

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.

Streams and Swamps and Birds of the Ocean; with further ecological divisions on the several plates. There are also fourteen photographs of habitats and a map. When we learn that some 700 species are treated (exclusive of subspecies which are not considered) we realize not only the wealth of the Australian avifauna but also the gigantic task that the author has so successfully completed.

There is only one omission—one that American bird students have been quick to recognize i. e. no mention whatever of Dr. Frank M. Chapman's book of the same title published in 1920, and treating of American birds. Not only is the title of Mr. Cayley's book the same but the same red question mark adorns the cover while there is the same idea of many small figures on a plate and the same reproduction of a foot rule with each plate to indicate the size of the birds.

It would seem impossible that all of these similarities should originate independently in two minds, and in view of the wealth of other acknowledgements in the preface some word of indebtedness to Dr. Chapman for the inspiration that prompted these admirable popular features would seem to have been in order.

Mr. Cayley's book will, we are sure, prove a most valuable aid to popular bird study in Australia as well as a welcome guide for the visiting ornithologist and an important hand book in any ornithological library.—W. S. S.

Brown's 'My Animal Friends.'—The Philadelphia Zoölogical Garden is well known as one of the earliest "zoos" in America and one in which a remarkably complete exhibition of animals has always been maintained. The present attractive volume¹ by C. Emerson Brown, director of the Garden, is based largely upon its collections and upon Mr. Brown's experiences in caring for his "wards."

It contains interesting accounts of the various species of animals usually found in captivity and some of the rarities in the Philadelphia collection, notably the wonderful series of anthropoid apes. There are also chapters on the care of animals in zoological gardens, their feeding and health—chapters which well-meaning critics of "zoos" would do well to read! There are also many excellent illustrations from photographs of the animals in the Garden.

While the work is mainly devoted to mammals there are several chapters on birds and one on reptiles. The book is interesting and instructive reading and will prove a most welcome guide to those whose experience with wild animal life is of necessity limited to zoological gardens.—W. S. S.

Coble and Life's 'Introduction to Ornithological Nomenclature.'
—This little book² is not, as its title might imply, a synopsis of the rules

¹ My Animal Friends | By C. Emerson Brown, C. M. Z. S. | Director, Philadelphia Zoological | Garden | Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc. | Garden City, New York | 1932. Pp. i-xiv + 1-262. Price \$3.50.

² Introduction to Ornithological Nomenclature. By Mary Ferguson Coble, M.A. and Cora Smith Life, M.A. Wm. B. Straube Printing Co., Los Angeles. Pp. 1-91. Price \$1.00 [1932].