

wild life as a national resource." Under the subject of reorganization he draws attention to the tangle of confiction in the activities of various Federal groups of which Chief Darling of the Survey has so often spoken and quotes President Hoover to the effect that "our industries and business are badgered to death for duplicate information by a host of non-coordinating agencies."

In his conclusions the author says that the Nation is committed to conservation, that State and Federal Governments seem willing to cooperate and that there are remarkably few legal restrictions to conservation activities. There is need, he says, for more satisfactory data on the subject and defects in administrative organization and "if one were to sum up in a single phrase the greatest problem of conservation in the future it would be how to protect the rights of the many against the greed of the few."

While many instances of political interference with the prosecution of offenders against the game laws are mentioned there is another sort of political interference with conservation which apparently is not given the attention that it deserves doubtless due to the impossibility of obtaining the necessary facts in the case. We, on the outside, cannot but feel that in more than one instance the officers of the Biological Survey have not been able to follow their own judgment in matters of game protection and in limiting control measures, because of pressure from "higher up" instigated by politics. How this is to be prevented it is difficult to say.

It is refreshing to have the whole matter of wild life conservation discussed by someone entirely outside of its activities, someone not interested in either side of the various controversies that have arisen, and someone whose position does not depend upon the attitude that he may take and who is free from political pressure of any sort.

There is such a wealth of historical and legal information in Mr. Connery's book and such an abundance of authoritative references that we hope everyone interested in conservation will read it, especially those who may contemplate improvement in laws or in administration. Furthermore it is written in such a way as to hold one's attention from cover to cover, with a clarity of diction and presentation that is surprising in such a work. The author deserves the thanks of all who are interested in the future of our wild life.—W. S.

The London Convention for the Protection of African Flora and Fauna.—

A special publication of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection presents a full account of the London Convention composed of representatives of Governments having possessions in Africa, viz.: The Union of South Africa, Belgium, Great Britain, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The provisions agreed upon include the protection as complete as possible with special permission to hunt, kill or capture only to further important scientific purposes and only granted by the highest authority in the territory, of a list of seventeen species or groups of mammals and three birds—Shoe-bill Stork, Bald-headed Ibis and White-breasted Guinea Fowl. Thirteen other mammals and nine birds while not so rigorously protected, are not to be hunted, killed or captured without special license from the competent authorities, these birds being the Maribou Stork, Ground Hornbills, Ostrich, Secretary Bird, the several species of Egret and the Buff-backed Heron.

This is the most important move ever made toward the saving of the wonderful fauna of the African continent which was being so ruthlessly decimated by unprincipled hunters and through the opening up of the country. A list of the national parks and game preserves already established by the several governments is appended, most of them complete preserves but on some of them hunting under special permit

is allowed. What will astonish those not in touch with African wild life protection is that there are no less than 148 of these reservations. A few of them are as small as 300 square miles; most of them 50,000 to 100,000 square miles while some reach an area of 600,000 and 800,000 square miles.

This convention has done splendid work and the American Committee deserves credit for presenting the results in such an impressive style. There is a map showing the location of the reserves and pictures of the protected species from drawings by Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., together with a foreword by John C. Phillips, Chairman of the American Committee, who attended the convention as an "observer."—W. S.

Mrs. Dickey's 'Familiar Birds of the Pacific Southwest.'—This attractive little book¹ is designed wholly for the beginner in bird study and those who are only casually interested in birds but who desire to name such as they see in the easiest way, and in her effort to meet this demand the author has been eminently successful.

Only the more familiar species are included and subspecies, if mentioned at all, are referred to incidentally as geographic races while technical nomenclature is conspicuous by its absence, except for a list of the birds treated at the end of the volume where both English and scientific names are given according to the latest A. O. U. 'Check-List'. The author thus avoids the error of trying to combine two methods of treatment in a single work.

At the beginning we have a key based on size and color. The birds are first divided into land and water species and each subdivided according to size: that of a Gull, Dove, Blackbird, Sparrow or Wren, and under each of these are color divisions such as "white," "gray and white" "black," etc. with mention of one or two outstanding characters which lead us to the species.

Following the key are fuller descriptions of the field marks of each bird with a paragraph on habits, etc. chosen with regard for the needs of those for whom the book is intended.

The illustrations are from photographs mainly by the late Donald R. Dickey, husband of the author, whose remarkable skill as a bird photographer is well known. These have been colored by Mrs. Lena Scott Harris and reproduced by the three-color process.

Mrs. Dickey's little book, bound in flexible covers, and adaptable to the pocket should prove a great boon to the nature lover who desires to name the birds he sees in southern California, be he a resident or a visitor from the East, and should stimulate him in following up his study in the several standard works on the subject which are listed by Dr. Casey A. Wood in his brief Introduction.—W. S.

Stuart Baker's 'Nidification of the Birds of the Indian Empire.'—The fourth and concluding volume² of this outstanding work is before us, uniform in every respect with its predecessors. Beginning with the birds of prey it covers the Doves, Sandgrouse, Gallinaceous birds and the several families of "water birds." The accounts of the nesting of the various species are of great interest, especially in the case of birds peculiar to the Indian region and quite unknown to American bird students. The curious Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) found only on the shores of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean excavates a long tunnel under the sand-matted surface of

¹ Familiar Birds of the Pacific Southwest with Size and Color Key. By Florence Van Vechten Dickey. Illustrated with 102 full color reproductions from photographs chiefly by Donald R. Dickey. Stanford University Press, Stanford University, California. Pp. i-iviii + 1-241. Price \$3.75.

² The Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire. By E. C. Stuart Baker, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.Z.S., etc. Volume IV Pandionidae—Podicepsidae with seven plates, London, Taylor and Francis. Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C. 4. 20th June, 1935. Pp. i-xii + 1-546.