

RECENT LITERATURE.

Another Edition of Beebe's 'Pheasants.' The original edition of William Beebe's 'Monograph of the Pheasants' was limited to 600 copies and as these approached exhaustion Col. Anthony R. Kuser, to whose generosity the publication was largely due, decided to bring out another smaller edition which would maintain the main features of the original work and yet, with a reasonable reduction in illustration, could be placed within the reach of many who were unable to purchase the larger, more expensive volumes.

This has been admirably accomplished in the two volumes¹ before us which preserve all the text except certain technical portions and most of the plates, although it has been possible to present only 31 of them in color, and also a few of the photographs of habitats.

The text has been rewritten in some places and additional matter, acquired since the appearance of the original edition, has been added. Everything essential to the life histories of these interesting birds has therefore been presented in the present work. The text is beautifully printed on heavy paper, while the reproduction of the colored plates by a quadricolor process is exceedingly accurate and the results very pleasing.

Both Mr. Beebe and Mr. Kuser are to be congratulated upon this admirable publication which will make the natural history of the Pheasants familiar to a far greater number of persons than could be reached by the original edition and many will be led to consult the original volumes which, as Dr. Osborne states in his preface, can now be seen in most of the large libraries, museums and universities of the country.—W. S.

Danforth's 'Birds of Cartagena Lagoon, Porto Rico.'²—The present contribution seems to be the first in which modern methods of ecological investigation have been applied to a limited area in the West Indies, and the avifauna studied carefully in its relation to definitely restricted associations of plant life and other factors. The author has selected Cartagena Lagoon in the coastal plain of southwestern Porto Rico, near the town of Lajas, as typical of the lagoon areas of the island, and has studied its life over a space of twenty months. During this period 105 forms of birds were recorded from this limited area, a remarkable list when

¹ Pheasants their Lives and Homes. By William Beebe. In two volumes. Published under the auspices of the New York Zoological Society by Doubleday, Page & Company, Garden City, New York. 1926. Volume I, pp. i-xxiv + 1-257, pls. I-XXXIV (15 in color, 11 plain and 8 from photographs), one map. Volume II, pp. i-xv + 1-309, pls. XXXV-LXIV (16 in color, 6 plain, and 8 from photographs). Price of the two volumes. \$15.00.

² Birds of the Cartagena Lagoon, Porto Rico. By Stuart T. Danforth. Journ. Dept. Agric. Porto Rico, vol. X, no. 1, Jan., 1926, pp. i-x, 1-136, 1 map, 45 figs., published Dec., 1926.