

Barrier Reef of Australia is most interesting reading. There is a chapter on the history of the reef, which by the way covers some 80,000 square miles and is about 1500 miles in length, some account of its explorers, of the author's cruise about its islands and much about the marvels of the oceanic life that abounds there—corals, crabs, fish, turtles, etc.

To the ornithologist three chapters have an especial appeal although birds figure in many other parts of the volume. One of these treats of the Mutton Bird, or Wedge-tailed Shearwater, which digs its nests in the crumbly soil of the islands, arriving at night in swarms from the ocean, and departing at dawn. The vocal powers of this bird according to the author exceed those of any beast or bird that he has ever heard. "The Lyre-bird" he says "is regarded as our champion mimic but he can imitate only what he hears. The Mutton Bird on the other hand can mimic anything whatever whether he has heard it or not and does it for eight hours on end without a pause." The long burrows which the birds construct and the little paths down which they travel to the sea are interestingly described. Another chapter considers the Noddy Terns and Gannets and a third the Herons, Gulls and Terns which nest in large colonies on the reef islands.

Even though the author styles himself an "No-ologist" he presents much interesting information about the birds and other animals of which he writes while his keen sense of humor makes his accounts most attractive. This is a nature book well worth having.—W. S.

Astley's 'From a Bird Lover's Diary.'—Here is another charming description of English bird life.¹ The chapters were originally published in 'Parents' Review' and have now been put in book form with some slight revision but the author has been careful "not to destroy the atmosphere of personal observation which is the only thing about bird watching that matters."

There are chapters on the twelve months of the year with a typical bird for each as the central theme. The Golden-crested Wren for January, the Redstart for June, the Woodcock for October, etc. Other chapters treat of bird life of a northern lake, of a northern woodland, of a northern mountain; of flight, migration, song and nest habits, while many delightful photographs of rural England serve as illustrations.

Mr. Astley has been a life long bird watcher and all the observations here set forth are matters of personal experience. For him who would gain a clear picture of British bird life such a work as this, with its intimate studies, seems to us better than the systematic text book. To the host of "bird watchers" in America it should have a strong appeal.—W. S.

Snyder on the Summer Birds of Lakes Nipigon and Abitibi, Ontario.—The staff of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology has been en-

¹ *From a Bird-Lover's Diary.* By Arthur Astley. London: The Sheldon Press, Northumberland Avenue, W. C. 2. New York and Toronto: The Macmillan Company. pp. i-ix + 1-306.

gaged during the summers of 1923-1925 in making a faunal survey of these two northern lakes and their vicinity and the results have now been published in separates¹ reprinted from the 'Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute' and 'University of Toronto Studies.' Mr. L. L. Snyder is responsible for the bird work. A well annotated list of the Nipigon birds includes 99 species while that for Abitibi numbers 102. The two lakes are some 400 miles apart but the faunae are quite similar and we find 86 of the listed species common to both. Four species are, however, represented by different subspecies according to Mr. Snyder's identifications; thus *Melospiza m. juddi*, *Agelaius p. fortis*, *Seiurus n. notabilis*, and *Troglodytes a. parkmanni* are recorded from Nipigon while they are replaced by the eastern forms at Abitibi. Mr. Snyder's work is apparently very carefully done and all specimens obtained are listed.—W. S.

Devincenzi's 'Birds of Uruguay.'—The third instalment of this valuable work² covers the Cranes, Herons, Screamers, Flamingos and Ducks. The same high standard of the earlier parts is fully maintained.—W. S.

Schaanning on 'Birds from the Siberian Arctic Ocean.'—This is a report³ on a small collection of birds brought back by the "Maud" Expedition during 1919 and 1925, mainly between the New Siberian Islands, Jeanette and Wrangell Islands. Nineteen species are represented. Among these is a series of eleven Rosy Gulls, and a Steller's Eider. In an appendix is the diary of Dr. H. U. Sverdrup giving the dates and incidents connected with the birds collected and also mention of other species observed. Among the latter are a Snowy Owl, Brent Goose and "Snow Goose" the last being identified by Dr. Schaanning as "*Anser caerulescens*" though his reason is not apparent and it would seem more likely to have been *Chen hyperboreus*.—W. S.

Horsfall's Bird Paintings.—'Nature Magazine' has published under a separate cover⁴ all of the colored plates from paintings by Bruce Horsfall that have appeared in its pages up to October 1928. They comprise 108 of birds, 48 of mammals and 6 of insects. With the exception of the full page plate of the Bald Eagle the pictures are arranged six to

¹ Contributions of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology No. 1. A Faunal Survey of the Lake Nipigon Region, Ontario. By J. R. Dymond, L. L. Snyder, and E. B. S. Logier. pp. 233-291. 1928.

Ibid. No. 2. A Faunal Survey of the Lake Abitibi Region, Ontario. By the Staff of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. pp. 1-46. 1928.

² Aves del Uruguay. By Garibaldi J. Devincenzi. Anales Mus. Hist. Nat. de Montevideo. Ser. II, Tom. II, Entrega IV. 1928, pp. 339-407.

³ Birds from the North-eastern Siberian Arctic Ocean. By H. Tho. L. Schaanning with an Appendix by H. U. Sverdrup. The Norwegian North Polar Expedition with the "Maud" 1918-1925, Scientific Results, Vol. V, No. 6. pp. 1-16. 1928.

⁴ Bird and Animal Paintings. By R. Bruce Horsfall from Nature Magazine, Washington, D. C.