

Brand's 'More Bird Songs.'—The reception accorded the first series of bird songs on phonograph records has encouraged the author to bring out a second,¹ which, with the suggested possibility of a third in the future, will place in available form the sound reproductions of the commoner birds of the eastern United States. Three double-backed phonograph disks accompany the book in an envelope within the back cover, ready for use with the ordinary phonograph equipment. The songs are so arranged on the disks as to bring out in succession those that are somewhat similar or are to be heard in a similar habitat. All are reproduced from the sounds given by birds in a wild state, for as the author justly remarks, captivity results in many changes of both voice and function. The main body of the text supplements the records, in giving for each species in the order in which it is heard, the range, field marks, dates of song, haunts, and a brief description of the utterance. A series of pen and ink sketches by Dr. George Miksch Sutton illustrates each species. An introductory chapter on the significance of bird song presents the current viewpoint on the subject. In comparison with the actual sounds, the inadequacy of our published descriptions of bird song becomes woefully apparent.

This unique aid to the identification as well as to the enjoyment of bird songs should have a wide appeal to beginners in the field study of birds as well as to teachers of field classes. We may eventually hope for the application of sound recording to a graphic method of the analysis of song.—G. M. A.

Weiss on Rafinesque.—Still another book² has just appeared concerning Constantine Samuel Rafinesque (1783–1840), an American naturalist it will be remembered, of the early part of the last century whose vast learning and marked peculiarities made his career particularly vivid and colorful. The present edition—a beautiful work—has been limited to 150 copies, illustrated by twenty-five previously unpublished pencil sketches made by Rafinesque of relatives, friends, and associates while he was professor in old Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky. It is set up in 12-point Caslon old-face type and is printed on ivory dull-coated paper, and is attractively full bound in blue cloth. A friend and contemporary of Thomas Jefferson, John James Audubon, Alexander Wilson, and other natural-history students of that period, there probably never lived a more enthusiastic pioneer than was Rafinesque in the various branches of botany, in ornithology, in zoology, in travel, in exploration, and in archaeological work. Also because of his activities as editor and literary worker he will long be remembered. It is fitting and well to have the attention of present-day bird lovers and other natural-history students again directed to his career.—J. S. WADE.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE

BAILLIE, J. L., AND HARRINGTON, P. The distribution of breeding birds in Ontario.

Part. I. *Trans. Royal Canadian Inst.*, **21**: 1–50, map, 1936.—This is “an initial attempt to outline the breeding ranges of birds in Ontario,” a province stretching from the Great Lakes to Hudson Bay. The breeding birds of this area number 210 species, of which 81 are here listed, with for each a brief statement of its nesting range and specific instances for the several counties. The literature, collections public and private, and much unpublished data have been drawn upon in the preparation.

¹ Brand, Albert R. *More Songs of Wild Birds*. 8vo, New York, Thomas Nelson and Sons, 116 pp., three phonograph disks, 1936. Price \$2.50.

² Rafinesque's *Kentucky Friends*. By Dr. Harry B. Weiss. 8vo, cloth, 72 pp., 25 illus. 16 North 7th Avenue, Highland Park, New Brunswick, N. J., published by author, 1936. Price \$7.50.

