

Mrs. Myers' 'Western Birds.'—Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers has prepared, under this title, and for the needs of the many amateur bird students of California and other western states, a book which describes the appearance, habits, etc., of some 200 species of our Pacific Coast birds, as well as a few from farther inland and some of the familiar eastern species. The preface and advertisement call them "song birds" but over a quarter of the volume treats of Cuckoos, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and other species which do not come under that category. To be more exact the scope includes everything after the Owls in the order of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' The information is presented in a clear, unassuming style and is based upon the author's personal experiences, covering many years of bird study and the most reliable books and reports dealing with the species under consideration.

As an officer of the California Audubon Society, Mrs. Myers is eminently fitted to know just what her readers desire and she seems to have made a most satisfactory selection from the published material at her disposal, while her personal observations are interesting and instructive. There are numerous half-tone illustrations from photographs by the author and others, of wild birds and nests, and a certain number of others from mounted specimens.

We regret that in a work designed as we are told, to be "so plain and simple that the most unscientific of readers may enjoy and become more familiar with our feathered wild life," it was thought necessary to drag in technical names, especially when they are so unfortunately jumbled as in the present instance. On the first page of the text the name of the order comes first, then the genus followed by the suborder, the species, the family and finally the subfamily, while for some reason the generic name in large letters is repeated before each species with the family name after it! For example "Genus Sayornis: Black Phoebe. Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*. Family—Flycatchers." Matters are still worse when the wrong names are used as "*Bombycilla*: Rough-winged Swallow" and "*Phalaenoptilus*: Hummingbirds, Goatsuckers etc." It looks as if these headings had been added after the text had been prepared, by someone unfamiliar with the use of technical names. They fortunately do not affect the value of Mrs. Myers' book and the readers who will use it will probably—and rightly—not concern themselves with the technical names at all.—W. S.

Van Oort's 'Birds of the Netherlands.'²—The last two parts of this important work consist wholly of plates. They cover mainly the

¹ Western Birds. By Harriet Williams Myers, Author of "The Birds' Convention," Vice-President of the "California Audubon Society" New York, The Macmillan Company, 1922. pp. 1-391. Price \$3.50.

² Ornithologia Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland. door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. (20 plates.) Martinus Nijhoff, 'sGravenhage. Aflevering 16 and 17, November 1922, Aflevering 18 and 19, December 29, 1922. (19 plates.)