

## REVIEWS

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE BIRDS OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL NORTH AMERICA.—By Edward Howe Forbush; revised and abridged with the addition of more than one hundred species by John Richard May; illustrated in colour by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Allan Brooks and Roger Tory Peterson; Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston 1939; pp. xvi-554, with 97 coloured plates; 16 mo. \$4.95.

Forbush's great work *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States* is an ornithological classic, but its three volumes are no longer in print, and, even when they were, the price was beyond the ordinary purse, though better value was seldom given. The present volume is a condensation of Forbush's three volumes, with the addition of enough species to make it apply to the whole of eastern North America. This extension is carried out also in the coloured plates by the addition of four new plates.

The text as it stands is a list of subspecies, (geographical races), with similar headings for each race and nothing to point out species to the amateur. The reviewer is moved to protest the infliction of such a system on the ornithological laity for whom the book is supposed to be intended. When it was tried on some friends interested in birds but lacking scientific training it proved even more confusing than was feared. Fortunately the plates are captioned with species names.

The literary value of the book is high. All of Forbush's finer passages are preserved, and Dr May and his associates maintain the same high standard. Peterson's birds are also worthy of association with those of Fuertes and Brooks. Rarely is so fine a bird book, or, indeed, a book of such distinction in any field, offered at so low a price.—C.H.D.C.

The report, which contains fourteen maps and an elaborate, but understandable, table, summarizes the distribution and abundance of forest insects in Canada. A series of these reports (this being the first to be printed) will be invaluable to ecologists, and the Survey is of vital importance to our forest industries.

During the summer of 1939 certain forest insects, notably the Spruce Budworm, destroyed immense quantities of timber. A casual reader, mindful of the much-publicized salvage operations that followed the destruction of timber by a recent hurricane in New England, will look in vain for any hint of salvage for the timber of the insect-devastated areas of Canada: Our forest economy is the economy of abundance.

A glance at the array of insects dealt with inspires the prediction that some species or other will reach epidemic numbers in any given year, at least for a good many years.—C. H. D. C.

HOW TO KNOW THE TREES.—by H. E. Jaques, 1940, pp. 152, many illustrations, published by the author, 709 N. Main St., Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; Spiral binding \$1.00, cloth \$1.80.

This little book is a key to the trees of United States and Canada east of the Rockies, with a brief description of each species and marginal drawings showing leaves, fruits and twigs and a map of the range. The trees as a group lend themselves admirably to this type of treatment, and the result is a very useful little manual. Apparently there is no perfect key, but once the precise meaning of key characters are established by use this one will be found to be quite workable.—C. H. D. C.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOREST INSECT SURVEY, 1939, *Division of Entomology, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, 1940.*

The Forest Insect Survey, a co-operative project based on the regular collection of field samples of forest insects, is now in its fourth year, and has grown until it involves the collection of 8,310 samples by more than 2,000 co-operators. It is understood that co-operators are supplied with collapsed cardboard containers that can be set up in a few seconds, and have merely to collect a sample, for which operation explicit instructions are supplied, and to place it in the mail.

DUCKS UNLIMITED (CANADA), CENSUS, 1938 and 1939, and *Kee-man Record Book*—pp. 50, n.d., many illustrations. (Ducks Unlimited (Canada), T. C. Main, General Manager).

This interesting document contains an estimate of the duck population of the interior of Canada, with a description of the methods by which it was made, notes on duck populations, a discussion of the causes of loss of waterfowl, an outline of the restoration program of Ducks Unlimited, and a guide to the identification of waterfowl.





Clarke, C. H. D. 1940. "Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America, by Edward Howe Forbush [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 54(5), 76–76. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.340237>.

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