

the page facing the text and accurate enough in color, form and size to avoid the need for long descriptions; and thirdly, all the birds, for better comparison, shewn in more or less the same position."

He has succeeded admirably in the rather difficult task that he set himself, and manages to include notes on distribution, nest, song, food, plumages, flight, gait and manners in the page or half page devoted to each species. A novel simplification in the scientific names is the use of square and cube signs where a name is repeated or tripled as for instance *Troglodytes*<sup>3</sup> in place of *Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes* for the Wren. The colored figures are made by a new process, printed on the ordinary text paper, and, while somewhat vivid in certain cases, give a sufficiently accurate idea of the coloration to make descriptions unnecessary. The drawings are often crude but the author's plan is to present a "map" of the bird rather than a work of art.

These pocket keys are of the greatest value in helping the beginner to a knowledge of birds and this is one of the best that we have seen. Reed's 'Bird Guides' for American birds have filled the same field in this country but Mr. Sandars has given the matter more thought and has included a greater amount of data in his text.—W. S.

**Fifty Winter Birds of the Northeastern United States.** Colored pictures of our birds are always a desideratum. Fifty years ago it was possible to purchase such pictures of British birds published, as we recall it, by Marcus Ward Co., of London. Many a boy in those days longed for a similar set of cards of our native birds, a want that at a much later day was met in part by the colored pictures of stuffed birds published under the title "Birds," by the Nature Publication Co. of Chicago, and by small cards distributed as cigarette advertisements, while still later came the admirable leaflets of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Now this Society has issued a set of fifty cards<sup>1</sup> exactly on the plan of the Marcus Ward cards but much superior, the pictures being reproductions of paintings by Allan Brooks with a short account of the habits and distribution of each species on the reverse side of the card.

The set covers the winter birds of the northeastern states and the species selected are in the main excellent, although the Mockingbird and Red-bellied Woodpecker and perhaps the Cardinal, Carolina Wren and Tufted Tit, belong rather to the country south of the "Northeastern states," though it all depends upon where one draws the line; while the Siskin, Dove and Marsh Hawk might well have been included. The only serious criticism that can well be made is the inclusion of the Goldfinch in full summer plumage as a winter resident, with no mention of the somber garb that it assumes at this season of the year.

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<sup>1</sup> 50 Winter Birds of the Northeastern United States from Color Drawings by Allan Brooks. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies. 1974 Broadway, New York City. Sold in Sets. Price \$1.00.

These cards will prove of the utmost educational value and will interest children throughout the country and turn their attention more firmly to bird study and protection. We are glad to learn that sets covering the early and late spring migrants are in preparation and trust that others on the summer residents and on the birds of the South and West will follow. Some cards will of necessity appear in two or more sets and some readjustments on the lines above suggested could then be made. The Society is to be congratulated upon this admirable publication.—W. S.

**Hales' 'Prairie Birds.'** This is another of the popular bird books designed to help the beginner, the teacher, and the amateur student to identify their birds, and is especially designed to cover the birds of the interior prairie country, as the author considers that the student is confused by the inclusion of species which do not occur in his district.

The little volume<sup>1</sup> will, we feel sure, fulfill its object as it presents satisfactory descriptions and brief sketches of the habits of the birds of the Middle West while the numerous cuts from 'Citizen Bird,' 'The Osprey,' and other works, will aid in identification, although the few color plates are very poorly printed. We regret that the author did not include more color keys such as has been presented for the adult males of the Finches. The Shore-birds and Warblers, especially, might with advantage have received similar treatment.

Prof. Hales apparently does not believe in trinomials and has cut off the third name in most cases although curiously enough he has retained it in cases where European subspecies are involved as in *Certhia familiaris americana* and *Pica pica hudsonia*. Notes are to be found throughout the text referring to the occurrence of various birds in Manitoba and Alberta which give to the work a local flavor.—W. S.

**Metcalf's 'Wandering Among Forgotten Isles.'** This delightful narrative<sup>2</sup> describes a cruise by the author and some congenial friends through the waters of the western Mediterranean Sea and to the Canaries, Madeira and the Salvages. Incidentally many marine specimens were collected for the American Museum of Natural History—fish, seals, petrels, etc., and a chapter by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, who was one of the party, summarizes the scientific results of the cruise.

To the ornithologist the most interesting chapter is one describing the rearing of a young Petrel (*Oestralata mollis faae*) which was fed by one of the ladies on raw fish which she masticated and fed to the bird by allowing it to insert its slender bill between her lips. In this way the bird was kept

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<sup>1</sup> *Prairie Birds*. By B. J. Hales, B.A., LL.B., Principal Normal School, Brandon, Manitoba. Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, at St. Martin's House. 1927, pp. i-xv+1-334.

<sup>2</sup> *Wandering Among Forgotten Isles*. By Jesse Metcalf. With a Chapter on the Scientific Results of the Cruise by Robert Cushman Murphy, D.Sc. Illustrated. J. H. Sears & Company, Inc., Publishers. New York [1927], pp. 1-306. Price \$3.50.