

guarantees of a beautiful piece of book making and a perfect text both of which have been fully realized.

We hope that the day may come when nomenclature, the bane of ornithology, may be eliminated from a work of this kind and some standard list followed for the convenience of all concerned, but evidently most authors must still have their fling in selecting names. There are a number of cases in the present work where the names differ from those of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' though no reasons for the differences are given. While some of them agree with the names in Peters' 'Birds of the World' others do not. Without claiming that the A. O. U. List is "right" in every case, for many points will always remain questions of personal opinion, why not in a faunal work accept the conclusions of the Committee, except, of course, where the matter of recognition of subspecies is concerned and where the author has illuminating data to present?—W. S.

**Portraits of New England Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—It was an admirable idea to publish the ninety-three plates to Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts, etc.' in a separate volume. It will prove of the greatest value to bird study by placing in anyone's hands the best set of colored plates of birds that has yet been published. Many who cannot afford the three volumes of Forbush can easily secure these plates as the cost is almost nominal. They represent the best work of Fuertes and Brooks and are, for the most part, just as applicable to any of the states east of the Mississippi as to New England, lacking only some of the southern species.—W. S.

**Weygandt's 'A Passing America.'**<sup>2</sup>—Those of our readers who enjoyed reading Dr. Weygandt's delightful 'Wissahickon Hills' will welcome another volume<sup>2</sup> from his pen. This one deals with the passing of covered bridges, quill pens, oleander and daphne, chestnut trees, buckwheat, oxen, etc., things that those of us with memories running back thirty years or more will remember, but which are rapidly passing into the realm of things gone forever—not constituting ornithology, perhaps, but dear to the heart of every lover of the country.

One chapter in the book, however, is devoted wholly to birds and is entitled "Purple Parties" in which the author's experiences with Purple Martins are presented, birds which in eastern Pennsylvania, like the things listed above, are rapidly becoming things of yester year.

The author writes delightfully of many tramps to the Martin colony at Barren Hill, north of Philadelphia, where the birds occupied the cornice

<sup>1</sup> Portraits of New England Birds. Drawn in Color by Louis Agassiz Fuertes and Allen Brooks for 'The Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States.' By Edward Howe Forbush. Published by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1932. Price \$1.75, check or money order to be sent in advance to Room 118, State House, Boston, Mass., and made payable to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

<sup>2</sup> A Passing America.—Considerations of things of Yesterday fast fading from our World. By Cornelius Weygandt. New York, Henry Holt and Company Pp. i-xxxi + 1-330. 1932. Price \$3.00.

of the old "Farmers' and Drovers' Tavern" in which thirty holes had been cut years before for their accomodation. There are also Martin notes from many other spots "It is always in the sun that I remember Martins," he writes, "I think of Robins singing in soft April rain, of Blackbirds driving in clangorous flocks through misty September daybreaks, of Bluebirds' fall notes dropping to me out of November eves but when I think of Martins it is always of their crying and calling, their sailing and diving, through bright sunny air. . . . Black birds as they swoop past the white of the full blossomed pear trees and on to their homes under the low tavern eaves."—W. S.

**Street's 'Brief Bird Biographies.'**<sup>1</sup>—There seems to be always room for something new in the way of popular bird books. Mr. Street's idea is to present line drawings of the birds, only one species to a page, and to try, largely by posture, to make the figures characteristic and identifiable without resorting to color. Habitat is moreover the key note of his book and he has presented on each plate landscapes or bits of vegetation which are typical of the bird's haunts while the species are arranged according to habitat rather than systematically. While well known as an architect and draughtsman this is the author's first attempt at bird drawing and we think he is to be congratulated.

His idea is sound for during his many years of field study of birds, he has realized that we depend very largely upon posture and environment in our identifications and to the trained ornithologist color is of secondary importance. If this fact can be brought home to the beginner it may go far to increase his accuracy and save us from many records of birds in impossible places. Besides the drawing there is on the same page a brief biography, account of color, size, and geographic range. Brief mention also is made of some closely allied species. One hundred and fifty birds from east of the Mississippi River are figured and mention is made of sixty-four others.

In some of the sketches the nests of the birds appear and like most artists who attempt to draw nests Mr. Street has found them more difficult than the birds and we suspect that in most cases his nests were drawn from memory rather than with actual specimens before him.

The book should appeal to a wide range of readers especially those who are just beginning their studies.—W. S.

**Baldwin and Kendeigh on the 'Physiology of the Temperature of Birds.'**—It is a far cry from Mr. Baldwin's first report on bird-banding to this technical volume<sup>2</sup> and it illustrates better than anything else the

<sup>1</sup> Brief Bird Biographies. A Guide to Birds through Habitat Associations. By J. Fletcher Street. Pp. 1-160 (size 10¼ x 7¼). Grosset and Dunlap, N. Y. Price \$1.00.

<sup>2</sup> Physiology of the Temperature of Birds | By | S. Prentiss Baldwin and S. Charles Kendeigh | Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. III. Pp. i-x + 1-196, frontispiece, pls. I-V, figs. 1-41. October 15, 1932.