

for instance, is described as "just like a dahky. He aint got he min' on livin' atall. He all de time studyin' bout dyin' * * * let a huhse go by an a dahky'll lean on de hoe an' watch it as fuh as he kin see it, axin' 'Who dat daid?' Dat 's de way 'tis wid dat crane, but he not only fin' out who's daid, but he know who's gwine die, an' if he fly ovah de roof of yuh house, sayin, 'Cawpse, cawpse-cawpse' he done prophesy."

Some of the best of the Audubon Society's colored bird pictures are used in illustration and there are some black and white drawings depicting negro scenes, in the main, but most unfortunate where the artist attempts to sketch birds, especially where the Pheasant (Ruffed Grouse) "thumpin' a log wid he wings" is depicted as the long tailed English Pheasant!

Mr. Thompson's excellent book should have a wide sale. It is not only interesting reading but educational as well and should do much good in spreading an interest in birds and their protection.—W. S.

Loveridge on Vertebrates of the Smithsonian-Chrysler African Expedition.—Mr. Arthur Loveridge, a member of the recent Smithsonian-Chrysler expedition to East Africa, under the leadership of Dr. W. M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park, presents in this paper¹ his notes on the vertebrates obtained or observed.

The expedition, whose object was primarily the acquisition of live animals, landed at Dar es Salaam, in Tanganyika Territory, on May 6, 1926, and left for home on September 9, making its headquarters at Dodoma, midway between the coast and Lake Tanganyika.

Mr. Loveridge has had previous experience in Tanganyika which renders his observations of the fauna all the more valuable. He presents an itinerary of the expedition with some account of the several native tribes with which the party came in contact and likewise a discussion of their influence on the decrease of the game animals. They are, he tells us, more of poachers than hunters, and catch their game with deadfalls and snares. They also catch the recently born young of many of the smaller antelopes. While there is no justification in their killing of wild game since they have plenty of available meat in their own herds, the same argument applies equally to the European sportsman.

The main text of Mr. Loveridge's paper is devoted to accounts of the captive individuals of the various species which the expedition secured and their habits and character in confinement as well as the methods of feeding them and the most desirable food.

The report will prove of the utmost value to the keepers of animals in zoological gardens showing as it does which species are most satisfactory for captivity and what food proves most acceptable, but it has also great value as a contribution to the life histories of East African animals.

The bird portion contains notes of eighty-six species. Emin Pasha's

¹Field Notes on Vertebrates Collected by the Smithsonian-Chrysler East African Expedition of 1926. By Arthur Loveridge. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 73, Art. 17, pp. 1-69, pls. 1-4. 1928.

Barbet we are told nests in burrows with a vertical shaft and the natives secure them by pouring water in the holes and drowning them out. Speaking of the birds of the vicinity of Bahi in May, Mr. Loveridge says: "familiar as I have been with large numbers of water fowl on East African lakes I have never seen anything quite so staggering as the flocks which were encountered here. I approached within a hundred yards of a flock of Pelican numbering between two and three thousand. Palm trees in the distance were white with wood Ibis and smaller flocks of sacred and glossy Ibis, open-bill and Spoon-bill were put up." No nests were to be found in the immediate neighborhood as the provincial commissioner was reported to have ordered all nests destroyed as the presence of the birds interfered with the local industry in dried catfish. So even in such remote localities does wild life have to give way before the commercial pursuits of man!

A number of interesting photographs taken on the expedition are presented as illustrations.—W. S.

Bergtold's 'Guide to Colorado Birds.'¹—The stated object of this little book is to answer questions regarding Colorado birds and to "help beginners and the uninitiated to make a good start in Colorado Ornithology."

The method employed is to present a systematic list of the birds of the state with brief descriptions and measurements of all but those of unusual occurrence, while numerous keys of purely artificial arrangement and based upon obvious color or structural characters are presented to aid the student to trace out the name of any bird that he may come across. Special attention is given to the Ducks and tables of characters are drawn up to further facilitate their identification, so also in the case of the Hawks, Sparrows, and other groups, additional groupings of the species emphasize other striking characters which may aid in naming them.

A table of spring migration dates for Fort Lyons, Denver, Loveland, Idaho Springs and Fruita is presented, those from the second locality from the author's records the others from other sources, while there is a bibliography of articles and books relating to Colorado birds; published since 1909.

Dr. Bergtold has certainly presented a vast amount of information which cannot help but be of assistance to the beginner in Colorado ornithology while those desiring the detailed records of rarities etc., will naturally turn to the works of Cooke and Selater, as it is useless to complicate an elementary work with republication of such data.

It is difficult to judge of the merits of artificial keys as their utility can only be determined by usage. Personally we feel that the divisions of a key should be exclusive, that is to say, there should be only two alterna-

¹ A Guide to Colorado Birds. By William Harry Bergtold. Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union. [No place, no date = Smith-Brooks, P. O. Box 540, Denver, Colo. August 10, 1928], pp. 1-207. Price \$2.25.