

**Wyman and Burnell's 'Field Book of Birds of the Southwestern U. S.'**—The object of this little book<sup>1</sup> is to facilitate the identification of birds in the field and it is admirably adapted to its purpose. The authors are peculiarly qualified for the work they have undertaken, Mr. Wyman being ornithologist at the Los Angeles Museum and Miss Burnell assistant supervisor of nature study in the Los Angeles schools, forming a combination of knowledge and experience which was bound to attain the best results.

The plan of the book could not well be improved upon. The species are arranged in the order of the A. O. U. 'Check List' and the nomenclature of that work is adopted in all but a very few cases; three or four species are arranged on a page and the information runs across on the right hand page as well. On the left is the name of the bird, the length and a very concise description, emphasizing the characters most noticeable in the field, including seasonal or sexual plumages where necessary; opposite is a little pen drawing of the bird, its head, wing or tail as may best illustrate it, with a little outline map of North America or the southwest with the distribution of the species shaded in. Alongside this is a paragraph on the character of its occurrence in southern California and Arizona, with sometimes a word or two on habits. There is an introduction containing valuable hints to field observers and beginners, a well presented account of life zones and a glossary, while at the end of the volume is an appendix covering the rare and unusual birds of the district whose inclusion in the body of the work would only tend to confuse the reader, and some field color keys for various groups, also a condensed list of all the species with the status of each, and a list of reference books. A colored frontispiece depicts the Arizona Hooded Oriole, reproduced from a painting by Allan Brooks.

Too often such books as this are arranged wholly by the nature teacher who aims only at identification, and groups the birds by color or some other unnatural criterion; or perhaps wholly by the ornithologist who possibly cannot help being too technical for the beginner. Here, however, we have a most happy combination, accuracy of statement and arrangement and simplicity of treatment. It is difficult to imagine a student who is really interested in the subject who could not make most gratifying use of this little book, and we congratulate the authors on producing what we regard as one of the best bird guides yet published. The numbers of those interested in the ornithology of the southwest should increase enormously in the near future with a guide book such as this, and many a competent member of the Cooper Club should be developed, while eastern visitors to southern California will find it just what they need to identify the birds that they will find there.—W. S.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Field Book of the Birds of the Southwestern United States.* By Luther E. Wyman, M. S. and Elizabeth F. Burnell, M.A., with many illustrations. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1925 [Size 7½ × 5 ins.] pp. i-xxv + 1-308. Price \$3.50.