and his first compilation was published in book form in 1950.

This second edition (revised and enlarged) is no mere list of records, but contains a great deal of very interesting information about the nesting activities of the rather large number of birds of prey that have bred under captive conditions.

J. J. Y.