

is allowed. What will astonish those not in touch with African wild life protection is that there are no less than 148 of these reservations. A few of them are as small as 300 square miles; most of them 50,000 to 100,000 square miles while some reach an area of 600,000 and 800,000 square miles.

This convention has done splendid work and the American Committee deserves credit for presenting the results in such an impressive style. There is a map showing the location of the reserves and pictures of the protected species from drawings by Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., together with a foreword by John C. Phillips, Chairman of the American Committee, who attended the convention as an "observer."—W. S.

**Mrs. Dickey's 'Familiar Birds of the Pacific Southwest.'**—This attractive little book<sup>1</sup> is designed wholly for the beginner in bird study and those who are only casually interested in birds but who desire to name such as they see in the easiest way, and in her effort to meet this demand the author has been eminently successful.

Only the more familiar species are included and subspecies, if mentioned at all, are referred to incidentally as geographic races while technical nomenclature is conspicuous by its absence, except for a list of the birds treated at the end of the volume where both English and scientific names are given according to the latest A. O. U. 'Check-List'. The author thus avoids the error of trying to combine two methods of treatment in a single work.

At the beginning we have a key based on size and color. The birds are first divided into land and water species and each subdivided according to size: that of a Gull, Dove, Blackbird, Sparrow or Wren, and under each of these are color divisions such as "white," "gray and white" "black," etc. with mention of one or two outstanding characters which lead us to the species.

Following the key are fuller descriptions of the field marks of each bird with a paragraph on habits, etc. chosen with regard for the needs of those for whom the book is intended.

The illustrations are from photographs mainly by the late Donald R. Dickey, husband of the author, whose remarkable skill as a bird photographer is well known. These have been colored by Mrs. Lena Scott Harris and reproduced by the three-color process.

Mrs. Dickey's little book, bound in flexible covers, and adaptable to the pocket should prove a great boon to the nature lover who desires to name the birds he sees in southern California, be he a resident or a visitor from the East, and should stimulate him in following up his study in the several standard works on the subject which are listed by Dr. Casey A. Wood in his brief Introduction.—W. S.

**Stuart Baker's 'Nidification of the Birds of the Indian Empire.'**—The fourth and concluding volume<sup>2</sup> of this outstanding work is before us, uniform in every respect with its predecessors. Beginning with the birds of prey it covers the Doves, Sandgrouse, Gallinaceous birds and the several families of "water birds." The accounts of the nesting of the various species are of great interest, especially in the case of birds peculiar to the Indian region and quite unknown to American bird students. The curious Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) found only on the shores of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean excavates a long tunnel under the sand-matted surface of

<sup>1</sup> Familiar Birds of the Pacific Southwest with Size and Color Key. By Florence Van Vechten Dickey. Illustrated with 102 full color reproductions from photographs chiefly by Donald R. Dickey. Stanford University Press, Stanford University, California. Pp. i-iviii + 1-241. Price \$3.75.

<sup>2</sup> The Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire. By E. C. Stuart Baker, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.Z.S., etc. Volume IV Pandionidae—Podicepsidae with seven plates, London, Taylor and Francis. Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E. C. 4. 20th June, 1935. Pp. i-xii + 1-546.