

**58. Check-list of North American Birds and Synopsis of the North American Mammals.** J. E. Keays. 1952. London Typesetting Company, London, Ontario. 55 pp. \$1.50. One must look twice at the publication date to reassure himself that this Check-list was actually published in 1952 and not 1902. The title page states that the bird list was condensed and compiled from the A.O.U. Check-List, fourth edition, 1931. This is true of the nomenclature, but the eight supplements to the A.O.U. Check-List that have appeared since 1931 are ignored, and the sequence of orders, families, and most of the species is apparently that of the second (1895) edition. Among the exceptions to any known sequence are *Passer domesticus* and *Passer montanus* which are placed in the Icteridae between the meadowlarks and the orioles. No explanation is given for this or for the many other departures from the standard usage of current authority. In some instances subfamily and even generic names are used for family names, and the number of misspellings is incredible. Annotations on the birds are few, but in his few comments the compiler gives such erroneous impressions as that there have been no reports of the Eskimo Curlew since 1926 or of the California Condor since 1931, and that the Trumpeter Swan is close to extinction. The synopsis of North American mammals (pp. 39-55) is equally out of date and inaccurate.—W. Earl Godfrey.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

*Time* for July 14, 1952, chronicled the journey of a Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus puffinus*) westward across the Atlantic to Boston in a plane with Mr. Rosario Mazzeo, then eastward on its own wings, covering almost 3,300 miles at an average speed of about 250 miles a day. This shearwater was from the colony at the Skokholm Bird Observatory, on an island off South Wales. No shearwater had previously returned to Skokholm from such a distant release point, although some had returned from Venice. We will look forward to a detailed account of this shearwater banding, in the annual report of the Skokholm Bird Observatory and probably in *British Birds*.

Although about 75 copies have been disposed of already, requests for *Trapping Methods for Bird Ringers*, Field Guide Number One of the British Trust for Ornithology, continue to arrive. This was reviewed in *Bird-Banding*, **22**: 35-36. A few copies are still available from the editor at 40¢. Requests have also been received for copies of *Nestboxes*, Field Guide Number Three, which is reviewed in this issue. For the convenience of North American readers, a few copies of that guide have been secured and may be obtained from the editor at 40¢.

*Erratum*: in the July, 1952 issue, p. 115, read "southwesterly" instead of "southeasterly" as the direction of migration of Swedish Ospreys.