

note—liquid, sibilant, etc. A letter at the left of each chart indicates the actual musical pitch at that point—A''' etc., while each eighth of an inch in vertical height represents a half-tone and each half inch horizontally a second in time.

Accompanying each description of a song there is a very brief description of the bird, bringing out clearly its chief color characteristics, and at the beginning of the book an ingenious "Key" which leads one to one or other of the 26 groups into which bird songs are divided, while further keys bring us down to the species.

Mr. Saunders does not consider musical notation at all, as he rightly claims that it is unsuited to bird song since birds make use of musical intervals not capable of indication in our system of music. He also omits any attempt at a scientific analysis of bird notes such as Mr. Brand has discussed recently (Auk, 1935, pp. 40-52) since the present work is intended wholly as a guide for the field student.

Mr. Saunders has, we think, produced the best book on bird song from the popular point of view that has yet been published. It is a difficult subject to present and the attempts at representation by words from human speech or by musical notation have been, with the exception of a few striking songs, almost total failures.

We commend this little book to all bird students.—W. S.

Herrick's 'The American Eagle.'—It was our pleasure, some years ago, to publish in these columns a series of most interesting articles on the life-history of the Bald Eagle by Prof. Herrick, based upon his painstaking studies of the bird at several eyries in northern Ohio. (cf. Auk for 1924, 1932 and 1933). Now we have all of the information there presented, with much additional matter, combined in book form,¹ with the same and other illustrations from photographs taken by the author from the special steel tower erected near the nest tree.

Prof. Herrick has given us one of the most thorough life-history studies yet published on any species of American bird and has presented it in a form that will attract the interest not only of the ornithologist but of anyone who likes to read of nature and of determination in carrying out a planned investigation in the face of many obstacles.

Beside the studies at the Eagle's nest the author has added accounts of the Eagle as an emblem in ancient and modern times as well as the history of its adoption as our national bird and of its use on our coins, an interesting chapter in the history of the United States, in which Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Daniel Webster played a part.

Prof. Herrick has certainly earned the title of the "biographer of our national bird!"—W. S.

Wynne-Edwards on the Birds of the North Atlantic.—This valuable and extremely interesting report² is based primarily upon eight voyages between Montreal and the English Channel on R. M. S. *Ascania* from May to September, 1933. The systematic portion of the publication covers observations on 28 species with much discussion of their distribution and migration, many of them illustrated with pen sketches by the author and by maps.

While these accounts make up the bulk of the paper the introductory portion is perhaps even more interesting. Here the author contrasts the study of the birds of a land area and of a section of the ocean and emphasizes the impossibility of a reasonably prolonged residence in the latter, which is always regarded as a necessity in the

¹The American Eagle | A Study in Natural and Civil History | by Francis Hobart Herrick | Author of "Audubon the Naturalist" | D. Appleton-Century Company | Incorporated | New York, London | 1934 | Pp. i-xx + 1-267. Price, \$3.50.

²On the Habits and Distribution of Birds of the North Atlantic. By V. C. Wynne-Edwards. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 233-346. pll. 3-5. January, 1935.