- BATES, GEORGE L. Birds of Jidda and central Arabia collected in 1934 and early in 1935, chiefly by Mr. Philby.—Part II. With notes by H. St. J. B. Philby. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 674–712, pl. 12, Oct. 1936.—An annotated list of birds taken. Nine races of the Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) were identified in spring and autumn. Three species of sunbirds occur, two of *Cinnyris*, one of *Nectarinia*; the former have but a single moult, the latter has two moults a year. A Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) shot at Jidda, March 18, is the only certain record for Arabia. A Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens persica*) has a curious habit of hiding under rocks. The Whinchat is first recorded for Arabia.
- BATES, G. L. A bird-spider nesting association. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 817–818, Oct. 1936.—A West African flycatcher, *Alseonax epulatus*, was found in the southern Cameroons, nesting in “a great mass of dry leaves and trash that had collected on one of the strong and extensive spiders’ webs found in the forest.” The web was inhabited by a colony of spiders. This is a usual habit with this bird.
- BELCHER, SIR CHARLES, AND SMOOKER, G. D. Birds of the colony of Trinidad and Tobago.—Part IV. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 792–813, Oct. 1936.—Covers the trogons, kingfishers, motmots, puff-birds, toucans, woodpeckers, wood-hewers, spine-tails, ant-birds and cotingas with brief notes on their occurrence and habits.
- BLACK, CYRUS A. Records of the Whooping Crane for the spring of 1936. *Nebraska Bird Review*, 4: 81, Oct. 1936.—On March 31, a lone bird was seen near Overton, Nebraska; on April 11, a flock estimated at about one hundred was seen feeding in a field west of Elm Creek, Buffalo County, and on the following day, what may have been the same flock, estimated at about forty birds, was seen at Kearney, in the same county.
- BLAIR, H. M. S. The birds of East Finmark.—Part III. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 651–674, Oct. 1936.—Conclusion of a list of birds of the Varanger Peninsula. Fulmars winter in unusual numbers on the coasts, departing in early May for the north; a White-billed Loon seen in late May. Notes on courtship display of the Ruff; when charging each other, males were seen to close in only during the first few days of this period. Preponderance of males over females believed to imply promiscuity in mating rather than polygamy. Two Curlew Sandpipers, June 2, 1927, constitute the first and only spring record for Norway. Purple Sandpipers occur the year round on the peninsula. Willow Ptarmigan were found in small numbers after the epidemic of coccidiosis in 1923, which followed by scarcity of suitable food berries, made recovery very slow.
- DANFORTH, STUART T. The Birds of St. Kitts and Nevis. *Tropical Agriculture* (published in Trinidad), 13, no. 8.—An annotated list of sixty-three species with two additions on a type-written sheet,—*Querquedula discors* and *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.—W. S.
- DELACOUR, J. Le faisan scintillant, *Graphiphasianus scintillans* (Gould). *L’Oiseau et Rev. Franç. Ornith.*, (2) 6: 565–566, col. pl., 1936.—A colored plate by Kobayashi illustrates one of the most beautiful of Japanese birds, of which two forms occur, one in northern and one in southern Hondo and Shikoku. Intermediate specimens are referred to as either hybrids or intergrades.
- DELACOUR, J. Une curieuse habitude de la Grue du Mexique. *L’Oiseau et Rev. Franç. Ornith.*, (2) 6: 693, 1936.—Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*) in captivity in France, were found to dust their plumage regularly by taking up in their bills mixed pebbles and yellow clay and spreading it among their feathers until they were much discolored. They did not bathe.
- GILBERT, P. A. Field notes on *Rallus pectoralis*. *The Emu*, 36: 72–73, pl. 11, Oct.

- 1, 1936.—The Lewin Water-rail of eastern New South Wales is chiefly nocturnal. Nests with eggs are found from late September till early January.
- GLANDON, EARL W. The Rufous Hummingbird at Stapleton, Logan County [Nebr.]. *Nebraska Bird Review*, 4: 83, Oct. 1936.—Second sight record for the State.
- GLEGG, W. E. Additional notes on the birds of Corsica. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 814–817, Oct. 1936.—Brief records of occurrence of less common species.
- HYEM, E. L. Notes on the birds of Mernot, Barrington, N. S. W. *The Emu*, 36: 109–127, pl. 17–19, Oct. 1, 1936.—Many interesting notes on the local birds. Wedge-tailed Eagles here “appear to feed chiefly on rabbits.”
- JOURDAIN, F. C. R. The birds of southern Spain.—Part I. Passeres (pt.). *Ibis*, (13) 6: 725–763, Oct. 1936.—The first part of an annotated list of birds known from southern Spain. A resumé of literature accompanies a bibliography, and there are remarks on the topography and vegetation as affecting bird distribution. Brief annotations are given with the species listed. Starlings are shot in vast numbers for food, as many as 264,000 having been sold from one estate in Cadiz (period not mentioned).
- JOURDAIN, F. C. R. The forms of the Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla* L. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 829–831, Oct. 1936.—There are three well-marked forms: *Branta b. nigricans* of western North America; *B. b. hrota* occurring east of the latter's range to Spitsbergen and Franz Josef Land; and *B. b. bernicla* the typical form, from Kolguev eastward. Since Trevor-Battye's record of a pale-breasted bird from Kolguev, all subsequent specimens prove to be the dark-breasted typical form.
- LACK, DAVID. On the pugnacity at the nest of a pair of *Onychognathus walleri walleri*. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 821–825, Oct. 1936.—These starlings repeatedly chased away another pair of a different genus, *Stilbospar*, from the neighborhood of their nest-hole while the second pair was trying to build in a hole four feet below. The latter did not retaliate, but eventually when tolerance was established, finished building. The first pair was aggressive because of proximity rather than because of competition for nest-holes. Three feet below the second hole was a third occupied by a pair of White-eared Barbets; on four occasions it was seen to be visited by two species of Honey-guides, which parasitize barbets, but they were driven off by the owners.
- LEGENDRE, MARCEL. Les variations de plumage et de forme chez les oiseaux. III.—Polymorphisme et dimorphisme. *L'Oiseau et Rev. Franç. Ornith.*, (2) 6: 567–575, 1936.—Discusses dichromatism in birds of prey; inversion of nesting habits with brighter colors in the female of hemipodes, painted snipe, and tinamous. Details are given of the results of various matings of red-headed and black-headed dimorphic forms of the Lady Gould Finch. Either form will breed true if similar males and females are mated. If a red-headed male be bred to a black-headed female of pure strain, the progeny are males of each type in equal proportions and homozygous, while all the females are heterozygous. If one of the males be bred to the heterozygous female of either cross, the resulting females as well as the males are homozygous.
- LOCKLEY, R. M. On the breeding birds of the Westmann Islands. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 712–718, pl. 13, Oct. 1936.—These rugged islands, twelve miles southwest of Iceland, were visited in mid-June 1935. Twenty-seven species of birds were found. Leach's Petrel breeds here, as well as both Northern and Brünnich's Murres, 70 to 80 per cent of the former being of the “ring-eyed” type. In July and August, thousands of young Puffins, Fulmars, and Gannets are netted for winter food and for export to Iceland. Most of the breeding Fulmars are light-colored birds; 10

