

important contribution in its field for many years to come and should be invaluable as a work of reference in every comprehensive library devoted to ornithology.

The labor involved in the preparation of this volume can be realized only by first hand examination since in this way alone can one appreciate the detail in which many sections are covered and wealth of information that is included. The subject of fossil birds long has been one of considerable difficulty due in large part to the scattered literature of the subject. With Lambrecht's comprehensive work these difficulties largely disappear so that for the first time this section of our science is placed on a definite footing that allows a comprehensive insight into the subject on a world wide basis. Future investigations will build on this volume as on a foundation for further advance in the field concerned.—A. W.

**Priest's 'Birds of Southern Rhodesia.'**—We had occasion to review Capt. Priest's earlier 'Guide to the Birds of Southern Rhodesia' in 'The Auk' for 1930. Our author has now presented the first volume of a much more pretentious work<sup>1</sup> on the same subject, his object being "to redeem the errors of my previous book, and to give the public a more accurate knowledge" of the subject.

Nomenclature, the physical features of the country, faunal distribution, etc., are treated in the introduction to which are added a glossary and details as to measurements, and an explanation of the keys for identification.

The text under each species is divided into "distribution," "habits and general notes," and "description," and in addition to his own notes and observations the author has quoted freely from a number of standard works on African birds and from certain general works, thus providing the reader with a large amount of valuable and instructive information. Keys to the genera and species furnish an easy way to identify any specimen that may come to hand, while striking field characters are mentioned.

There is a good colored map of the country, ten colored plates of birds, and 120 text figures, apparently from pencil drawings. While these are sufficiently large and detailed to give one an idea of posture and style of coloration, and are thus a distinct aid to identification, they are decidedly crude as compared with most ornithological illustrations of today.

Capt. Priest has we think produced a book that cannot but arouse interest in the birds of Rhodesia and is calculated to develop a number of ornithologists in the coming generation, while it will furnish a reliable list of the avifauna of a country about which we have all too little ornithological literature.

The author's accounts of his personal experiences with various species make interesting reading. We learn about the little *Nettapus*, the so-

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Southern Rhodesia | By | Captain Cecil D. Priest | [etc. etc.] | Map and Ten Coloured Plates | One hundred and Twenty Illustrations | Volume One | Printed by | William Clowes and Sons, Limited | London and Beccles | Obtainable from them at 94, Jermyn Street, London, S. W. 1, or from | The "Herald" Book Store, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. | 1933. Pp. i-xxxii + 1-454.

called Pygmy Goose, that it is found on fair sized expanses of water which are well overgrown with water lillies and when alarmed it dives at once reappearing at a considerable distance, its varied plumage harmonizing with the leaves and flowers so that it is not easy to see after having done its "vanishing trick."

Of Shelley's Francolin we learn that its call is heard about the houses almost every day in the year, a loud whistle that sounds like "I'll drink yer beer," repeated at least three times. So here, as in almost every country, we find birds with calls that at once seem like words or phrases and which are not infrequently adopted as the vernacular names of the species.

This volume covers the Ostriches, Penguins, Grebes, Petrels, Herons, Ducks, Hawks and Game Birds, and we shall look with interest for its successor, which is expected to appear early in March, 1934.—W. S.

**La Touche's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.'**—The latest part of this standard work,<sup>1</sup> rapidly approaching completion, is entirely devoted to the water birds from the Shore-birds to the Ducks. It fully maintains the high standard of the preceding parts and carries two halftone illustrations. We note that no less than 720 species have been described and discussed in the work up to and including this number.—W. S.

**Lynes on the Birds of the Ubena-Uhehe Highlands and the Iringa Uplands.**—In this paper<sup>2</sup> are presented the results of an expedition to southern Tanganyika Territory undertaken in 1930-31 by Admiral Lynes and Mr. Willoughby Lowe. There is a very fully annotated list of 324 species, collected or observed, in which will be found a wealth of data on molt, distribution, nesting, habits etc., with marginal symbols to indicate the relation of the distribution of each species to the discussion on faunal relationships which forms the preceding portion of the report.

Admiral Lynes' conclusions on this problem, after an intimate study of the country and of his collections, is that the avifaunae of what he terms the highlands, lying above the 1900 meter contour line, and the upland lying below this level, are so strikingly different that their differences cannot be explained by altitude nor by environment, and that they are in fact as different as are those of parts of Africa which are considered as constituting different avifaunal subdivisions. In other words it is suggested that differences in the two regions under discussion are due mainly to some much less obvious cause, doubtless originating from conditions in the remote past.

There are many illustrations of the country from photographs and an account of the itinerary of the party and of the climate and physical features of the regions traversed.

<sup>1</sup> A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China. By J. D. D. La Touche, Vol. II, Part V. Pp. 401-496, January, 1934. Price 7s. 6d. net, per part. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of the Ubena-Uhehe Highlands and Iringa Uplands. Contribution to the Ornithology of southern Tanganyika Territory. Jour. f. Ornith. Vol. 82, 1934, Sonderheft. Pp. 1-147, pl. 15. February 20, 1934.