

This book will doubtless be read with interest and profit by the increasing army of bird students who follow their hobby with the aid of the camera.—  
W. S.

**Payne's 'The Baltimore Oriole.'**—This handsomely printed little book,<sup>1</sup> which has about it the appearance of authority, unfortunately contains so many misquotations and pieces of misinformation that one wonders how it could have been compiled in these days of accurate ornithological knowledge.

From the astonishing Canary-colored Oriole of the frontispiece and cover, to the sketch of Audubon based on the antiquated and discredited life by Buchanan, errors are numerous. The author has apparently never heard of Herrick's life of Audubon and the extracts from Audubon regarding the Oriole, although enclosed in quotation marks, are unfortunately not verbatim and are often pieced together. Moreover the great ornithologist is made to say that the birds "attain the full beauty of their plumage before the first winter" whereas as a matter of fact he says the "plumage is not mature until the third spring." The latter part of the remarkable statement "They lay 4-6 eggs and in the far south *near two brooks*" proves to be, when the original is consulted, "and in Louisiana *rear two broods.*"

These and other quotations are, we are informed, taken from the "Elephantine Edition" and we learn that the economic value of the Oriole was "demonstrated scientifically by the admirable Biological Survey made by the Government in the Department of Agriculture." [!]

Why do not publishers consult some competent ornithologist and have such works properly revised before launching them upon the public?—  
W. S.

**Johnston's 'Birds of West Virginia.'**—The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has issued an attractive book<sup>2</sup> on the birds of the state by the state ornithologist, I. H. Johnston. The main text consists of accounts of forty of the best known species covering nesting, range, food and general habits. Each one is illustrated by a figure in colors from paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes printed as inserts in the text. While these are excellent portraits of the birds the printer has unfortunately in several cases gotten the colors out of register so that a blurred effect is produced like a lantern slide out of focus, which is most unfortunate.

The text that the author has furnished is fully up to the requirements and is followed by a nominal list of all the birds of the state to which is added a general account of the economic value of birds with methods of attracting them, suggestions for bird study in the schools and a chapter

<sup>1</sup> The Baltimore Oriole and a Biographical Sketch of Audubon. By Raphael Semmes Payne, Baltimore. The Norman, Remington Company. MCMXXIII. pp. 1-55. Price \$1.00.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of West Virginia. Their Economic Value and Aesthetic Beauty. 1923. I. H. Johnston, State Ornithologist. Compiled and Published by State Department of Agriculture, Charleston. J. H. Stewart, Commissioner. pp. 1-138 (140).