

migration, etc., and a list of all new species and genera arranged systematically. This publication is invaluable to the working ornithologist and deserves a much larger sale than it has had in the past. Its continuation from year to year is essential to the advance of ornithology and the Zoological Society should be given every support possible in the good work that it is doing.—W. S.

Kuser's 'The Way to Study Birds.'¹—This attractive little book is another of the numerous publications designed to aid the beginner in identifying the familiar birds of the eastern states. Mr. Kuser's plan is the reverse of that usually advocated in such books as he presents concise accounts of a number of the most abundant species to be found in the vicinity of New York City, and then instructs his readers to familiarize themselves with the appearance of the first one and go out into the field and find it before taking up the second, and so on through the series. That he does not discourage the usual plan of finding your bird first and identifying it from the books later is shown by the fact that he presents a field key to be taken into the field or to be used in identifying descriptions made there. While the two sets of instructions are somewhat contradictory good results may be gotten from each, while the additional information on bird protection, winter feeding, note-keeping, bird books and bird societies will answer many questions for the reader. The well printed color plates from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes add much to the attractiveness of the book.—W. S.

The Birds of Australia.²—The fourth part of Volume VI of Mr. Mathews' work treats almost entirely of the genus *Platycercus* of which he recognizes seven species including some of the most brilliantly colored of the Australian parrots. Much interesting information concerning their habits and distribution is furnished by the author's Australian correspondents, while he has traced out the history of their discovery and as usual has considered the nomenclature and synonymy of the species at considerable length. We notice only two new names proposed in this number, *i. e.*, *Platycercus caledonicus flindersi* (p. 328) from Flinders Island, and *P. eximius colei* (p. 360) from Ballarat, Victoria.—W. S.

Brooks on Some Falkland Island Birds.³—Mr. W. Sprague Brooks, who recently spent several months on the Falkland Islands in the interests of Dr. John C. Phillips, presents in the present paper his notes on the forty-three species of birds which came under his observation. Many

✓ ¹The Way to Study Birds. By John Dryden Kuser. With 9 Illustrations in Color. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1917. pp. 1-85. Price \$1.25 net.

²The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VI, part IV. June 27, 1917.

³Notes on Some Falkland Island Birds. By W. Sprague Brooks. Bull. Museum Comp. Zool., Vol. LXI, No. 7. June, 1917. pp. 135-160, pls. 1-3.

interesting accounts of the habits of the species are given, those dealing with the Gentoo Penguin, Upland Goose and Steamer Duck being the most extended. *Halobæna murphyi* (p. 146) is described as new from a skin received from South Georgia Island, while *Anthus phillipsi* and *Phrygilus malvinarum* have already been described by the author and *Cleophaea hybrida malvinarum* by Dr. Phillips from material collected on the Falklands. The plates are some excellent reproductions of photographs of Penguins, Geese and Steamer Ducks.

The introductory paragraph of this interesting paper is unfortunately brief. Neither the personnel of the expedition nor the dates which it covered are given nor is there any mention of the size of the collection nor its disposition, though we infer that it is in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.—W. S.

Richmond on New Birds from Haiti.¹—Dr. Abbott's recent exploration of the northwestern peninsula of Haiti and the adjacent island of Tortuga has yielded a collection of twenty-three species of birds of which two prove to be new. These Dr. Richmond describes as *Nyctibius griseus abbotti* (p. 1), Port de Pimente, and *Vireo crassirostris tortuga* (p. 2), Tortuga Island. The occurrence of *Nyctibius* is particularly interesting as the genus was hitherto unknown from the island.—W. S.

Brooks on 'The Food of West Virginia Birds.'²—The aim of this publication is to provide a simple, readable work of reference on the birds of West Virginia with especial reference to their food habits. The author's long acquaintance with birds of the state, and his attention to economic ornithology have enabled him to succeed in his purpose. A few points not given sufficient consideration may be mentioned. In the section on "Birds in Relation to Trees and Forests" (pp. 12-13) the injurious effects of sapsucker work are passed over lightly and the impression even given that the value of lumber is enhanced. This is theoretically possible but practically of no importance, while damage is abundant and severe.

The statement in another place (p. 41) that sapsucker work produces the birds-eye effect in maples is misleading, as the birds-eye resulting from this cause is distinct from that having commercial value, and is invariably accompanied by defects that render it useless. In his section on "Birds and Fruits" (pp. 14-16), Mr. Brooks cites an observation of his that birds did not seem fond of mulberries, and says it seems to disprove the theory that mulberries serve as a protection to cultivated cherries. The protective value of mulberries among small fruits is so well established as to be no longer a theory. In any case, a single observation to the contrary cannot

¹ Descriptions of Two New Birds from Haiti. By Charles W. Richmond. Smithsonian Misc. Collns. Vol. 68, No. 7. July 12, 1917. pp. 1-3.

² Brooks, E. A. Bull. 15, West Va. Dept. of Agriculture, March, 1916, 74 pp., 20 half-tones, 3 col. pl.