

iformes, Accipitres and Cathartidiformes with half-tone plates of the species from mounted specimens, and outline drawings of the generic characters.

The work is well prepared and thoroughly up to date.—W. S.

**Wetmore's 'Migrations of Birds.'**—This admirable little volume<sup>1</sup> which was reviewed at length in 'The Auk' for 1927 (p. 127) has since gone through two additional printings and the last edition which is before us contains an index which adds greatly to the usefulness of the book, as it was often difficult to find a passage to which one wished to refer. We congratulate the author upon the deserved popularity of his work which should be in every well appointed ornithological library.—W. S.

**Canadian Bird Cards.**—Following the plan of the National Association of Audubon Societies the Canadian National Museum has issued an excellent set of sixty bird cards each containing a reproduction in colors of a painting by Allan Brooks and a short account of the habits of the species, with the technical name and the vernacular names in English and French. The other side of the card is left blank for message and address, being in the form of a postal card, which visitors at the museum may secure for mailing, or in full sets for preservation. The selection is well made and covers the whole range of Canadian bird families, the most familiar species being figured.—W. S.

**Soper on the Breeding Grounds of the Blue Goose.**<sup>2</sup>—After much preliminary experience on Baffin Island in the Canadian "far north" Mr. J. Dewey Soper was commissioned by the Department of Interior of Canada to locate if possible the nesting grounds of the Blue Goose, the location of which had at last been indicated by some of the Eskimos. Landing at Cape Dorset on the shore of the Foxe Peninsula, he proceeded along the coast of Hudson Strait and northward across the peninsula to Bowman Bay where he with two Eskimos remained until the following spring. On June 2, 1929, they saw the first Geese and by June 5 the maximum of the migration was reached. On June 26 the first eggs were found; by July 1 the birds were incubating and by July 20 young were found. Losing no time, after the desired specimens had been secured, the party started on July 24 by canoe for Cape Dorset which was reached on August 17 after a strenuous experience. A full account of the nesting habits of the bird will be published later.—W. S.

**Lewis on the Double-crested Cormorant.**—This admirable publi-

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<sup>1</sup> The Migrations of Birds. By Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Fellow, American Ornithologists' Union. Cambridge, Harvard University Press. 1930. Pp. i-viii + 1-229. Price \$2.50. Third Impression with index.

<sup>2</sup> Discovery of the Breeding Grounds of the Blue Goose. By J. Dewey Soper. Canadian Field Naturalist, January, 1930. Pp. 1-11, with title page cover, and foreword by W. W. Cory, Commissioner N. W. T.

cation<sup>1</sup> issued under authority of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, presents an exhaustive study of the Double-crested Cormorant based on personal experience, wide correspondence, and a study of the literature. The past history of the bird, so far as it can be traced, is anything but complementary to man. It was never a bird that attracted much interest or sentiment and consequently all sorts of bad habits were attributed to it, of which it was quite innocent. "For one reason or another or for no reason at all" says Mr. Lewis "the Double-crested Cormorants have been continually and persistently persecuted." They have been shot, their eggs destroyed, and young massacred in flocks. Indians today live on their meat and eggs and both old and young birds are used to feed sledge dogs and captive foxes. Many colonies in Canada are now protected but most of the depredations occur outside the sanctuaries.

A thorough study of the whole situation proves that the Cormorants are practically harmless. The only charge against them that can be substantiated is that they enter pound nets but this can be avoided by fishing with other nets and methods, as is fully explained, and if this is not feasible a control of the birds is all that is required not senseless extermination.

Beside the economic question Mr. Lewis' paper presents a mass of information relative to the life history of the Cormorant containing much that is new. The present remaining nesting grounds of the bird are in two distinct sections; one in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec and the other in the interior region of Lake Superior, Alberta, Minnesota, the Dakotas, etc., with an outlying colony on Great Salt Lake, Utah. Birds of the Atlantic colony winter on the coast from Long Island to Florida while the interior colony winters on the Gulf Coast from Texas to western Florida.

The habits of the birds, nesting, food, etc., etc., are described in a most interesting manner, and at length, and the paper constitutes a veritable monograph of this interesting if unattractive bird. While we rightly consider it as a "water bird" today, Mr. Lewis is of the opinion, from many pieces of evidence, that it was not so originally, but adopted its aquatic habit later in its history.

An excellent bibliography completes the paper, which will be our authority on the Double-crested Cormorant for many years to come.—W. S.

**Jewett and Gabrielson on Birds of Portland.**—This publication<sup>2</sup>, constituting Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 19, is based mainly upon the per-

<sup>1</sup> The Natural History of the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson)). A Thesis presented to the faculty of the Graduate School of Cornell University for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By Harrison Flint Lewis. Ithaca, New York. May, 1929. Pp. 1-84. Price 75 cents. (Order from H. C. Miller, 175 Nepean St., Ottawa, Canada.)

<sup>2</sup> Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 19. Birds of the Portland Area, Oregon. By Stanley G. Jewett and Ira N. Gabrielson. Berkeley, California. Published by the Club, December 27, 1929. Pp. 1-54. Price \$2.00.