

prepared by Major Allan Brooks. The first covers the Thrushes, Thrashers and Swallows with text by T. Gilbert Pearson and the second the Parrots, Kingfishers and Flycatchers [although Cuckoos and the Trogon are included] with text by Alexander Wetmore.

The color plates represent the usual fine work of the artist and the color reproduction is good although the Mockingbird seems a bit too blue. Many interesting photographs are presented in the text most striking of which is a large group of Cliff Swallows' nests photographed near Colorado Springs by Myra Keen.

All of the land birds, except the Sparrows, Warblers, Woodpeckers and Gallinaceous species have, we believe, now been covered as well as the Herons and their allies, making a remarkable series of bird portraits.—W. S.

**Nissen's Schöne Vogelbücher.**—In a well-planned little book<sup>1</sup> Dr. Claus Nissen has recorded the development of ornithological illustration from the Middle Ages to the present.

The first section of the volume is devoted to a chronological account of important illustrated bird publications with reference to the scientific accuracy of the figures, methods of reproduction, artistic qualities, etc. Next comes a list of 554 works on natural history arranged alphabetically by authors and giving the illustrators and the nature of their work. A list of artists, engravers, and colorists follows. The whole is cross-referenced so that knowing a given artist one can find wherein his work appears, or knowing an author one can find his illustrators. The remainder of the book consists of reproductions of bird illustrations dating from 1485 up to and including a selection from the various works of Gould.

The author states (p. 25) that it is to be regretted that other countries have not followed the American trend in reproducing plates separately, as well as with text, and that today we are about as far as ever from having readily accessible bird illustrations covering the whole field. He adds that photography cannot replace the careful and detailed work of the artist, so long as faithful color reproduction is not solved completely; nevertheless, the sphere of application of the artist is narrowing because of the superiority of the camera in recording animals in action.

This little volume will appeal to those interested in bird illustration, particularly because of the bibliography it contains. Unfortunately, it is printed in a very limited edition.—R. S. P.

**Systematic Catalogue of the Birds of Argentina.**—As part of the memorial volume on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Museo de la Plata Messrs. Alfredo Steullet and Enrique A. Deautier have prepared a systematic catalogue of the birds of Argentina<sup>2</sup> the first part of which has just been received. This comprises a detailed review of Argentine ornithology and the systematic list from the Rheidæ to the Steganopodes inclusive, in the order of Wetmore's classification.

Under each species and subspecies there is a full synonymy so far as the region covered is concerned and paragraphs on material examined, geographic distribution as well as frequent critical notes and an explanation of the etymology of all technical names by Dr. Jorge Casares. Acknowledgements for assistance are also made to Dr. Roberto Dabbne. The work will prove of great assistance to all students of the birds of southern South America.—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> Schöne Vogelbücher, Ein Überblick der Ornithologischen Illustration nebst Bibliographie, von Claus Nissen, Herbert Reichner Verlag, Vienna, 1936. Pp. 1-95. [From Philobiblon, VIII, 1935, pp. 23-40, 69-90, 123-136, 169-180, 225-234, 435-444.] Price 5 marks.

<sup>2</sup> Catalogo Sistemático de las Aves de la República Argentina por Alfredo B. Steullet y Enrique A. Deautier. Obra del Cincuentenario del Museo de la Plata. Tomo I Primera entrega. Buenos Aires Imprenta y Casa Editora "Coni.," 684 Calle, Perú. 1935. Pp. 1-256.