

BOOK REVIEWS

Plant Life of the Pacific World. By Elmer D. Merrill, MacMillan Co., New York, 1945, pp. 295 with 256 figures. \$4.50.

This unusual book is another of the Pacific World Series prepared under the auspices of The American Committee for International Wild Life Protection. To anyone but Dr. Merrill, who for some 40 years has studied the plants of the Pacific and during his 22 years of residence in the Philippines visited all parts of that archipelago as well as the Dutch West Indies, Malaya and East and South China, the task of compressing, into a couple of hundred pages, a readable and informative account of the plant life of the vast Pacific region, would have proved formidable. But Dr. Merrill has done it, and apparently with ease; for good measure he has even managed to throw in three chapters on plant distribution, and one each on general principles of botanical classification, local plant names, botanical history and bibliography and a direction for the preparation of botanical specimens.

The book is not written for the botanical botanist, but rather for the layman who at home, exploring, or stationed somewhere in the vast Pacific region, happens to be in want of practical botanical knowledge of the edible or poisonous plants or just curious about how to know the plants inhabiting tropical beaches or jungles. The book is not only full of information of all kinds but is actually good and entertaining reading from cover to cover. Of the 40,000 or more vascular plants known from the Pacific region 250-odd species are illustrated in excellent pen-and-ink drawings. There is a systematically arranged index to the species discussed and illustrated, an alphabetical list, a glossary of botanical terms, as well as a reference list to special botanical publications on the floras of particular islands and regions. — A. E. PORSILD.

Field Book of Eastern Birds. By Hausman, Leon Augustus with 6 plates containing ninety-four birds and bird heads in full color, and over four hundred drawings by James Bates Abbott. 659 pp., size 4½ x 7 inches. S. P. Putman's Sons, New York.

This book opens with a letter to the reader briefly touching on field observation; then follow sections in which the families of birds are grouped by a combination of the habitat they frequent and their appearance; within

each group the families are briefly characterized, with a line drawing of one or more characteristic species (the same family, of necessity, may appear in more than one section).

Then follow keys to birds commonly seen, based on colour, size, shape, behaviour, and habitat.

The volume from page 61 on is devoted to the systematic section, each family introduced by a key to its members.

Each species usually has a page to itself, with a black and white line illustration at the top, then follow paragraphs on: other names; field marks; field descriptions; characteristic habits; notes; habitats and range. The colour plates are attractive, but one figure, that of the black duck's head, appears unrecognizable.

This field book is durably bound and is a handy size, as is the rest of the series. While not as useful for identification as are some of the other guides on the market, the information about each species is more extensive and handier for reference than in most such volumes. — A. L. RAND.

AMERICAN SPECIES OF AMELANCHIER.

By George Neville Jones. *Illinois Biological Monographs*. Vol. XX, No. 2, pp. 1-126, 14 maps, 23 plates, University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Ill. 1946. Paperbound \$1.50; Clothbound \$2.00.

This is a monograph of the American species of shrubs or trees belonging to genus *Amelanchier*, and commonly called shad bush, June berry, service berry or saskatoon. The genus is generally considered a difficult one and in order to identify some species it is necessary to collect specimens at various stages of development. This paper should aid considerably in clarifying our knowledge of the species.

Separate keys are presented for flowering and fruiting specimens. A total of 18 species is recognized of which 12 occur in Canada. Full descriptions are given for each species as well as detailed geographic ranges. Excellent plates illustrate the leaves of all the species and also the type specimens of most species. Canadian botanists interested in the local flora should find it most instructive to make full collections of the *Amelanchier* species of their localities and then check them with the aid of this monograph. — HAROLD A. SENN.



Senn, Harold A. 1947. "American species of Amelanchier, by George Neville Jones [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 61(2), 70–70.

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