

I think the Pileated Woodpecker is the most solitary of all our native birds. Although I have seen him frequently, all my life, I never saw two at the same time, though my brother once did,—but that was undoubtedly at mating time.

He certainly is a captain at hiding his nest, for though we were certain he nested somewhere in that large tract of woods, we were never able to find his nest. I have more than once found holes in trees that looked as though they might be his nesting place, but always in a place so inaccessible that I was never able to verify my suspicions.

The Pileated Woodpecker is said to be a vanishing bird, and nearing final extinction. This belief I regard as only partly true. While they are much less numerous in some sections of the country than they formerly were, they are to be found as numerous in many places that are to their liking, as they were in pioneer days. The greatest enemy to this magnificent bird is the modern hunter with the modern gun. We have laws and laws for the protection of the wild things about us that are so vitally necessary to our own existence; but against the ruthless and irresponsible hunter with a modern weapon in his hands there is little protection, little hope for those things he desires to kill.

A. R. PHILLIPS.

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### Publications Reviewed

The editor feels constrained to express his regret that he has not been able to present reviews of literature which has been accumulating upon his desk for a full half year without notice in these pages. He will not make the annual pilgrimage to the Pacific Coast this summer, because of service which the war has called for, and therefore time for many things will be available during the summer.

“A YEAR WITH THE BIRD.” By Alice E. Ball. Illustrated by Robert Bruce Horsfall. From the press of Gibbs & Van Vleck, Inc., New York. Published by the author, 1961 Ford Drive, Cleveland, Ohio.

Each of the 56 species treated in this book has a full-page plate in colors by Horsfall accompanying the description, which is in verse. The underlying thought of the author is that young children will be more certainly attracted by rhyme than prose, and will be likely to retain their early impressions thus gained. The mechanical work is exceptionally good, and the type large and clear. Of especial value are the backgrounds in the illustrations,

which give the bird in its proper natural setting. Without these backgrounds few persons would be able to be sure of the Phoebe and Wood Pewee. The bill of the Field Sparrow should be redder and the illustration of the Sandpipers does not give an accurate picture of the differences between these two species. The book should make a strong appeal to the child who is forming early impressions of the birds.

L. J.

THE BIRD STUDY BOOK, by T. Gilbert Pearson, Secretary, National Association of Audubon Societies. Doubleday, Page & Co. \$1.25, net.

"This book has been written for the consideration of that ever-increasing class of Americans who are interested in acquiring a greater familiarity with the habits and activities of wild birds." With an audience of beginners before him the author begins with the nest as the most available place of attack, devoting three chapters to this. Chapter 4 is given to a discussion of "Migration," and 5 to "The Birds in Winter." Then follow six chapters which might be grouped around the word "Economic," which includes man's influence upon the birds and his efforts at protection of them for whatever reasons. The last chapter is devoted to a discussion of "Teaching Bird Study."

There is a colored frontispiece of the Wood Thrush. Sixteen full page half-tone cuts, and 26 line cuts in the text, are well selected and creditably done. Paper, binding and type are of high grade, and the volume is handy in size and pleasing in style. It is a book well worth the attention of everybody, whether he has any particular interest in the birds or not, and should prove of exceptional value to the beginner.

L. J.