

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 book<sup>1</sup> 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 volume<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

the dunes at the end of which is deposited its single egg. The sudden appearance of the large white birds as they popped out of the mouths of their burrows produced a very curious effect from a distance. The great nests of the Black-necked Stork (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) we learn, sometimes reach dimensions of six by three feet and in one instance the birds took more than a month in building the structure, using sticks of various sizes from mere twigs to branches two feet in length and two to three inches in diameter. Upon this they placed a rim of clay, descending alternately to a near-by tank and bringing up the mud in their bills and arranging it with great care. There are interesting accounts of nestings of the curious Ibis-bill (*Ibidorhyncha*) which spends its life in the Pamirs, Gilgit and the Tibet region of western China, breeding along the river shores, while the accounts of taking eggs of the Lammergeyer (*Gypaetus*) from high over-hanging cliffs will arouse the enthusiasm of any oölogist. Mr. Baker tells us that of the 2351 forms of Indian birds the nesting of 279 species and subspecies remains quite unknown so that there is still much to learn before the subject is entirely exhausted. In his parting word on egg collecting he says: "No one should start egg collecting unless they have some scientific object in view in so doing. To collect eggs merely to satisfy one's aesthetic sense of the beautiful, or to acquire something which someone else has not got is admittedly not sufficient excuse." He, however, upholds egg collecting where the collector is advancing science and calls attention to the fact that bird photography (and we might add bird-banding) is often quite as detrimental to the birds as egg collecting.

There are seven halftone plates from photographs of nests or scenery.

We congratulate Mr. Baker upon the completion of his labors and his four handsome volumes will stand as a monument to his energy and his knowledge of his subject.—W. S.

**Spiker's 'Bird Life of the Finger Lakes of New York.'**—This publication<sup>1</sup> is another of the excellent local ornithologies issued by the Roosevelt Wild Station. It covers the region of the famous Finger lakes especially Keuka, Seneca and Cayuga, a region where a number of prominent ornithologists have lived and conducted their investigations—Fuertes at Ithaca; Eaton at Geneva; Burtch and Clarence Stone at Branchport—and is therefore rich in tradition.

Mr. Spiker spent two summers, one winter and a spring in the region and the report is the result of his observations. The accounts are popular in character with brief descriptions of the field marks of the species, and accounts of nests, song and habits, the whole forming a handy pocket ornithology of the area. The illustrations consist of 57 photographs of characteristic spots along the lakes and their vicinity, including the Taushannock Falls which Dr. A. A. Allen has made famous in his photographs of the Duck Hawk.

Beside the value of the pamphlet to local bird students there are many observations of interest on the habits and behavior of various species which are contributions to their life histories.

The author has done a good piece of work.—W. S.

**Danforth's 'The Birds of Saint Lucia.'**—Dr. Danforth has recently published an excellent monograph<sup>2</sup> on the birds of Saint Lucia. As he points out we have no

<sup>1</sup> A Popular Account of the Bird Life of the Finger Lakes Section of New York, with Main Reference to the Summer Season. By Charles J. Spiker, Field Naturalist, Roosevelt Wild Life Station. Roosevelt Wild Life Bull., Vol. 6, No. 3. Pp. 391-551, Figs. 228-284. July, 1935.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Saint Lucia. By Stuart Danforth, Prof. of Zoology and Entomology, College of Agriculture, University of Puerto Rico. Monographs of the Univ. of Puerto Rico, Series B., No. 3, 1935. Pp. 1-129. Pl. I. To be had from the Librarian of the University, Rio Piedras, P. R.