

these life zones, and certain species are characteristic of them. Lists of the characteristic trees and other noticeable plants which mark the boundaries of these life zones are given, together with illustrative pictures of the scenery therein. The large-scale contour-map with life zones in colour, will be extremely useful in a region where altitudes bear such an important relation to the species found. The habitats characterized by extreme moisture are lake, lake-shore, stream, stream-border, and swamp; by moderate moisture, meadow forest, burn; by deficient moisture or of a rocky type, alpine ridge and pumice slope, rock slide, and glacier.

While the majority of the photographs are taken from living specimens, particularly of the birds and large mammals, the authors have made some very interesting photographs of small mammals posed in their natural habitat. The small mammals always present unusual difficulties to the photographer. Captive animals have no adequate background, and many wild species are almost impossible to photograph, being active, restless, and mostly nocturnal in habits. Good pictures *in situ* are extremely rare, and the few examples generally have unsatisfactory backgrounds.

As an almost invariable rule, certainly with the larger species, photographs of dead animals are stiff and unsatisfactory, showing little but anatomical proportions. The authors have arranged a series of posed pictures with great care, including various species of vole, jumping-mice, pocket gophers, moles, shrews, and the like, posed in their exact natural habitat. These show the animals in relation to their nests, holes, or natural surroundings, and give a remarkable artistic effect with scientific accuracy. The plates are especially commended to preparators of habitat groups of small mammals, the quality of which has lagged behind most types of other exhibits in all of our museums.

This book on Mount Rainier National Park makes a notable addition to the wild life literature of the United States, competently prepared by co-operation of the National Park Service, the U.S. Biological Survey, and the State of Washington, and well worthy of the traditions set by preceeding works on the animals of Yellowstone Park, Glacier Park, and Yosemite Park. With the great and rapidly growing number of vacation tourists to these great national playgrounds, come many people who are seriously interested in the wild life which is one of the greatest assets of the national parks, and they want to learn more about it. Others come who may have their interest aroused and become amateur naturalists

and conservationists if given opportunity to learn of the wealth of interesting material within the reach of the attentive eye and ear. Interesting books, prepared by reliable authorities, without earmarks of enthusiastic but ill-informed propaganda, and sold at a price which any tourist or student can afford, offer a great field for such educational work. The average eye has not been trained to know what it sees outside of the normal routine of life, and misses much of the joy and benefit of vacation in mountain and forest, while even the oldest and most experienced naturalist finds something new on every trip. Such books as these will always be welcome as aids in revealing things of interest which our unseeing eyes may overlook.

The great Canadian National Parks particularly Jasper Park, Rocky Mountain Park at Banff, and Waterton Lakes Park (just north of Glacier Park above-mentioned)—are visited every year by thousands of tourists, among whom are numerous nature-lovers who would welcome nature handbooks similar to the one under review. The "Mammals and Birds of Mount Rainier National Park," which may be procured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., at 85 cents per copy, is a bargain to all Canadian students interested in the fauna of our Western mountain regions, and particularly to ornithologists and mammalogists living in British Columbia, or who hope to go there some time.—R. M. ANDERSON.

GENERAL ORNITHOLOGY LABORATORY NOTEBOOK
for the recording of observations made in the field and studies made in the laboratory on the birds of Eastern North America. By A. A. Allen, Ph.D., Professor of Ornithology; L. A. Fuertes, A.B., Lecturer in Ornithology; M. D. Pirnie, B.S., Instructor in Ornithology; Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Including: A study of the external parts of the bird used in classification. A study of feathers and feather arrangement. A study of the bird skeleton. Keys to the Orders and Families of N.A. birds, revised classification. Migration data for birds of Central New York. A roll book for recording all birds seen on trips afield. A key to the nests of birds of Eastern North America. 125 identification and life-history sheets for intensive studies of the birds of Eastern North America. Published by The Cumstock Publishing Company, of Ithaca, N.Y. Price \$4.00.

