

These cards will prove of the utmost educational value and will interest children throughout the country and turn their attention more firmly to bird study and protection. We are glad to learn that sets covering the early and late spring migrants are in preparation and trust that others on the summer residents and on the birds of the South and West will follow. Some cards will of necessity appear in two or more sets and some readjustments on the lines above suggested could then be made. The Society is to be congratulated upon this admirable publication.—W. S.

**Hales' 'Prairie Birds.'** This is another of the popular bird books designed to help the beginner, the teacher, and the amateur student to identify their birds, and is especially designed to cover the birds of the interior prairie country, as the author considers that the student is confused by the inclusion of species which do not occur in his district.

The little volume<sup>1</sup> will, we feel sure, fulfill its object as it presents satisfactory descriptions and brief sketches of the habits of the birds of the Middle West while the numerous cuts from 'Citizen Bird,' 'The Osprey,' and other works, will aid in identification, although the few color plates are very poorly printed. We regret that the author did not include more color keys such as has been presented for the adult males of the Finches. The Shore-birds and Warblers, especially, might with advantage have received similar treatment.

Prof. Hales apparently does not believe in trinomials and has cut off the third name in most cases although curiously enough he has retained it in cases where European subspecies are involved as in *Certhia familiaris americana* and *Pica pica hudsonia*. Notes are to be found throughout the text referring to the occurrence of various birds in Manitoba and Alberta which give to the work a local flavor.—W. S.

**Metcalf's 'Wandering Among Forgotten Isles.'** This delightful narrative<sup>2</sup> describes a cruise by the author and some congenial friends through the waters of the western Mediterranean Sea and to the Canaries, Madeira and the Salvages. Incidentally many marine specimens were collected for the American Museum of Natural History—fish, seals, petrels, etc., and a chapter by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, who was one of the party, summarizes the scientific results of the cruise.

To the ornithologist the most interesting chapter is one describing the rearing of a young Petrel (*Oestralata mollis faae*) which was fed by one of the ladies on raw fish which she masticated and fed to the bird by allowing it to insert its slender bill between her lips. In this way the bird was kept

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<sup>1</sup> *Prairie Birds*. By B. J. Hales, B.A., LL.B., Principal Normal School, Brandon, Manitoba. Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, at St. Martin's House. 1927, pp. i-xv+1-334.

<sup>2</sup> *Wandering Among Forgotten Isles*. By Jesse Metcalf. With a Chapter on the Scientific Results of the Cruise by Robert Cushman Murphy, D.Sc. Illustrated. J. H. Sears & Company, Inc., Publishers. New York [1927], pp. 1-306. Price \$3.50.