

Brand's 'More Bird Songs.'—The reception accorded the first series of bird songs on phonograph records has encouraged the author to bring out a second,¹ which, with the suggested possibility of a third in the future, will place in available form the sound reproductions of the commoner birds of the eastern United States. Three double-backed phonograph disks accompany the book in an envelope within the back cover, ready for use with the ordinary phonograph equipment. The songs are so arranged on the disks as to bring out in succession those that are somewhat similar or are to be heard in a similar habitat. All are reproduced from the sounds given by birds in a wild state, for as the author justly remarks, captivity results in many changes of both voice and function. The main body of the text supplements the records, in giving for each species in the order in which it is heard, the range, field marks, dates of song, haunts, and a brief description of the utterance. A series of pen and ink sketches by Dr. George Miksch Sutton illustrates each species. An introductory chapter on the significance of bird song presents the current viewpoint on the subject. In comparison with the actual sounds, the inadequacy of our published descriptions of bird song becomes woefully apparent.

This unique aid to the identification as well as to the enjoyment of bird songs should have a wide appeal to beginners in the field study of birds as well as to teachers of field classes. We may eventually hope for the application of sound recording to a graphic method of the analysis of song.—G. M. A.

Weiss on Rafinesque.—Still another book² has just appeared concerning Constantine Samuel Rafinesque (1783–1840), an American naturalist it will be remembered, of the early part of the last century whose vast learning and marked peculiarities made his career particularly vivid and colorful. The present edition—a beautiful work—has been limited to 150 copies, illustrated by twenty-five previously unpublished pencil sketches made by Rafinesque of relatives, friends, and associates while he was professor in old Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky. It is set up in 12-point Caslon old-face type and is printed on ivory dull-coated paper, and is attractively full bound in blue cloth. A friend and contemporary of Thomas Jefferson, John James Audubon, Alexander Wilson, and other natural-history students of that period, there probably never lived a more enthusiastic pioneer than was Rafinesque in the various branches of botany, in ornithology, in zoology, in travel, in exploration, and in archaeological work. Also because of his activities as editor and literary worker he will long be remembered. It is fitting and well to have the attention of present-day bird lovers and other natural-history students again directed to his career.—J. S. WADE.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE

BAILLIE, J. L., AND HARRINGTON, P. The distribution of breeding birds in Ontario.

Part. I. *Trans. Royal Canadian Inst.*, **21**: 1–50, map, 1936.—This is “an initial attempt to outline the breeding ranges of birds in Ontario,” a province stretching from the Great Lakes to Hudson Bay. The breeding birds of this area number 210 species, of which 81 are here listed, with for each a brief statement of its nesting range and specific instances for the several counties. The literature, collections public and private, and much unpublished data have been drawn upon in the preparation.

¹ Brand, Albert R. *More Songs of Wild Birds*. 8vo, New York, Thomas Nelson and Sons, 116 pp., three phonograph disks, 1936. Price \$2.50.

² Rafinesque's *Kentucky Friends*. By Dr. Harry B. Weiss. 8vo, cloth, 72 pp., 25 illus. 16 North 7th Avenue, Highland Park, New Brunswick, N. J., published by author, 1936. Price \$7.50.