

REVIEW

A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology, by O. S. Pettingall Jr. Third edition, 1956. Revised. (Burgess Publishing Co, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota; five dollars.)

Here is a golden treasury for the guidance and edification of the ornithological student, not only in America but for those domiciled elsewhere. Originally prepared in 1937 as a series of typewritten outlines for the direction of students in 'class, laboratory and field', it has been expanded into a well-bound, well-produced volume, though retaining its format; and it now has twenty sections. No better indication of its scope can be given than to enumerate these sections—topography, feathers and feather-tracts, anatomy and physiology, systematics, external structural characters, laboratory identification, plumages and plumage colouration, distribution, migration, field identification, bird ecology, bird communities, bird territory, bird song, mating, nests and nest-building, eggs, egg-laying and incubation, young and their development, parental care and bird populations. Then follow several useful appendices which include, besides many mentioned in each section, invaluable bibliographical references and a list of current ornithological journals, in which *Notornis* is included.

This book of 379 pages, well illustrated by appropriate drawings and maps, is essential to all serious students and is an invaluable source of information to all interested in bird life.

A Rabelaisian flavour is suggested in a list of descriptive words, given as those commonly used to describe bird song!

R.H.D.S.

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