

come and the convenience of the volumes already at our disposal makes us all the more anxious for the others that are to come!—W. S.

Bond's 'Birds of the West Indies.'—While several excellent works on the birds of individual islands in the West Indies group have appeared during the past few years, there has been no book on the avifauna as a whole since Charles B. Cory's 'Birds of the West Indies' published in 1889, and this consisted entirely of descriptions, synonymy and a brief statement of range.

The work¹ before us is quite different in plan being designed, as the author tells us, "to combine the technical with the popular" and we think that he has most successfully realized his idea. There are good original descriptions of all of the species and detailed statements of their range, while line cuts and one colored plate from originals by Earl L. Poole serve as excellent illustrations. For interesting sketches of the habits and details of nesting, song, etc., the author has drawn largely upon his personal experiences during ten trips to the islands.

He has endeavored, like a number of other authors, to use the "species" as his systematic unit referring to the subspecies only in the paragraphs on distribution and nesting, although the particular race upon which his description is based is always given and the ways in which other races vary from it. The species which are only winter or casual migrants from the United States or elsewhere, are treated together at the end of each family, after the endemic species, and without the generic headings provided for the latter. The accounts of habits and nesting are presented under the generic heading as most of the West Indian endemic genera are monotypic and it was thought that it would require much repetition in other cases to discuss these matters under each species separately. Synonymy and references to places of publication are omitted as they are apart from the main object of the book and even the authorities for the names are omitted in the main text but are to be found in a complete list of the species and races given at the end of the volume. An additional valuable feature of the work is a list under each species of its local names in English, French or Spanish as the case may be.

In the introduction the author discusses the faunal relationship of the West Indies and points out the preponderance of North American types in its bird life. We cannot place too much weight upon this fact, however, as the relationship of the mammals, especially of the fossil forms, is Neotropical and the fauna of the group was doubtless acquired at different times and from different sources as geological conditions and land connections changed. There are also helpful suggestions to those who visit the islands as to how to obtain an idea of their avifauna which will be very welcome to tourists. Mr. Bond is peculiarly well fitted for the task which he has performed so satisfactorily, as he has personally visited no less than 50 of the islands and has discovered several hitherto unknown races as well as rediscovered two species that were supposed to have been exterminated.

The 'Birds of the West Indies' will prove a handy reference book as well as a field handbook both for visitors to the islands and natives who desire to know something of the bird life about them. We congratulate Mr. Bond upon a task well done.—W. S.

Priest's 'Birds of Southern Rhodesia.'—The third volume² of this excellent work has recently appeared covering the Broadbills, Pittas, Larks, Pipits, Babblers,

¹ The Birds of the West Indies. By James Bond. Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. 1935. Pp. i-xxv + 1-455. Price \$4.50. [Reviewed from final proofs.]

² The Birds of Southern Rhodesia. By Captain Cecil D. Priest, etc. etc. Vol. 3. William Clowes and Sons Ltd., London and Beccles, 1935. Pp. i-ix + 1-355. Price 30 shillings. To be had from the publishers, 94, Jermyn St., London, S. W. 1.