

this is only another way of saying that the phenomena classed by theorists as protective adaptations have little or no effectiveness." There is abundant discussion in each section of this paper with quotations from published works and refutation of theories advanced.

While the principle of protective coloration has in many cases been accepted without question we have often felt that there were too many exceptions to the rule. Quite aside from the problem of insects being protected from birds we have the oft quoted illustration of the bark-like coloration of the Brown Creeper as a protection presumably against hawks, but the conspicuously colored nuthatch with almost exactly similar habits apparently gets along just as well!

Mr. McAtee has compiled a most valuable contribution to this much mooted question and we do not see how any flaws can be picked in his argument or conclusions. A good bibliography completes the paper.—W. S.

**deSchauensee on the Birds of Southwestern Africa.**—During the summer of 1930, Mr. R. M. deSchauensee, Research Associate of the Ornithological Department of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, conducted an expedition through southwestern Africa and across the Kalahari Desert to Rhodesia. He was accompanied by his wife and Messrs. A. Reginald Allen and Wharton Sinkler of Philadelphia with Mr. George Saunders as taxidermist. A collection of 558 bird skins was secured representing 254 species of which six proved to be new.

The present paper<sup>1</sup> is a report on the collection consisting of an annotated list with an account of the itinerary and a discussion of the distribution of the birds of southwestern Africa, which seemed to the author to be mainly dependent upon rainfall. There are a number of plates from photographs taken on the trip, illustrating the various habitats, and several maps. Two colored plates represent the bustard *Heterotetrax rupelii*, a hornbill *Lophoceros williaminae* and a flycatcher *Bradornis herero* the last two previously described by the author.

One new form *Zosterops senegalensis quanzae* (p. 198) is described in the present paper from Quanza River, Angola.

This paper is an important contribution to the ornithology of this interesting region and the collections made by the expedition have all been presented to the Philadelphia Academy.—W. S.

**Armstrong's 'Birds of Samoa.'**—This little book<sup>2</sup> is termed a "Hand-list" and its object is to enable visitors and residents to recognize the birds of the islands and record their habits "before the march of time and progress has denuded the hills of bush, thus bringing about the inevitable destruction of its bird life."

<sup>1</sup> A Collection of Birds from Southwestern Africa. By Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila. Vol. LXXXIV, 1932, pp. 145-202, May 21.

<sup>2</sup> Hand-List to the Birds of Samoa. By John S. Armstrong, M.B. London, John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 83-91, Great Titchfield Street, W. 1, 1932. Pp. i-iv + 1-91. Price 8 shillings.

The book consists of rather lengthy descriptions of the sixty-three birds known from the islands mainly compiled from the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum.' There are also some very brief notes and a short preface. It is regrettable that full accounts of the habits of the birds are not presented as a "popular" bird book of the right sort might go far to arouse interest in Samoan bird life and ward off the destruction that the author seems to think inevitable.

The little book is well printed and there are keys to the species included in the various orders and a bibliography.—W. S.

**Mrs. Twining's 'Bird Watching in the West.'**—We have had an abundance of popular bird books dealing with the familiar birds of the East but in the West until lately the concern of bird students has been with the more serious side of ornithology. Mrs. Twining, however, stands for the growing army of bird lovers both in the East and West, who delight in the bird as a part of nature; furthermore she possesses the ability to express in print her feelings about birds and to picture bird doings that have come under her observation in a way to give pleasure to others of kindred tastes.

The sketches,<sup>1</sup> twenty-nine in number, are arranged in four parts covering the four seasons and to give an idea of the topics we quote from the Autumn section: "Adventures in the Air; From Zone to Zone; The Little Songs of Autumn; Flocks of the Wayside; Robins and Jaybirds; Waxwing Flocks; and Bird Visitors from Mountain Forests."

They deal mainly with the vicinity of her home near Portland, Oregon, but the species are many of them widely spread while an appendix with lists of birds for the western national parks and other spots extends the interest of the book.

There are a number of little pen sketches by way of illustration.

The author says in the preface "I have tried to put into words something of the intrinsic charm of the birds themselves" and "to write about the birds I know the best to the end that those who read may better understand all birds." We think that she has succeeded admirably and her little book should attract a large number of readers.—W. S.

**Cassinia for 1929-30.**—Financial pressure has made the announcement on the cover of 'Cassinia' somewhat inconsistent as it has, of late years, been a biennial rather than an annual; and for some reason the stated scope "Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware" has in this number been extended to include North Dakota! However, the character and interest of the publication<sup>2</sup> are amply upheld. There is a biographical sketch of the late Spencer Trotter; an account of southern herons in New Jersey by Chas.

<sup>1</sup> Bird Watching in the West. By Frances Staver Twining (Member, Cooper Ornithological Club). Illustrations by Florenz Clark. 1931. Metropolitan Press, Publishers, Portland, Oregon. Pp. 1-170. Price \$2.00.

<sup>2</sup> Cassinia. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. No. 27 1929-30, March 1932. Pp. 1-72. Price \$1.00.