

Only seventy-eight residents and summer residents have been found in the range and the nearby Sheep Mountains from which a few specimens were obtained. Of the fifty-three species and subspecies found in the Upper Sonoran or higher zones, thirty-seven are of general western or Great Basin distribution, eleven are similar, or most closely related, to races of the Inyo region to the westward, while eleven have closest relation to Rocky Mountain forms. There is no instance of a Sierran or trans-Sierran identity except for four wide ranging species.

The author discusses the physical features of the range with illustrations of characteristic scenery, following which is a well annotated list of the birds. Isolated ranges such as the Charlestons are always interesting in their faunal relationships and Mr. van Rossem has done an excellent piece of field work in making the explorations upon which his report is based.—W. S.

**Books on British Birds.**—We recently had the pleasure of reviewing Turner's 'Every Garden a Bird Sanctuary' the first of Witherby's 'Bird Lovers' Manuals,' and now we have before us two additional volumes of this series of popular books on the birds of Old England.

Norman H. Joy presents a handy field book 'How to Know the British Birds,' somewhat after the fashion of Peterson's 'A Field Guide to the Birds [of N. America].' There are two series of illustrations one from pencil sketches showing the birds in their most characteristic attitudes; the other figures in color of the most strikingly marked species. The several orders of British birds are then distinguished on the basis of characteristic species following which are brief descriptions of the species in which field characters, size, distribution and nests are considered. While there are no "keys" the necessary information is clearly presented and the most important points italicized. Dr. Joy very properly emphasizes shape and action rather than color as it is upon these that the trained bird student learns to rely for, in many cases, owing to poor position or light conditions, color cannot be satisfactorily determined. This little book cannot but prove of great assistance to the beginner whose aim is to know his birds, as well as to the visitor from other lands who would make acquaintance with the English species.

Another delightful little volume<sup>2</sup> in the same series is R. M. Lockley's 'Birds of the Green Belt' pointing out what birds may be seen in the environs of London and describing their haunts with many interesting allusions to other forms of life, both animal and plant, and much historical data on the regions described. Besides being a storehouse of local items of natural history the book is a fine piece of English composition and will be read with interest by many not especially devoted to science. The author is a true nature lover as is shown by his appreciation of other fields than his own, when he replies to a friend's query as to how he can "get a kick out of birds"; "A kick of that sort," he replies, "can even be got out of a study of snails if you are keen enough."

Mr. Lockley's book will also prove invaluable to the tourist as well as to the city resident who would become better acquainted with the rural surroundings of the great city and their wild life.—W. S.

**Brooks' Plates of North American Birds.**—'The National Geographic Magazine'<sup>3</sup> has issued two installments of the plates of North American birds being

<sup>1</sup> How to Know the Birds. By Norman H. Joy. Pp. 1-136; Ppl. 1-40. March 17, 1936. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London. Price 5 shillings net.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of the Green Belt. By R. M. Lockley. Pp. 1-236, several half-tone plates and numerous text-figures. April 2, 1936. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London. Price 5 shillings.

<sup>3</sup> National Geographic Magazine for April and June, 1936.

prepared by Major Allan Brooks. The first covers the Thrushes, Thrashers and Swallows with text by T. Gilbert Pearson and the second the Parrots, Kingfishers and Flycatchers [although Cuckoos and the Trogon are included] with text by Alexander Wetmore.

The color plates represent the usual fine work of the artist and the color reproduction is good although the Mockingbird seems a bit too blue. Many interesting photographs are presented in the text most striking of which is a large group of Cliff Swallows' nests photographed near Colorado Springs by Myra Keen.

All of the land birds, except the Sparrows, Warblers, Woodpeckers and Gallinaceous species have, we believe, now been covered as well as the Herons and their allies, making a remarkable series of bird portraits.—W. S.

**Nissen's Schöne Vogelbücher.**—In a well-planned little book<sup>1</sup> Dr. Claus Nissen has recorded the development of ornithological illustration from the Middle Ages to the present.

The first section of the volume is devoted to a chronological account of important illustrated bird publications with reference to the scientific accuracy of the figures, methods of reproduction, artistic qualities, etc. Next comes a list of 554 works on natural history arranged alphabetically by authors and giving the illustrators and the nature of their work. A list of artists, engravers, and colorists follows. The whole is cross-referenced so that knowing a given artist one can find wherein his work appears, or knowing an author one can find his illustrators. The remainder of the book consists of reproductions of bird illustrations dating from 1485 up to and including a selection from the various works of Gould.

The author states (p. 25) that it is to be regretted that other countries have not followed the American trend in reproducing plates separately, as well as with text, and that today we are about as far as ever from having readily accessible bird illustrations covering the whole field. He adds that photography cannot replace the careful and detailed work of the artist, so long as faithful color reproduction is not solved completely; nevertheless, the sphere of application of the artist is narrowing because of the superiority of the camera in recording animals in action.

This little volume will appeal to those interested in bird illustration, particularly because of the bibliography it contains. Unfortunately, it is printed in a very limited edition.—R. S. P.

**Systematic Catalogue of the Birds of Argentina.**—As part of the memorial volume on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Museo de la Plata Messrs. Alfredo Steullet and Enrique A. Deautier have prepared a systematic catalogue of the birds of Argentina<sup>2</sup> the first part of which has just been received. This comprises a detailed review of Argentine ornithology and the systematic list from the Rheidæ to the Steganopodes inclusive, in the order of Wetmore's classification.

Under each species and subspecies there is a full synonymy so far as the region covered is concerned and paragraphs on material examined, geographic distribution as well as frequent critical notes and an explanation of the etymology of all technical names by Dr. Jorge Casares. Acknowledgements for assistance are also made to Dr. Roberto Dabbne. The work will prove of great assistance to all students of the birds of southern South America.—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> Schöne Vogelbücher, Ein Überblick der Ornithologischen Illustration nebst Bibliographie, von Claus Nissen, Herbert Reichner Verlag, Vienna, 1936. Pp. 1-95. [From Philobiblon, VIII, 1935, pp. 23-40, 69-90, 123-136, 169-180, 225-234, 435-444.] Price 5 marks.

<sup>2</sup> Catalogo Sistemático de las Aves de la República Argentina por Alfredo B. Steullet y Enrique A. Deautier. Obra del Cincuentenario del Museo de la Plata. Tomo I Primera entrega. Buenos Aires Imprenta y Casa Editora "Coni.," 684 Calle, Perú. 1935. Pp. 1-256.