

done. Jacques' herons have a Japanese quality that is original and appealing, while Breckenridge's shore birds give promise of excellent work in this field. Weber seems to have had the hardest allotment in the bulk of the passerine birds with an enormous number of figures and the necessity for much crowding. It is a pity that some method cannot be devised whereby our many excellent bird artists may portray a single species on a plate and show their real artistic ability without being forced to include so many species on a page which makes artistic treatment impossible. This is no criticism of Dr. Roberts' artists but merely a plea for the future!

Thanks to Dr. Roberts, Minnesota now has a bird book in keeping with its varied and interesting bird life and bird study and conservation throughout the state will, we feel sure, be vastly stimulated by it, while ornithologists elsewhere will have an invaluable work of reference and those who form ornithological libraries another beautiful work to place on their shelves. We congratulate Dr. Roberts upon the completion of what has been in fact, his life work and which he has carried through in spite of the constant demands for many years of a busy medical career. To the friends who have made the publication possible, ornithology is also much indebted.
—W. S.

The Birds of Louisiana.—Louisiana made famous by Audubon as a bird paradise has until now lacked a state "bird book." Mr. Stanley C. Arthur for some years director of the Wild Life Division of the Department of Conservation was known to be at work upon such a volume¹ and at the time of his severance from this position it was understood to have been nearly completed. With the remarkable political history of the state in recent years the fate of the work has been in doubt but at last it has appeared without any designation of an author, although it is stated in the introduction, by the Commissioner, that "the data has been especially gathered by Stanley C. Arthur" while in the unsigned preface he is cited as having been "particularly helpful in rendering assistance"! From other sources we learn that he was not allowed to revise the manuscript in order to bring it into accordance with the new A. O. U. 'Check-List' and was not even furnished with proof sheets.

The main text, which we take to be the work of Mr. Arthur, is excellent, presenting good descriptions of the birds and their habits with much information on their economic status—just what such a work should contain to provide educational matter for the use of the schools and the public at large. A number of excellent color plates were furnished by the National Association of Audubon Societies and the Biological Survey from their several publications while there are many text figures from these and other sources and some apparently original.

¹ State of Louisiana | Department of Conservation | Rob't S. Maestri, Commissioner | Bulletin No. 20 | *The Birds of Louisiana* | (seal) | Published by the | Department of Conservation | New Orleans Court Building | August, 1931 | [received April 1, 1932.] Pp. 1-598. Sent on receipt of 25 cents in stamps to defray postage; Dept. of Conservation, 126 N. O. Court Building, New Orleans.

Those who have been responsible for the publication of the work have produced some remarkable and confusing errors. While it is stated that the nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' it is in reality not that of any known Check-List. Not only have many changes in names been made that were deliberately rejected by the A. O. U. Committee but genera are recognized which do not occur in the classification which we are told was followed, and some remarkable trinomials are presented for the edification of the readers as for instance "*Melanerpes erythrocephalus stet*" *Phloeotomus pileatus stet*, and "*Chae tura pelagica*." The so-called "key" to the families of perching birds constitutes a puzzle worthy of the serious attention of a cryptogram expert, to which the printer in spacing and punctuation has added not a little. We fear the "key" will not unlock the treasury which lies beyond!

As a contribution to food habits we learn that the Pintail Duck eats "an amazing number of *Xyzpdq* seeds." This we think will be news to Mr. McAtee who is quoted for the major part of the information on the food of this species! Some of the illustrations have been strangely misplaced: the Ruby-crowned Kinglet text is illustrated by a figure of the Golden-crown; the two Mergansers have been transposed and a picture of Gannets adorns the account of the Cormorants.

All of this is proof of the danger of entrusting the publication of a semi-scientific book to editors and proof readers who are apparently unqualified for the work in hand. Let us hope that a revised edition of what is really a most important publication may be authorized and that the revision be placed in the hands of Mr. Arthur.

We congratulate him upon the excellent work that he did in preparing this report in the first place and regret that it has been marred by errors which are obviously not of his making.—W. S.

Cayley's 'What Bird is That?'—Mr. Neville W. Cayley, the well-known Australian ornithologist and bird artist, has written a guide¹ to the birds of his country which seems to be just what the bird-loving public of Australia desired, since we learn that a second edition of the book was required within a month.

The work consists of thirty-six color plates containing small numbered figures of the birds from paintings by the author, sometimes as many as thirty-two to a plate; a text correspondingly numbered presents the names of the birds with their derivation; the distribution of each species; notes on habits and accounts of nest and eggs.

The species are not arranged systematically but by habitat—Forest Birds, Birds of the Heath Lands and Open Country, Birds of the Lakes,

¹ What Bird is That? | A Guide to the Birds | of Australia | By | Neville W. Cayley | Vice President of the Royal Zoological Society of New South | Wales; Member of the British Ornithologists' Union and | Member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union | Illustrated by the Author | Australia | Angus & Robertson | Limited | 89 Castlereagh Street, Sydney | 1931. Pp. i-xx + 1-319. Price 12 shillings, 6 pence.