

The Cornell Ornithological Laboratory Notebook.¹—Various blank forms and notebooks have appeared from time to time for the recording of observations on birds but the present book prepared by Prof. Arthur A. Allen, the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes and M. D. Pernie all of the department of ornithology at Cornell University is the best we have seen.

The bulk of the volume consists of sheets in a loose leaf binder, bearing outline sketches of the birds of central New York, one to the page, and on opposite pages maps upon which the summer and winter ranges of the species may be charted, while the outline figures may be colored with crayons. Data on various subjects, nest, eggs, migration, song, etc. may also be entered in spaces provided for them.

The introductory pages contain diagrams of feather arrangement and structure; skeleton; a key to North American families with outline heads and feet; a key to birds' nests with many half-tone illustrations; and a list of the birds of central New York with character and time of occurrence.

The data are to be obtained from field and laboratory study and entered in their proper place thus emphasizing the facts concerning each species, while the coloring of outline figures impresses the color pattern of each bird as can be done in no other way.

We heartily commend the notebook to every institution where ornithology is taught and to beginners who desire to obtain a serious knowledge of the subject, especially when no preceptor is available.—W. S.

Fifty Spring Birds of Eastern North America.—The second set of bird cards prepared by the National Association of Audubon Societies is before us and carries on the excellent idea initiated with the set of fifty winter birds noticed in the January 'Auk'. All that we said in praise of the first set applies to this second offering which is evidently intended to cover only the early spring birds although this is not emphasized in the title. The bulk of the Warblers, the Tanager, Rosebreast and Flycatchers, which are perhaps even more characteristic of spring than those included, are evidently reserved for a future set.

Major Brooks has in the majority of cases portrayed the birds in characteristic poses and the color reproduction is usually excellent, although the difference between the two races of Palm Warbler is entirely lost and the Louisiana Water-Thrush is too much of an olive.

This set, we are informed, has been prepared under the direction of Dr. F. M. Chapman while the text is by Alden H. Hadley. We congratulate the Association upon the continuance of this most important educational project and take this opportunity of correcting an error in our former review in which we stated that the Pine Siskin had been omitted failing to note that it was included on the card with the Redpoll.

Everyone interested in birds or desiring to interest others should have

¹ General Ornithology Laboratory Notebook. In Looseleaf Flexible Cover 8½ x 11 inches. The Comstock Publishing Co., Ithaca, N. Y. Price \$4.00.

these sets of bird cards which the National Association of Audubon Societies¹ has placed within the reach of all.—W. S.

Abel Chapman's 'Retrospect.'—The veteran hunter-naturalist, Mr. Abel Chapman, has recently published his tenth volume² dealing with his hunting experiences in various parts of the world, embracing, he tells us, no less than sixty overseas expeditions. And since he mentions shooting his first Sanderling in 1868 it is not difficult to estimate the long period that these experiences have covered.

The present book is a miscellaneous collection of essays dealing with a variety of subjects, birds, fish, big game, etc, and through them all the author indulges in discussion of various problems which have interested him during his long and active life.

He still maintains that the Godwit and the Gulls require from three to four years to acquire fully adult plumage and that the color of a feather may change without molt, even if the microscopists have shown that the ducts through which the coloring matter reaches the outer webs of the feather cease to function as soon as the feather is full grown. His contention is if the ducts do cease to function then the color must be transmitted by "some other method as yet unknown." That such changes do occur he says is self evident. This argument is, however, far from convincing.

With regard to protective coloration we are in entire accord with Mr. Chapman's contention that in the vast majority of cases, if not all, it is not proven. The mere conformity of the coloration of an animal to that of its environment does not prove that it is for purposes of protection and as he shows many desert animals supposed to be protectively colored are nocturnal and live in burrows during the day.

We are also in accord with much that he says about the uselessness of too exacting game laws and his contention that sanctuaries are more effective in saving wild life than legislation. The artificial propagation of game necessarily requires the extermination of all species detrimental to game and this as well as (in his estimation) the development of "grouse disease" is the price we pay for "maintaining a stock of game at a higher level than Nature designed." Here comes up the old contention of "To whom does our wild life belong?"

Mr. Chapman's bird chapters are: The Moors in Winter; Sixty Years Wildfowling Afloat; Flight; Flamingoes; and Spanish Memories, though bird matter is scattered through the other chapters as well.

¹ Audubon Bird Cards. Set No. 2. 50 Spring Birds of Eastern North America. From Color Drawings by Allan Brooks. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York City. Sold in Sets. Price \$1.00.

² Retrospect. Reminiscences and Impressions of a Hunter-Naturalist in three Continents. 1851-1928. By Abel Chapman. Gurney and Jackson, London: Paternoster Row. Edinburgh: Tweeddale Court. 1928, pp. i-xix + 1-353. Price 25 shillings net.