

powers which they do not possess, and in some instances to 'observe' wonderful manifestations that take place chiefly in the imagination of the beholder." To mammals are assigned 170 pages, to birds 140, to reptiles 43, to amphibians, 12, to fishes 75. The information given is well chosen and well apportioned, the more important or more interesting groups being selected for fuller treatment in comparison with those of less popular interest. The nomenclature, particularly of the mammals, is well up to date, for which the author acknowledges his indebtedness to the influence and kind assistance of Dr. T. S. Palmer. In general only a few prominent species are mentioned, as examples of their kin, but in this way a large amount of very useful information is attractively presented. The illustrations are abundant, and for the most part excellent for their purpose. The work has a characteristic personality, and an off-hand and emphatic way of putting things that will prove attractive to many readers and less pleasing to others. There is a tendency to sweeping declarations that a little more care or thoughtfulness on the author's part would have rendered less open to criticism, as the statement regarding the pouch for the young in marsupials, the reader being left to infer that it is characteristic of all members of the order. Neither are his confessions respecting his lack of knowledge of the vocal powers of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Rose-breasted Grosbeak creditable to his powers of observation as an ornithologist; and what shall we say of the lapsus whereby he tells his readers that "The Order *Machrochires* means literally 'odd ones.'"

But notwithstanding an occasional indiscretion Mr. Hornaday's 'The American Natural History' is a valuable and helpful book that well fills a hitherto serious gap in our popular natural history literature, treating as it does, in a general and very helpful way, the vertebrates of North America in the compass of a single volume.—J. A. A.

The 'Baby Pathfinder to the Birds.'—"This little guide¹ has been prepared primarily," the authors state, "for New England, but should be of service in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania." It is restricted to land birds, and mostly to the Passeres, and gives in a few lines the "general appearance of adult birds as seen in the field," and a few words about the song, nest, and breeding range of each of the 110 species treated. Its small size renders it a convenient booklet for the pocket, and it should prove a convenient and helpful vade mecum for the student when afield,—J. A. A.

¹ Baby Pathfinder to the Birds | Illustrated | A Pocket Guide to One Hundred and Ten Land Birds of New England | with blank pages for Notes | By Harriet E. Richards and Emma G. Cummings | Members of American Ornithologists' Union | — | W. A. Butterfield, Publisher, 59 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. | 1904 — 125 leaves, printed on one side; type-bed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.