

of the ecology of the animals in this inhospitable land as studied in 1938. On the steppes the animals have to adapt themselves to aridity, sudden changes of temperature and almost constant wind; the birds adjust to the last condition in two ways—some specialize in flight to utilize the wind, while others avoid it by staying in thick bushes and on the ground. Most of the birds, even a small parrot, *Cyanolyseus patagonicus*, are more or less sand-colored (p. 77) and ground-living birds of many different kinds have a protective operculum over each nostril, apparently as a protection against the dust. Very different were the birds in an irrigated region on the Rio Neuquén where orchards were protected from the wind by rows of Lombardy poplars. Strangely enough, this rich environment lures the communally-nesting cuckoo, *Guira guira*; they breed here, but most of them perish in the cold nights; yet more arrive from the north each spring. This species has become over-abundant in central Argentina. The males of both Rheas, *Rhea americana*, *Pterocnemia pennata*, were seen with young of markedly different ages, one of the latter leading a troop of 40.

"Never had I seen a country," writes Dr. Krieg of the great sheep estancia "El Condor," "that was so rich in birds of prey as this and nowhere else such beautiful birds of prey." He then enumerates 15 species (p. 126). "They are all much less shy than in Europe." No one bothers them; the people have no interest in any animal they cannot eat. The abundant and fearless Magellan Geese, *Chloëphaga picta*, are disliked by the sheep-herders, but are not shot, as ammunition is expensive, but great numbers of their eggs are eaten.

The rain forests of Nahuel Huapi are wonderfully beautiful, but poor in animal life. The two species of deer are endangered through overshooting by the natives, and disease brought in by feral cattle. Foreign mammals have already been introduced into Patagonia with unfortunate results—European hare, elk and wild boars, yet the authorities are planning to continue introductions into this national park. The final chapter is devoted to a resumé of the geological history of South America and the probable origin of its fauna. There are 45 photographs and an index. Most noteworthy are the delightful and telling sketches by the author, several of them in color.—M. M. Nice.

67. Birds as Individuals. Len Howard. 1952. Collins, St. James Place, London. 223 pp. Miss Howard is one of those rare individuals with a gift for taming wild birds; she is friend and hostess to Great Tits, *Parus major*, and Blue Tits, *P. caeruleus*, Robins, *Erithacus rubecula*, and Blackbirds, *Turdus merula*. The titmice fly freely in and out of her house, feed from her hands and sleep in boxes over her bed. Eric Hosking's photographs show her birds on her furniture, her shoulders and her hands. None of the tits seems to be banded, although at least one Robin carried a ring; she distinguishes the birds by slight differences in appearance and voice, but it is remarkable how she can keep track of large numbers of titmice from earliest youth to old age. She found amazing individuality in character among her birds. Some of her tales are truly astonishing, but we must remember that her subjects have a very unusual environment offered them by the author, and that as a result they show unsuspected reserves of response. In the same way a woodchuck or prairie dog in nature has a rather meager environment, but both these animals when hand-raised and given their liberty indoors and out may show surprising intelligence and originality. Although one may not always agree with Miss Howard's interpretations, the facts she relates give a new picture of the possibilities of behavior in the birds she watched. The last chapters deal with an analysis of bird song.—M. M. Nice.

NOTES AND NEWS

Bird-Banding does not include a regular section on suggestions to contributors, for reasons of economy. In general, referring to previous issues will show how papers should be laid out for consistency with the rest of each issue. However, a few comments on tables and photographs may be helpful. Occasionally an author may refer to "the following table" or ask that a certain table or photograph appear on the same page with a certain part of the text. It is often difficult to arrange this, and it may be impossible. The best practice is to refer to each table or

photograph by number, thus identifying it adequately and yet allowing the necessary flexibility in making up the issue. Where possible, tables should have vertical columns and occupy not more than one printed page. In typing manuscript, each table should occupy a separate page. Photographs should be hard, glossy prints with good contrast and detail. Line drawings should be in India ink on a good grade of white paper or on drawing board. Lettering and figures on such drawings should also be in India ink if done by a skilled draftsman; otherwise they should be in pencil as type will have to be set on them.

The Editor has a supply of prospectuses for the XI International Ornithological Congress, which will be held in Basel, Switzerland from May 29 to June 5, 1954. There is no charge for the prospectus.