

that in Cameroon alone there are upward of 670 which gives some idea of the richness of the fauna although according to the author it becomes richer as we proceed eastward, the bird population having apparently progressed from the east westward and he calls attention to the much poorer fauna of the extreme western part of West Africa.

All workers on African birds owe Mr. Bates a debt of gratitude for this excellent handbook which will prove of the greatest assistance in pursuing the study of the avifauna of this historic region.—W. S.

**Priest's Guide to the Birds of Southern Rhodesia.**—This little volume<sup>1</sup> published by the Government of the Colony of Southern Rhodesia is intended to stimulate interest in the study and protection of the birds of the country, especially among the children, and if generally distributed among the schools, as apparently intended, it will undoubtedly go far toward arousing such an interest.

The brief accounts of the species usually contain the most striking color features of the birds, while the general paragraph at the head of each group of allied species presents some of their habits. Unfortunately the method of description is not uniform and different terms are used in different descriptions which will confuse the young reader—i. e. sometimes the "feet" are described sometimes the "extremities" etc. The alphabetical method of arranging the birds is bad as it gives the reader no idea of relationship which he would unconsciously acquire if a systematic sequence were adopted. We find the Hobby Falcon under "F" while the Cuckoo Falcon is under "C" which breaks down even the alphabetical arrangement, while the Robin appears under "C" because it is treated in the "Chat" group. There would have been no need, moreover, for the long systematic list of names at the end if a systematic sequence had been adopted throughout.

The illustrations consist of fourteen colored plates from paintings by Mrs. I. Mount, which are sometimes too obviously from poorly mounted birds, and a number of crude outline drawings.

The object of this publication is most praiseworthy and it is regrettable, with so many popular bird books designed to attract the attention and interest of children and beginners, and based upon study and experience as to the best way to accomplish this end, that advantage was not taken of them as models in preparing this book and the value and power of a worthy publication thereby vastly increased.—W. S.

**Saunders' 'Summer Birds of the Northern Adirondacks.'**—It is fitting that a list of Adirondack birds should be published in the 'Roosevelt

<sup>1</sup> A Guide to the Birds of Southern Rhodesia and a Record of their Nesting Habits. By Captain Cecil D. Priest [etc. etc.]. With 14 Coloured and 112 Black and White Illustrations. London: William Clowes & Sons Ltd. Duke Street, Stamford Street, S. E. 1, by arrangement with the High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia, Crown House, Aldwych, W. C. 2. 1929. pp. 1-xix + 1-233. Price 17 shillings. Herald Book store, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.