

As an experiment in fostering interest and speeding up learning among amateurs, this publication's tactics are a far cry from those followed by the popular bird publications in the United States. The continued publication of the sort of papers this volume contains will raise it out of the amateur class into the professional. Perhaps we underestimate the ability of our own public to learn and progress. We shall be interested to learn of its effect on the French amateurs.—Wendell Taber.

50. Stray Feathers from a Bird Man's Desk. Austin L. Rand. 1955. Doubleday & Company, Garden City, N. Y., pp. 1-224, 61 cartoon illustrations, price \$3.75. The 61 chapters in this book are an engaging potpourri of odd bits of information about birds and their habits, presented skilfully, simply, and interestingly for lay consumption. The emphasis, if there is one, is on the anthropomorphic aspects of bird behavior, and the subjects range from birds as brigands and as pilferers, to their use of tools, ability to count, and solution of the baby-sitting problem.

Obviously written for possible use as a newspaper column, each chapter runs from 500 to 1,000 words and is subdivided for easier digestion. The newspaperish subhead leads introducing many of the paragraphs are often inappropriate and, to me, detract from rather than add to the text's readability. Nor do I particularly admire the title—scarcely less awkward and certainly more descriptive would have been "Columns Clipped from the Culled Cogitations of a Cultured Curator." Or how about "Rambling at Random with Rand"?

Aside from these minor faults, the columns themselves are exceedingly well done. They contain a wealth of accurate, authoritative information, presented with a light and amusing touch. That no feature syndicate picked them up for distribution reflects the newspaper editors' judgement of the public taste, not the columns' worth and interest. I fear that in book form they will never have the far wider audience and sale they deserve.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

NOTES AND NEWS

Those interested in banding who drive to Boston for the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in October would be welcome at the editor's banding station (37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn.) on the weekends before (Oct. 22, 23) or after (Oct. 29, 30) the papers session at Boston. The station offers a wide variety of plantings for birds, and of traps; weather permitting, mist nets will be in operation. It is likely that the migration of White-throated Sparrows will be tapering off, with Juncos and Fox Sparrows increasing (in the fine migration of October, 1954 we banded 900 individuals, of 30 species).

The station is only a few miles off the main parkway route from New York to Boston: take the Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways, turn left on Conn. 173 in Newington, left on Asylum Ave. in West Hartford ("T" intersection), right at first traffic light (onto Conn. 185), left at next light (onto U. S. 44). Turn diagonally left after just one mile (at the intersection of Mountain Road, with overhead blinker), on Old Oak Road, take the middle road of three (Old Brook Road), after a tenth of a mile, go another tenth of a mile. From Boston, on the Wilbur Cross Highway, turn right on U. S. 44 in Manchester.

The 1955 annual meeting of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association will be held on Saturday, October 1, at the Cook's Canyon Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, in Barre, Mass. The meeting starts at 10 A.M., Eastern Daylight Time; bring a picnic lunch (coffee will be provided). All those interested in banding are welcome.