

communications on the nesting habits of a number of species, and some discussion under 'Instinct and Nest-building' of Wallace's theory that young birds learn to make their nests because they have themselves been reared in one, the experience of various contributions being to the effect that birds in captivity nest 'true to type' when the conditions are favorable, regardless of whether reared in a typical nest of their own species or not.

The magazine is evidently an authority in its own field, and an invaluable medium of communication and bond of union between the members of the Avicultural Society, which was founded in 1894, and has shown substantial and steady growth.—J. A. A.

Seth-Smith's Handbook of Parrakeets.¹—Part VI, concluding this excellent work,¹ has been received, comprising pages 217–281, i-xx, and three colored plates, representing five species. The scope of the work, as defined by the author, is as follows: "Scientifically speaking, there is no distinction between a 'Parrot' and a 'Parrakeet,' the latter word being purely a popular term used for the smaller Parrots. It cannot be applied to any particular family, or subfamily, nor to those species with long or short tails. The gigantic Macaws are never called Parrakeets, but they are closely related to the Conures, and possess the long tails that one generally associates with Parrakeets. The title of this work, must, therefore, be interpreted in the sense in which it is generally used by aviculturists—that is, to mean the smaller Parrots, whether they possess short tails or long, whether they have ordinary or filamented tongues." The work, however, is not intended as a monograph of all the species, but only of the imported species, or those known to the author to have been imported. The number included in the present work is 131 species, of which colored figures are given of 33, and text figures of 23, mostly additional to those shown in the colored plates.

The general character of the work has already been given in our notice of Parts I–V (Auk, XX, pp. 322, 323), and we need add little more than to say that the author has provided for the large number of aviculturists and others interested in this class of popular cage birds a manual giving a large amount of interesting information concerning their habits and distribution in a wild state, their proper treatment in confinement, descriptions by which they may be easily identified, and very useful colored figures of many of them.—J. A. A.

¹ Parrakeets. | A Handbook to the Imported Species. | [Vignette] By | David Seth-Smith, M. B. O. U., F. Z. S. | With Twenty Coloured Plates and other Illustrations. | London : | R. H. Porter, | 7, Prince's Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1903. — 8vo, pp. i-xx + 1–281, with 20 colored plates and numerous text-figures.