

Both these books should be in the possession of all who wish to understand modern nature conservation and especially of those who cynically doubt the value of international effort. Payment can be arranged through purchasers' own banks.

C. L. B.

AN AMERICAN BIRD GUIDE

AUDUBON WATER BIRD GUIDE. By RICHARD H. POUGH. Illustrated by DON ECKELBERRY and EARL L. POOLE. 352 + xxviii pp. and 48 col. plates. Published by Doubleday and Co., Inc., New York. \$3.50.

My first reaction on seeing this Guide is that a comparable one covering the Birds of the British Isles in one or two volumes would fill a conspicuous gap in the ramifications of British ornithological literature. The *Handbook of British Birds* is a work for the library shelf and there are innumerable "pocket" volumes which are all insufficient in one or more respects; there is nothing like this. The Guide deals with the Water, Game, and Large Land Birds of Eastern and Central N. America from Texas to Central Greenland and is complementary to an earlier Guide which covered the Small Land Birds found in the same regions. It takes separate account of 258 species under five sub-headings: identification, habits, voice, nest, and range. In size and weight it is a little portly to be a true pocket book, but it is nevertheless eminently portable.

The author makes use of certain abbreviations, specially devised, but they do not obtrude themselves and the text matter is easy and pleasant to read. Compression has not been allowed to get the upper hand and as much space is devoted to two species which are now extinct as to living species. The aim has thus been to produce something more than a mere book on identification for use in the field, but less than a tome of technicalities for which the lay bird-watcher has little use. But identifying the birds they see is the prime difficulty of the audience to whom the Guide is addressed.

Small books and many large ones fail dismally to produce adequate coloured plates but Mr. Eckelberry has done this part of the book excellently. Each species is, broadly speaking, shown in as many different plumages as are requisite and it has therefore been necessary to include a number of birds on each plate. Despite the inevitable congestion the birds remain animated and life-like, and show sufficient detail to achieve this

effect, without confusing the salient features with minutiae only to be seen in the museum. Even if the artist manages his colours well the block maker is apt to defeat him. Here the colours are as praiseworthy as the rest. I say that with some diffidence, because I am not familiar with many of the birds and can only test the whole by reference to a few species which occur in England as well as in America. Similar reasons preclude me from detailed criticism of the text, but the excellence of arrangement and selection of the essentials (within the author's self-imposed terms of reference) inspire confidence that the book will not be found to err in detail. The Audubon Society is to be congratulated on inspiring this Guide and the author and artists in composing it; I can give no higher praise than to say that I wish there was a similar Guide to British birds.

G. F.

SHORTER NOTICES

ANIMALS OF THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK. Written and illustrated by C. T. ASTLEY MABERLEY. A. C. White P. & P. Co., Ltd., Whiteco House, Bloemfontein, South Africa. Price 4s. 6d.

Excellent. All the larger animals present in the Kruger are taken in turn under the headings general description, horns, distribution, habits. The very numerous sketches illustrate the animals in typical positions; where confusion between species is likely the points of difference are clearly shown in juxtaposition.

THE GRISONS. Guidebook to the Swiss National Park. Obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London, W. 1. Price 2s. 6d.

An attractive guide book with an introduction by M. Ch. J. Bernard, President of the Swiss Society for the Protection of Nature. There are short, well illustrated articles on fauna, flora, and scenery. English visitors to Switzerland should not fail to visit The Grisons.

THE UFAW COURIER. Published by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. Price 3d.

This, the autumn number of the *Courier*, is well worthy of the silver jubilee which UFAW celebrated this year. There are