- to 15 per cent of nests noted contained two eggs each, "significant in view of the great increase and spread of the Fulmar."
- LORD, E. A. R. Notes on the Dusky Moorhen. The Emu, **36**: 128-129, Oct. 1, 1936.—This moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*, is found to construct two types of structures: one, the nest for the reception of the eggs, the other as a place for "play" or for resting. Much time is spent by the birds on the latter structure in preening their feathers and "mating often occurs there." The play platform is very similar to the nest, but its situation is quite different, being usually placed on weeds or mud in shallow water or on stones in a stream, but always in an exposed position, while the nest is usually on a branch stretching out over deep water. Details are given concerning the eggs, time of hatching, and the appearance of the young.
- MACLATCHY, A. R. Contribution à l'étude des oiseaux du Gabon méridional (régions du Fernan-Vaz et de la N'Goumié). L'Oiseau et Rev. Franç. Ornith., (2) **6**: 576-593, 1936.—Distributional and other notes on the pigeons, limicolines, jacanas, finfoots, fowl, and ducks of this region.
- MANUEL, CANUTO G. Life history and economic importance of Cabanis's Weaver. Philippine Journ. Sci., **58**: 193-210, 1 pl., 1 table, Oct. 1935.—While the study of this bird reported upon embraces distribution and nidification, it deals chiefly with food habits of the species particularly in relation to rice, of which it is popularly regarded as a pest. The nestlings are fed entirely upon weed seeds. The stomachs of 800 adult birds from ten provinces were examined and the food determined to consist of 96.01 per cent weed seeds and 3.91 per cent rice. Thus the species subsists principally upon weed seeds but when rice is in the head it feeds freely upon the grain and should be driven from the fields.—W. L. M.
- MATHEWS, G. M. The patagial bone in certain Tubinares. Ibis, (13) **6**: 831-832, Oct. 1936.—In the albatrosses (Diomedidae) and the petrels of the subfamilies Bulweriinae and Procellariinae, there is a distinct bone at the elbow, here named the moklosteon, which when the wing is extended gives added strength by affording attachment to muscle fibres from the humeral process and from the patagial muscle, thus forming a bar which stiffens the wing at the point of greatest stress.
- MATHEWS, GREGORY M. Remarks on Procellarian and Puffinine Petrels. The Emu, **36**: 91-98, Oct. 1, 1936.—*Ardenna* and *Calonectris*, placed as subgenera of *Puffinus* in the A. O. U. Check-list, are regarded as genera, nearly related in bill structure to *Procellaria*. A new grouping is suggested with keys for the "super-genus" *Puffinus*, and the black puffinoid petrels. *Procellaria fregata* Linn. is ruled indeterminate. The correct name of the South Atlantic White-fringed Storm Petrel is said to be *Fregattornis grallaria aquerea* (Kuhl).
- MCATEE, W. L., AND PIPER, S. E. Excluding birds from reservoirs and fishponds. U. S. Dept. Agric., leaflet no. 120, pp. 1-6, Sept. 1936.—For the protection of fish-hatchery ponds against fish-eating birds, or to prevent pollution of reservoirs from the droppings of birds, a network of criss-crossed, widely spaced wires even as much as forty feet apart has been found effective against gulls. Water-fowl may be further guarded against by wire fencing. Richard H. Pough writes: The issuance of this leaflet is significant of the increasing seriousness of the fish-eating and water-bird problem on artificial water areas. Long ignored by ornithologists and met by the Biological Survey through the free issuance of permits to kill protected species, this problem calls for serious attention and solutions that will not involve wholesale killing of some of our most interesting species. It is toward such solutions that Messrs. McAtee and Piper point in their leaflet. Devices that have proven practical under actual conditions of use are described in

