

birds, his paintings are a great improvement on most of the available illustrations of Indian birds which have been, in almost every case, drawn from skins. The coloring is accurate and well reproduced.

American ornithologists will be interested to read the acknowledgments to that patron of ornithology, Dr. Casey A. Wood, who "not only used his good offices with the Governor and Colonial Secretary in urging the importance of publishing this work but made himself responsible for the cost of the original paintings."

The Ceylon Government is to be congratulated upon the production of such a work and those interested in fine illustrations will find in this series admirable portraits of many birds hitherto figured but poorly if at all.

As the plates are not being issued in systematic sequence, they have not been numbered nor are the pages of description numbered, the object being that they may be rebound as the owner may desire. A list of species figured accompanies each part.—W. S.

**Wetmore's 'The Birds of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands.'**—Dr. Wetmore spent nearly a year (December, 1911, to September, 1912) in Porto Rico and the off-lying islands and in 1916 published a report on the birds (Bulletin 326, U. S. Department of Agriculture). It has always been a matter of regret to ornithologists that this pamphlet was, of necessity, limited mainly to the economy of the species.

Fortunately arrangements were made later on for him to prepare the report on the birds of the island for the comprehensive scientific survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands undertaken by the New York Academy of Science<sup>1</sup> and the two parts of Volume IX covering the birds are now before us. In them Dr. Wetmore has included not only his own field observations but extracts from all published material dealing with the birds of the island, down to the close of the year 1926, so that we have a thoroughly up to date report on the avifauna of Porto Rico, including the outlying islands eastward to Anagada as well as St. Croix, Mona and Desecheo.

There is an excellent map and an introduction covers the physiography, the author's itinerary, an historical account of ornithological research in Porto Rico and a discussion of the avifauna. From the last we learn that 188 species have been definitely found to occur on the islands while 18 others have been recorded on insufficient evidence. No less than 61 forms are migrants from North America, some being abundant in winter, others rare or casual. There are only 26 endemic species, five of which

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<sup>1</sup>Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Vol. IX Part 3. The Birds of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Colymbiformes to Columbigiformes—Alexander Wetmore. New York Academy of Sciences. New York: Published by the Academy, 1927, pp. 243-406, pls. LV-LXI.

Part 4. Psittaciformes to Passeriformes. pp. 407-598, pls. LXII-LXV. Price \$2.00 per part.

are known only from bones in cave deposits or kitchen middens while six others are peculiar to one or more of the smaller outlying islands. Five species have been introduced—the Southern Turkey Vulture, Cuban Bob-white, Guinea Hen and two Weaver Finches.

A number of excellent half-tones show typical habitats and five others are from paintings of Porto Rico birds by the late Louis Agassiz Fuytes reproduced from the previous paper by Dr. Wetmore.

All in all this is an exceedingly well prepared and valuable report and constitutes another work of reference on the bird life of the West Indies. When one compares these modern monographs with the works of Cory he is amazed at the amount of information and the number of new forms that have been obtained in a comparatively few years.—W. S.

**Taylor and Shaw on the Mammals and Birds of Mount Rainier National Park.**—This excellent report<sup>1</sup> based mainly upon a survey made in 1919, under the auspices of the National Park Service, the U. S. Biological Survey and the State of Washington, furnishes the naturalist or the visitor to Mt. Rainier Park, with an adequate and thoroughly reliable introduction to the birds and mammals.

The physiography, life-zones and habitats are discussed in the introduction, following which is a systematic account of the various species to be found within the park limits, the information being arranged under the headings: Description, Identification, Occurrence, and Habits. There are 109 excellent half-tone illustrations from photographs by the Finleys, W. T. Shaw, J. B. Flett and others, 13 presenting characteristic views of scenery, while fifty are devoted to mammals and the rest to birds or bird habitats.

We trust that in time adequate handbooks of the natural history of all of our National Parks will be published by the Government and that, as in the present instance, the forces of the Biological Survey and other reliable authorities will be enlisted in their preparation, and that they be not entrusted to enthusiastic but unqualified persons as has sometimes been done.

There is an adequate index to the present report, and a good map, but it seems a shame that such an attractive and well printed work could not have been properly bound instead of being held together by two great metal staples driven through it from side to side so that it cannot be opened flat at any page. It is foolish to bind a book of 250 pages in such a way, a fact that the managers of the Government Printing Office must surely know.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> Mammals and Birds of Mount Rainier National Park by Walter P. Taylor, Biologist, Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and William T. Shaw, formerly Professor of Zoology, State College of Washington. With Illustrations by William L. Finley, Irene Finley, William T. Shaw, J. B. Flett and others. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. United States Government Printing Office, Washington 1927, pp. 1-249, figs. 1-109 and map. Price 85 cents (from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office.)