Planned for students in the Ornithological Course in Cornell University, the above title page gives a complete outline of the contents of this remarkable production but fails to offer any idea of the great practicability of method and

beauty of make-up that it presents. In librarian's parlance it is probably small quarto, pages actually $8 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, firm loose-leaf construction, of various papers each adapted to its particular use. The covers are a fine, flexible artificial leather, waterproof, substantial, agreeable to the eye and touch and amply over-size to protect the edges of a working laboratory note book. It makes a volume that will stand much hard usage but fine enough to awaken pride in appearance and to induce care in keeping it neat and presentable.

The plan of the work is such as to demand original field, laboratory and bibliographical research in well balanced proportion. Outlines of feather structure are given upon which it is required to name the parts. Forms of the bird are presented upon which the feather and plumage tracts are to be outlined and named. A bird skeleton is figured to which the names of the bones are to be supplied. One page is included for a complete and accurate description of a House Sparrow using the technical terms of the preceeding lessons and accurate colour nomenclature. A section of special quadrille ruling follows for the condensed record of field observations but the main part of the book is composed of the "identification and life history sheets", a double page being allotted to single definite species. On the left hand side are two clearly drawn base maps of North and South America for laying down summer and winter distributions and headings with blank spaces to be filled in for Name (of species) vernacular and scientific; Arrivals, spring and fall; Preferred habitat; Location (of nest); Measurements; Eggs; etc., covering a wide field of life history facts. The upper right hand corner of the right hand page is occupied by an outline drawing of the particular bird dealt with to be coloured from specimen or field observation with blank headings such as Size; Sex figured; Recognition Marks; Distinctive Habits and other points of value in identification in hand or in field. A large part of this page is blank for original remarks. The species so treated cover most of the more common birds to be met with around Ithaca, for which region the book is specially prepared. At the back are a number of pages with the species left blank which the student can dedicate to such other species as he may desire and upon which he may make such original drawings as his ability or enthusiasm permits.

For a practical plan of systematic ornithological study we have hitherto seen nothing nearly so good. The spaces to be filled are at once a reminder of gaps in knowledge and an inspiration

to fill them. They are examiners as well as directors of study and it is certain that no serious attempt can be made to complete such a book without acquiring far more than a dilettante knowledge of ornithology. After such a book has been even approximately filled it would form a bird-book unique in itself of great intrinsic and scientific value and be a pride to its maker. This volume is a standing answer to the oft-repeated question from the amateur:—"What shall I do?" The reply is,—spend four dollars for this note-book and obtain an object and method of work that will keep leisure from boredom for a life time and produce in the end results worth while.

We cannot dismiss this enticing volume, for we must admit that it is a constant temptation to us to drop everything else and pitch in with colour, pen and pencil ourselves, without a word or so on the drawings of our late friend, Louis A. Fuertes. Though just plain outlines, simplified so as to be little more than guides for applying colour, they are rich in birdy feeling and naturalness. They suggest that in these days of half-tone processes when all the world is running to cheap colour and wash reproduction, we might with advantage return in greater degree to an earlier simplicity and re-learn some of the charm of line work.—P.A.T.

A LIST OF NEW BRUNSWICK BIRDS prepared by
Wm. H. Moore, Scotch Lake, N.B. Prepared
under the auspices of the Fredericton Science
Club, March, 1928.

This is presented as a complete schedule in 44 pages of the birds of New Brunswick, Canada. The A.O.U. number is given, both scientific and vernacular names and the numerical status in the province in abbreviations. Symbols are used to show the species included in early lists of A. L. Adams in 1873 and M. Chamberlain in 1882. Other sources of information are given in a paragraph of acknowledgments to individuals and a list of eleven titles of publications. Some of these titles we have not seen before. Some species are very briefly annotated and frequently the name of the reporter is given.

Though it is an ungracious and unpleasant task to criticise adversely earnest endeavour and good intention, the more so when we have a particularly friendly leaning towards the author, it is one of the duties of a journal such as *The Naturalist* to uphold within its field standards of work that will command the respect of the scientific world. That this list has failed in this respect is regrettable and we would be remiss in our duty did we not point out some of its vital



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