

a satisfactory explanation for the production of such a sense he is at present unable to suggest what force may have produced it.

Mr. Saunders discusses mimicry as a possible method by which birds may have improved their songs and seems to give considerable credence to Scott's claim that young birds learn their songs by mimicry. Since, however, he shows that song usually ceases with the hatching of the young it seems hardly likely that the young birds can hear their own parents sing and if they learned song through mimicry it would most likely be the song of some other species, which sang later in the season. We are not at all inclined to give to Scott's experiments the support that some have given them, especially since others have had exactly opposite results in the same sort of experiments. Also, in discussing the esthetic sense and the "ideal" toward which bird song is supposed to be tending, should we not give more attention to the question whether our human ideal is the same as that of the bird or whether the bird songs that rank highest in our musical estimation have any such position in the bird world?

Mr. Saunders' methods of recording song are of the utmost importance and should be studied by all interested in the subject. Only lack of space prevents us from taking this matter up in the detail which it deserves.

We must congratulate Mr. Saunders upon a most important contribution to this branch of ornithological literature, especially valuable since there are but few who are equipped to discuss the subject with anything like authority.—W. S.

Mackay's Shooting Journal.—Mr. George H. Mackay, veteran sportsman and ornithologist of Nantucket and Boston, has done a very fine thing in keeping an accurate journal of his gunning trips with a list of birds shot during a period of nearly fifty years (1865–1922), and his friend, Dr. John C. Phillips, an equally fine thing in having it printed in a limited private edition¹ for the pleasure and profit of other sportsmen and naturalists.

Mr. Mackay, like Dr. Phillips, is not only a real sportsman but a conservationist, and his labors in behalf of better bird and game protection are well known, while his numerous contributions to ornithology have appeared in the pages of 'The Auk' for the past twenty-six years. His careful accounts of the game birds of the Massachusetts coast and a few other localities, as presented in his journal, furnish us with a most valuable record of what used to be, when Golden Plover and Eskimo Curlew were common species on these shores.

Would that those who have in their possession such journals, kept either by themselves or their parents, would follow Dr. Phillips' example

¹ Shooting Journal of George Henry Mackay 1865–1922. Three hundred copies privately printed for John C. Phillips. By the Cosmos Press Inc., Cambridge, Mass. 1929. pp. 1–373, frontispiece portrait.

and put them on permanent record before the fragile manuscripts are lost forever. And would that our present day sportsmen would take the time to keep such records for the benefit of posterity.—W. S.

Bent's Life Histories of North American Shore Birds.—We have before us Mr. Bent's eighth volume¹ of his "life histories," completing the Shore Birds, and would congratulate him upon the splendid progress that he is making with this great undertaking.

Many familiar species are treated in the present volume including the Willet, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Curlew, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer and Turnstone. As heretofore the author has had the hearty coöperation of a host of students of the breeding habits of birds, as well as of photographers, so that the high standard of both text and illustrations is amply maintained, while Mr. F. C. Lincoln has again, on behalf of the Biological Survey, compiled the distributions of the species from the Survey records. Several special life histories have been contributed by Dr. Charles W. Townsend, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain and Dr. Winsor M. Tyler.

In turning the pages of Mr. Bent's work we must again express our amazement at the vast amount of information that he has been able to collect and the admirable manner in which it has been presented. All ornithologists are indeed deeply indebted to him for his devoted labors in their behalf.—W. S.

Audubon Bird Cards.—We are pleased to see another set of "bird cards" issued by the National Association of Audubon Societies, from paintings by Allan Brooks. This set² is entitled "50 Summer Birds of Eastern North America" and contains an excellent collection, without of course duplicating those in previous issues.

The artist, in the great majority of cases, has been most successful in his poses, and the color reproduction is excellent with the exception of the Least Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Catbird which are entirely too dark. The text is helpful and instructive.

The value of these bird cards cannot be overestimated; not only will they prove indispensable to schools and children but every lover of birds will wish to have a set for handy reference in his ornithological library.—W. S.

Hellmayr on the Ornithology of Northeastern Brazil.—When Dr. Hellmayr came to Chicago to assume the continuation of Cory's

¹ Life Histories of North American Shore Birds, Order Limicolae (Part 2). By Arthur Cleveland Bent of Taunton, Massachusetts. U. S. National Museum Bulletin 146. Washington, 1929. pp. i-ix + 1-412 (63 of the 66 plates are included in the pagination but plates 1 to 3 are not). Price \$1.00; to be had from the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

² Audubon Bird Cards, Set No. 3. 50 Summer Birds of Eastern North America. From Color Drawings by Allan Brooks. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, N. Y. City. Sold in Sets. Price \$1.00.