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### Bird Books

These two volumes contain the series of articles on North American birds that have appeared from time to time in the last several years in the *National Geographic Magazine*. The 37 articles in the two volumes treat not only all the orders of birds in North America north of Mexico, but also various special subjects such as migration, bird banding, song-recording, and many others. These volumes are profusely illustrated, containing 204 pages of color plates which illustrate about 950 varieties of birds, 228 photographs, 17 migration maps, and 5 pen and ink drawings illustrating structural characters of birds. The color plates, except for a few of warblers drawn by Fuertes, are by Major Allan Brooks. Opposite each color plate are brief accounts of the species illustrated, including their characteristics, range, breeding habits, and interesting features of their behavior.

This work throughout is written in a popular and readable style, with which readers of the *National Geographic Magazine* are familiar. Technical details are reduced to a minimum. The color plates, for the most part, are excellent. The two books are well bound, and printed on a good grade of paper. The table of contents in each volume is listed alphabetically according to the first word of each article heading, which appears somewhat inconvenient, but each volume is fully indexed.

"The Book of Birds" should prove of considerable interest to both biologists and laymen. The student of birds will find much of value in the treatment of the various species and groups, and in some of the articles on special subjects. The article on bird migration, by Frederick C. Lincoln, is particularly good; this article is an abridged version of Lincoln's "The Migration of North American Birds" (U. S. D. A. Circular No. 363), but it has lost nothing in being abridged. Anyone interested in nature will find in these volumes a wealth of accurate and interesting information and illustrative material. Here is a set of books which seems well worth the small price of five dollars.—*Donald J. Borror.*

**The Book of Birds**, edited by Gilbert Grosvenor and Alexander Wetmore. Vol. 1, viii+356 pp.; Vol. 2, 123 pp. Washington, The National Geographic Society, 1937. \$5.00 per set, obtainable only from the Society's headquarters, Washington, D. C.