

manently upon one of them. We have, however, found three Robin nests side by side on a girder which was not divided by cross beams and in such a case this explanation seems inadequate. In his discussion upon the use of snake skins by the Great Crested Flycatcher our author thinks that it does so because they happen to attract its attention and not because of an instinct transmitted from generation to generation. This is undoubtedly true of birds which only occasionally make use of snake skins but we are inclined to think that the almost universal snake skin habit of this Flycatcher, like the constant use of certain moss stems by the Worm-eating Warbler, and the selection of clusters of *Usnea* by the Parula Warbler, etc., are real cases of inherited instinct.—W. S.

Taverner's 'Birds of Canada.'—Mr. Taverner's two works on the birds of East and West Canada have previously been noticed in these columns (1922, p. 582; 1927, p. 125). He has now combined these into a single book,¹ covering the birds of the entire country from the Atlantic to the Pacific and north to the Arctic regions. For the most part, the text and illustrations of the earlier publications have been used but there are many additions and portions are entirely rewritten, while the sequence and nomenclature of the last edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' have been adopted with the exception of the author's well-known practice of altering the English names to suit his ideas of specific and subspecific relationship.

The attractive little color plates from paintings by Hennessey and Brooks, from the previous works are used in illustration, with apparently some additions, but they here appear to better advantage as in the 'Birds of Western Canada' a slightly buff tint to the paper produced wrong color values. In the present work this is avoided but the reds unfortunately are often far too pale, especially in the Sapsucker and Red-winged Blackbird.

Mr. Taverner is to be congratulated upon this excellent work which will do much to advance ornithological interest in Canada while in its present form it will be a much more convenient work of reference than in the east and west volumes of a few years ago.—W. S.

Bergman's 'Birds of Kamtschatka and the Kurile Islands.'—This comprehensive account² of the birds of northeastern Asia is based upon two expeditions by the author under the auspices of several Swedish Scientific Societies and individuals, undertaken in 1920–22 and 1929–30 respectively. There is a review of the literature dealing with the ornithology of the two regions and an account of their physical characteristics with numerous excellent half-tone illustrations of scenery. Then follows a detailed account of each species found in Kamtschatka with a list of specimens obtained and quotations from other authors. A second part of the volume treats in a similar way of the birds of the Kuriles.

Halftone plates of a dozen species, a full bibliography and a map complete this excellent publication, which will be a reference volume for many years to come. It is well printed on heavy paper.—W. S.

Lamond's 'An Aviary on the Plains.'—Australian bird students have published many books of late years devoted to popular ornithology and we now have another³ by Henry G. Lamond. His "aviary" is a section of the table-land of north-central Australia, in Queensland and the North Territory, and his chapters are thoroughly

¹ *Birds of Canada*. By P. A. Taverner. Ottawa. J. O. Patenaude Printer to the King's most excellent majesty 1934. Pp. 1–445. Price \$2.00.

² *Zur Kenntnis Nordostasiatischer Vögel. Ein Beitrag zur Systematik, Biologie und Verbreitung der Vögel Kamtschatkas und der Kurilen. Mit 32 Bildern und 2 Karten von Sten Bergman*. Stockholm, Albert Bonniers Forlag 1935. Pp. 1–268. Price 20 kronor.

³ *An Aviary on the Plains*. By Henry G. Lamond. Australia, Angus & Robertson Limited, 89 Castlereagh Street, Sydney 1934. Pp. i–viii + 1–228. Price 6 shillings.