

Only seventy-eight residents and summer residents have been found in the range and the nearby Sheep Mountains from which a few specimens were obtained. Of the fifty-three species and subspecies found in the Upper Sonoran or higher zones, thirty-seven are of general western or Great Basin distribution, eleven are similar, or most closely related, to races of the Inyo region to the westward, while eleven have closest relation to Rocky Mountain forms. There is no instance of a Sierran or trans-Sierran identity except for four wide ranging species.

The author discusses the physical features of the range with illustrations of characteristic scenery, following which is a well annotated list of the birds. Isolated ranges such as the Charlestons are always interesting in their faunal relationships and Mr. van Rossem has done an excellent piece of field work in making the explorations upon which his report is based.—W. S.

Books on British Birds.—We recently had the pleasure of reviewing Turner's 'Every Garden a Bird Sanctuary' the first of Witherby's 'Bird Lovers' Manuals,' and now we have before us two additional volumes of this series of popular books on the birds of Old England.

Norman H. Joy presents a handy field book 'How to Know the British Birds,' somewhat after the fashion of Peterson's 'A Field Guide to the Birds [of N. America].' There are two series of illustrations one from pencil sketches showing the birds in their most characteristic attitudes; the other figures in color of the most strikingly marked species. The several orders of British birds are then distinguished on the basis of characteristic species following which are brief descriptions of the species in which field characters, size, distribution and nests are considered. While there are no "keys" the necessary information is clearly presented and the most important points italicized. Dr. Joy very properly emphasizes shape and action rather than color as it is upon these that the trained bird student learns to rely for, in many cases, owing to poor position or light conditions, color cannot be satisfactorily determined. This little book cannot but prove of great assistance to the beginner whose aim is to know his birds, as well as to the visitor from other lands who would make acquaintance with the English species.

Another delightful little volume² in the same series is R. M. Lockley's 'Birds of the Green Belt' pointing out what birds may be seen in the environs of London and describing their haunts with many interesting allusions to other forms of life, both animal and plant, and much historical data on the regions described. Besides being a storehouse of local items of natural history the book is a fine piece of English composition and will be read with interest by many not especially devoted to science. The author is a true nature lover as is shown by his appreciation of other fields than his own, when he replies to a friend's query as to how he can "get a kick out of birds"; "A kick of that sort," he replies, "can even be got out of a study of snails if you are keen enough."

Mr. Lockley's book will also prove invaluable to the tourist as well as to the city resident who would become better acquainted with the rural surroundings of the great city and their wild life.—W. S.

Brooks' Plates of North American Birds.—'The National Geographic Magazine'³ has issued two installments of the plates of North American birds being

¹ How to Know the Birds. By Norman H. Joy. Pp. 1-136; Ppl. 1-40. March 17, 1936. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London. Price 5 shillings net.

² Birds of the Green Belt. By R. M. Lockley. Pp. 1-236, several half-tone plates and numerous text-figures. April 2, 1936. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London. Price 5 shillings.

³ National Geographic Magazine for April and June, 1936.