- detail. In view of the oft-repeated assertion of those who demand to be allowed to kill the birds, that any device to exclude them is prohibitively expensive or entirely impractical, it is encouraging to learn that ponds up to 600 by 1000 feet have been successfully wired at reasonable cost.
- McGILL, J. NEIL. Wedge-tailed Eagles. *The Emu*, **36**: 99-102, Oct. 1, 1936.—“From the available evidence,” this species is regarded as more harmful than beneficial in sheep-raising areas, on account of its habit of killing young lambs. The birds invariably work in pairs, and by flying low over a flock of sheep with lambs, cause some of the latter to bolt from the flock. The mother of the lamb thus singled out, is halted by one of the birds’ landing between her and her young. The birds then rush toward the lamb, driving it and striking it about the head, neck and shoulders, until it is killed. Kangaroos and wallabies are destroyed by diving at them, repeatedly slashing them. Many rabbits and much carrion are destroyed by these eagles as well.
- OLIVER, W. R. B. The Paradise Duck. *The Emu*, **36**: 69-72, pl. 10, Oct. 1, 1936.—A brief account of this New Zealand duck, *Casarca variegata*, first discovered by the naturalists on Captain James Cook’s second voyage in 1773. Although now greatly reduced in numbers, it is said to be holding its own in remoter parts of southern New Zealand.
- RAND, A. L. Results of the Archbold expeditions. No. 12. Altitudinal variation in New Guinea birds. *Amer. Mus. Novitates*, no. 890, 14 pp., Oct. 31, 1936.—The mountainous central area of New Guinea includes high ranges, with peaks reaching 5000 meters in altitude. Of sixty species of birds studied, 19 or nearly a third have representative subspecies in lowland and in highland, respectively. In over a quarter of these cases (17 in 60), there is increase of size with altitude, and in a single case the reverse is true. In four species cited, the highland race is the darker, and in two cases it is the lighter. Although the author draws attention to “the heretofore overlooked fact that altitudinal variation commonly occurs in New Guinea,” the same thing has been shown to be true of mammals.
- SERVENTY, D. L. Feeding methods of *Podargus*, with remarks on the possible causes of its aberrant habits. *The Emu*, **36**: 74-90, pls. 12, 13, Oct. 1, 1936.—Because of the huge size of their wide beaks, the four species of Australian frogmouths stand out from other nighthawk-like birds. The generally accepted belief that these beaks are adapted for capturing insects flying in the air is not sustained by a study of stomach contents, most of which prove to be ground-frequenting species. Centipedes and scorpions form the most prominent articles of diet, with a mixture of ground beetles, spiders, crickets, and even an occasional sparrow or mouse. These they secure by flying down to the ground from the vantage point of a low perch such as a fence post, thus resembling in feeding habits the American *Nyctibius*.
- STONER, C. R. Casting up of gizzard lining by hornbills. *Ibis*, (13) **6**: 820, Oct. 1936.—Ever since Bartlett in 1869 observed an Undulated Hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*) in the London Zoological Gardens throw up the lining of its gizzard, it was assumed that this was a remarkable device of the male for feeding the sitting female. Although the periodic casting of this lining is known to take place in certain birds, it has been observed in the hornbills in only this genus.
- SWENK, MYRON H. Bird mortality in the 1936 Nebraska grasshopper poisoning campaign. *Nebraska Bird Review*, **4**: 98-99, Oct. 1936.—Reports indicate very slight if not negligible mortality among birds, in spite of the fact that about 2450 tons of dry bran mixed with sodium arsenite was used by over 30,000 farmers in the State.

