

It is published with the idea of fixing attention on the facts about which additional information is needed to render more complete the knowledge of the birds of the region of which it treats. For this purpose it is printed on one side of the paper so that notes may be kept on the opposite pages. The annotations under each species set forth clearly and concisely the present extent of the knowledge of its occurrence at Concord, while occasionally there are delightful little sketches of some special habit or detail of observation. The closing paragraph of the note on the Bluebird is a good example of this and must appeal to all who have been afield early in November when the last Bluebirds are leaving for the south. "If any are seen about," writes the author, "in the autumnal migration, they are likely to be a flock of four to eight birds clustering in apple trees by a farm house. November 4 is my latest date. Their call note is appropriate to the departing summer, as heard from the sky in the fall of the year from those bound away, for it has a melancholy tinge—"Farewell....farewell."

There is a brief introduction, a list of the works dealing with the local birds, a map, an enumeration of species according to time and character of occurrence and an index, while the nomenclature wisely adheres to the A. O. U. 'Check-List.'

The great charm of Mr. White's admirable little volume however is the care that he has exercised in its preparation and the beauty and clearness of his English both especially noticeable in an age when composition and literary style are so often ignored in the haste to get some observation into print.—W. S.

**Arnold's 'British Waders.'**—This handsome work consists of a series of fifty-one colored plates representing the shore-birds of England with a short account of each. The author is primarily an artist and he "presents these studies to his brother naturalists as a home reminder of the delights of the mudflat and the marsh," for as he says further "The Waders have such an attraction for most people and can be seen by so few." This latter fact is particularly true of American bird students, only a small proportion of whom have any opportunity to study "water birds" except for the Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer and Green Heron, and while Mr. Arnold's attractive shore-bird portraits will be a delight both to those who are already familiar with the subjects and those who desire to make their acquaintance; they will likewise interest American as well as British students, since a number of American species are included, being either identical with those on the other side of the water or stragglers to that distant shore.

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F. B. White, Member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Concord, The Rumford Press, 1924, pp. 1-153, with a map. For sale by E. C. Eastman Co., No. 120 North Main Street, Concord, N. H. Price One dollar.

<sup>1</sup> British Waders Illustrated in Water-Colour with Descriptive Notes. By E. C. Arnold, Cambridge. At the University Press. MCMXXIV. pp. i-vii, 1-102 ppl. 1-51. Price £3, 10s.

Mr. Arnold tells us that his plates are memory drawings of birds that he has actually seen, often based on hasty sketches made on the spot, and calls attention in his preface to the fact that most mounted waders have long graceful necks whereas those he has studied in life rarely exhibit the neck outstretched. He also finds in his experience that the heads of the shore-birds are more triangular than round, the feathers of the crown being slightly elevated throwing them out towards the bill and giving the effect of a long sloping forehead. This is true in many cases but is perhaps carried to an extreme in his paintings and may be characteristic of certain positions or activities of the birds, rather than an ever present character.

It is interesting to note that in almost every case the artist has depicted the bird at rest and we cannot help but feel that he has lost an opportunity to put more life into some of his figures and to break the somewhat monotonous similarity of pose. Some of the running shore-birds drawn by Fuertes for example, are exceedingly graceful and attractive.

Mr. Arnold's paintings possess a peculiarly delicate character, almost Japanese in many respects, and the pale tints of the sky, the sea and the sand dunes make an effective background for his birds. The coloring of the plumage is usually very good indeed, and the reproduction of the plates admirable.

While the text is usually drawn from the author's experience there are rather extended notes on the American species contributed by Prof. Wm. Rowan of the University of Alberta.

All lovers of the shore-birds will wish to have this work which will, we feel sure, realize the author's hope that it will arouse recollections of the pleasures experienced in the haunts of these delicate creatures.—W. S.

**Califf's 'Permanent Bird Homes.'**—While there have been various bulletins issued by State or national conservation bodies dealing with bird houses there has always seemed to be a need for something a little more comprehensive and this has now been provided most satisfactorily in Mr. Califf's little volume.<sup>1</sup>

He is a manual training instructor and, as he tells us, when boys began to build bird boxes in response to the urge of the Audubon Societies every teacher of manual training was soon besieged with requests for designs. He therefore designed boxes of various styles which would not only serve the purposes of manual training instruction but would also serve the purposes of the birds.

These he has now embodied in book form with detailed working plans, photographs of the completed boxes and valuable instructions, describing the essentials of bird houses and pointing out the usual faults in their construction, both from the viewpoint of the builder and the bird. The

<sup>1</sup> Permanent Bird Houses. By Gladstone Califf, Superintendent of Schools and Manual Training Instructor, Richland, Iowa. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1924. pp. 1-64. Price \$1.00.