

Howell's 'Birds of Alabama.'¹—This work¹ published by the Department of Game and Fisheries of Alabama in cooperation with the U. S. Biological Survey has been eagerly looked for ever since the completion of Mr. Howell's field work in 1916 and as it finally appears it is a most satisfactory State list, particularly welcome as no adequate work on the birds of Alabama has hitherto been published. Besides the records of occurrence with migration data, etc., which usually comprise the text of such works, Mr. Howell has prepared paragraphs on "General Habits" and "Food Habits," the latter compiled mainly from publications of the Biological Survey, which add very materially to the interest and value of the report. The introduction deals with early explorations in the State and the leading local lists, with brief discussions of the economic value of birds in general, protective legislation and the faunal areas of Alabama. The latter subject however is fully dealt with in the author's earlier publication 'A Biological Survey of Alabama' (N. A. Fauna, No. 45) published by the Biological Survey in 1921. There is also a full bibliography of papers relating to Alabama birds and a good index. The text-figures are mainly coarse line drawings by R. J. Sim, while the plates represent, for the most part, views of different types of country in various parts of the State.

The accounts of the Southern Crow and Alabama Towhee, both forms described as new by the author in earlier publications, are most welcome, as they give us some idea of their distribution. In the case of the Blue Jay it is significant to find that Mr. Howell and his assistants failed to note a single example of the northern form in Alabama while the bird banders operating in southern Georgia have been identifying certain of the birds handled by them as northern Jays. It would seem that the collecting of a specimen would be desirable in a case of this kind as it makes a great difference in the value of the returns according to which form was actually banded. Mr. Howell's work will be of the greatest value to ornithologists at large as a work of reference and should stimulate bird study and bird protection in Alabama in no small degree.—W. S.

Beebe's 'Galapagos.'²—William Beebe's latest book, a quarto of over 400 pages, deals with the Galapagos Islands long famous for their peculiar

¹Birds of Alabama, by Arthur H. Howell, Assistant Biologist, Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. Issued in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Biological Survey, Edward W. Nelson, Chief of Bureau, by the Department of Game and Fisheries of Alabama, I. T. Quinn, Commissioner (Seal) Brown Printing Company, State Printers and Binders, Montgomery, Ala., 1924. Pp. 1-384, pls. I-VII. Several text figures.

²Galapagos | World's End | By | William Beebe | Director of the Department of Tropical Research of the | New York Zoological Society, etc. | Author of 'Jungle Peace,' 'Edge of the Jungle,' | 'A Monograph of the Pheasants,' etc. | With 24 Colored Illustrations by Isabel Cooper, and | 83 Photographs mostly by John Tee-Van | Published under the auspices | of the | New York Zoological Society | G. P. Putnam's Sons | New York & London | The Knickerbocker Press | 1924. i-xxi + 1-443. Price \$9.00.

fauna and inhospitable barren character. This volume is the outcome of a trip on the yacht "Noma" initiated and financed by Mr. Harrison Williams in the interest of the New York Zoological Park. Besides Mr. Williams and Mr. Beebe there were twelve other members of the party including artists, photographers, taxidermist, etc. The trip was made by way of Panama and extended from March 1 to May 16, 1923, less than one hundred hours being actually spent on the islands, the smaller of which received the most attention.

The scientific reports on the collections made are being published in 'Zoologica,' the journal of the Zoological Society, and the present volume is a narrative and description of the trip with historical and other incidents. While most of the book is from Mr. Beebe's pen there are two chapters by Ruth Rose, historian of the party, and one by Robert G. McKay on game fishing in the Galapagos. There are also two appendices, one giving the technical names of the animals mentioned in the text and the other a bibliography of the more important publications relating to the islands.

The text is in Mr. Beebe's well known style and presents vivid pictures of these remote desert islands and their strange fauna—Giant Tortoises and Iguanos, Flightless Cormorants, Fork-tailed Gulls, Sea Lions, curious Crustaceans, etc., while the well known problem of the Finches which inhabit the group and differ in such a perplexing way on each island is discussed. While not making any claim to being a scientific monograph or of adding materially to our knowledge of the islands, Mr. Beebe's volume gives us a clearer idea of the life histories and surroundings of the various animals of the Galapagos than can be obtained in the more technical publications on the fauna, and has brought a knowledge of these most interesting islands within the reach of thousands of persons to whom Galapagos has heretofore been simply a name, besides presenting a most readable and entertaining tale of present day adventure.

The illustrations are numerous and excellent in character. There are 82 half-tones from photographs and eight colored plates of reptiles, fish and invertebrates. A foreword by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn entitled 'In the Wake of Darwin,' reminds us of the cruise of 'The Beagle' in 1835 and the observations of the immortal naturalist who first described the remarkable life of these remote islands with which his name has ever been so closely associated.

The work is fittingly dedicated to Harrison Williams to whose liberality science is indebted for the collections and observations which the cruise has brought together.—W. S.

Dr. Dewar's 'The Bird as a Diver.'¹—This book is an illustration of the possibilities of issuing specialized publications which seem to be enjoyed

¹The Bird as a Diver. A Contribution to the Natural History of Diving Birds. By John M. Dewar, M.D. London, H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W. C. 1924. Pp. 1-xii+1-173. Price 10 shillings and 6 pence.