- TICEHURST, CLAUD B. What is *Pratincola robusta* Tristram? *Ibis*, (13) 6: 820-821, Oct. 1936.—To be rejected as an indeterminable name in favor of *orientalis* for the Zululand bird.
- TRINE, MRS. GEORGE W. Hand-raising young Black-headed Grosbeaks. *Nebraska Bird Review*, 4: 79-80, Oct. 1936.—Two deserted nestlings reared on hard-boiled egg, then bread soaked in milk, later insects, especially grasshoppers, of which the pair in a day consumed 150.
- WETMORE, ALEXANDER. A new race of Song Sparrow from the Appalachian region. *Smithsonian Misc. Collns.*, 95, no. 17, September 26, 1936.—*Melospiza melodia euphonia*, Pocahontas Co., West Va. This seems to be identical with the bird of the Mississippi Valley known as *M. m. beata* in the A. O. U. Check-list. The type of *beata* proves to be a specimen of *M. m. juddi* of North Dakota so that the name is not available for the Mississippi Valley bird. Dr. Wetmore is not certain that the new form and that of the low grounds will eventually prove identical but he can find no definite characters upon which to separate them at present.—W. S.
- WHISTLER, HUGH. On seven recently described birds from the Punjab. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 718-724, Oct. 1936.—Six of seven forms lately described by Messrs. Van Tyne and Koelz are regarded as invalid.
- WILLIAMS, ARTHUR B. The composition and dynamics of a beech-maple climax community. *Scientific Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 6, reprinted from *Ecological Monographs*, 6: 1-92, 16 text-figs., July 1936.—This is an intensive study of the ecology of a 65-acre section of North Chagrin Reservation near Cleveland, Ohio. The area is wooded with beech and maple as a climax forest. The botanical elements as well as the animals occurring in the area have been considered in their interrelations, with the conclusion naturally, that an account "of either without the other is incomplete." Among many notes on the bird population, the nearly contiguous territories of sixteen pairs of Hooded Warblers are mapped; at the same time the author shows that "territories" may be separated by vertical as well as by horizontal extent, and cites a case of a Red-eyed Vireo's nest seventy feet up in a large beech tree, while almost directly below it, was the nest of a second pair in a beech sapling six feet from the ground. "One vireo pair had a tree-top territory, the other almost a ground-level territory." Population counts carried on over four years show various interesting fluctuations as well as relative proportions of the different species constituting the average bird fauna of the area described.
- WINTERBOTTOM, J. M. Distributional and other notes on some northern Rhodesian birds. *Ibis*, (13) 6: 763-791, Oct. 1936.—Brief notes on various birds seen. *Stephanibyx lugubris* and *Tringa ochropus* are recorded for the first time from Rhodesia. A Laughing Dove pursuing an Orange-breasted Bush Shrike "with great determination," may have had a nest near; early arrival of European Bee-eaters in 1934 was coincident with the appearance of large swarms of locusts which they were following. The Black-breasted Barbet is found to nest just before and during the rains. The female of the small flycatcher, *Batis molitor*, takes the active part in pursuing the male during courtship, a reversal of the usual habit, correlated with her brighter colors.
- WOOD JONES, FREDERIC. The wanderings of albatrosses. *The Emu*, 36: 103-105, pl. 14, Oct. 1, 1936.—While it is seldom possible to identify single birds following ships on successive days, one Black-footed Albatross, believed to be the same individual, was seen following a ship from near Honolulu for two days, covering seven degrees of latitude toward Vancouver. Reviewing North Atlantic records of the Wandering Albatross, the author believes some of these are of birds captured

at sea and carried north by sailors. A V-shaped piece of tin is often used by sailors, trailed astern with a bait. The bird in seizing the bait, catches its bill in the tip of the V and is hauled aboard. The sides of the V cut a nick in the bird's hooked beak. A specimen found dead at Hull, England, was so marked.

The Auklet, vol. 1, no. 2, 27 pp., Pittsburgh, Pa., actual date of publication October 21, 1936.—While clearly intended as a wholly humorous effort at parody on its greater cousin, the current number of this dwarf counterpart contains (page 12) an article in which A. Nonymous, the author, proposes *Plautulus incomparabilis* as a new genus and species expressly to designate "the bird whose figure adorns the cover of this magazine." The description given, in spite of defects, constitutes an "indication," while the figure referred to is a recognizable drawing of the Crested Auklet. Hence the new name acquires technical status as a homonym of *Aethia cristatella* and must henceforth be quoted as such in any complete synonymy of that bird! While in the present instance no further complications of nomenclature seem likely to arise, nevertheless should future numbers of this journal be contemplated, care must be taken lest legitimate humor exceed the bounds of scientific propriety.

The following mimeographed journals have been received:

Inland Bird Banding News, vol. 8, no. 3, Sept. 1936.

Long Island Bird Notes, vol. 3, nos. 36-42, 1936.

News from the Band Banders, vol. 11, no. 3, Aug. 1936.

News Letter, Audubon Society of Missouri, vol. 3, nos. 9-10, 1936.

The Prothonotary, vol. 2, nos. 9-10, Sept. and Oct. 1936.

The Redstart, vol. 3, nos. 10-11, July and Aug. 1936.