

and now for the past two years he has been publishing popular accounts of the birds of the islands in the 'Philippine Educational Magazine' a monthly published in English at Manila.

The birds are taken up by families with some account of the habits and range of the more important species and half-tone or line illustrations of many of them, with outline drawings of their structural characters. The series began with the issue for May 1926 and is now nearly completed, covering a large part of the 750 species composing the Philippine avifauna.

Mr. McGregor is to be congratulated upon this excellent series of articles which cannot but aid in furthering a knowledge of birds and the importance of their protection which is especially important in the Philippines where, up to the time of the American occupation, no steps toward conservation had been taken.—W. S.

**Coleman's 'Manual for Small Museums.'** The museum is an essential to the advancement of any branch of science or art, and anything that tends to make museums more effective and prosperous has a direct interest for a large number of people. Mr. Coleman the author of the 'Manual for Small Museums'<sup>1</sup> has had a long experience with museum work as secretary of the American Association of Museums and is thus particularly well fitted for the preparation of a work such as he has brought out. He tells us that the volume is intended for the use of those who set about to found a museum or to build up a museum now existing and although in his title he limits his field to the "small museum" we feel that those who are engaged in large museums will do well to read the Manual carefully, whether they be trustees, directors or staff members, as it contains much information and suggestions pertinent to the work of all. Buildings that are wrongly constructed, faulty organization and inadequate administration have hampered or wrecked many a museum, and everyone connected with such an institution should know and realize his proper field of activity and the requirements of his position. Such information gathered from the experience of many others is contained in Mr. Coleman's volume. The book is divided into six parts: organization, administration, curatorial work, educational work, research, and building, and under each are considered a number of subordinate topics. Under organization, for example, are discussed the character and duties of the board of trustees, the director and the staff, membership, women's auxiliary and relation to other organizations; while under curatorial work are considered, accession policies, study collections, exhibits (of history, art, science), loan collections, collecting, museum records, numbering and tagging, preparation, housing, cases, installation, labelling and groups.

This will give some idea of the scope of the work and after each topic is a short bibliography of publications in which additional information may

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<sup>1</sup> Manual for Small Museums. By Laurence Vail Coleman, Executive Secretary of the American Association of Museums. With 32 Plates. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. 1927, pp. i-xiv + 1-395.

be found while several appendices present a form for charter and by-laws, extracts from the laws of states supporting museums, lists of reliable manufacturers of museum equipment, etc. The volume is illustrated with thirty-two plates of museum buildings, plans, cases, groups, etc. We do not recall another work that covers the field that Mr. Coleman has selected and certainly none covers it so thoroughly.—W. S.

### **The Ornithological Journals.**

#### **Bird-Lore.** XXIX, No. 5. September–October, 1927.

Caesar and Calpurina. By Carolyn Sheldon.—Two young Black-backed Gulls on a lake in Nova Scotia which became very tame and perfectly accustomed to association with human visitors.

A Lesson in Civic Ornithology. By Joseph Dixon.—Another account of the extraordinary gathering of Ducks at Lake Merritt in the heart of Oakland, Calif., with admirable photographs.

Bob the Redhead. By Mrs. John Franklin Kyler.—The Story of a tame Red-headed Woodpecker.

Louis Agassiz Fuertes. By Frank M. Chapman.—A most sympathetic biographical sketch which is supplemented by one on Fuertes as a teacher by Dr. A. A. Allen.

#### **Bird-Lore.** XXIX, No. 6. November–December, 1927.

A Citizen of the Marshes. By F. N. Wilson.—The Marsh Hawk, with photographs of the bird on its nest.

The Fox and the Fence: What is Sanctuary. By Mabel Osgood Wright.—Foxes take up their residence in a bird sanctuary and apparently do little harm. Should they be exterminated?

Outwitting the English Sparrow. By A. C. Weichman.—Cuts the tails of the birds trapped and neither they nor other Sparrows associated with them trouble the traps thereafter.

Barred Owls Nesting in Box near Washington, D. C. By W. W. Rubey.

The Migration Tables cover the Red-headed and Lewis' Woodpeckers and there is a frontispiece of the Woodcock by Allan Brooks.

The annual report of the National Association of Audubon Societies occupies most of the number and is as usual of the greatest importance and should be read by all interested in bird conservation.

#### **The Condor.** XXIX, No. 5. September–October, 1927.

Contribution to the Life History of the Alaska Willow Ptarmigan. By Joseph Dixon.—With many excellent photographs one of which shows the male in the act of strutting.

Old Times with the Birds: Autobiographical. By Charles Haskins Townsend.—A most interesting autobiography of a naturalist who enjoyed remarkable opportunities for travel and observation.

Strange Features in Bird Habits. By Frank A. Leach.—California Woodpeckers, Jays, Towhees and other species.