Book Notices

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This is the report of the Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave expedition undertaken by the National Speleological Society in 1954. The expedition consisted of 64 people from all walks of life. Some of these speleologists had explored parts of the undeveloped region of this cave before and through this expedition realized a long standing ambition.

The book is a narrative report supplemented by scientific reports in geology, biology, and hydrology. There is also a complete report on the organization and planning of the expedition so that future exploration on a large scale will be facilitated. There is a complete report on the interesting history of this cave and a short summary of Floyd Collins death in a nearby cave.

In a great part of the chapters certain phone conversations of interest are recorded verbatim so that the reader gets a feeling of being right in the deep expanse of the cave with the cavers. Although the book gives a very exciting account of the procedure and techniques involved in cave exploring, the scientific reports lack a great deal. First of all, the biology report is very incomplete and extremely general. The collecting must have been very poor and poorly recorded.

The book is well illustrated by numerous photographs taken by expedition members.

Robert E. Woodruff.

Ohio Birds and Where to Find Them. Arthur R. Harper. Published by Ohio Division of Wildlife, 1500 Dublin Rd., Columbus 12, Ohio. 1955. 36 pp., illus. $0.10.

This little bulletin contains a well written summary of the factors affecting Ohio birds (climate, geology, and man-made factors), a brief discussion of how to identify birds and where to look for them, and a table giving for each of 266 Ohio birds the type of habitat in which the bird is usually found and its residential status and abundance in the six major zones of the state. The table gives only common names, and does not include extinct and very rare or accidental species. The subspecies—where only one occurs, or where one predominates—is indicated in the common name (e.g., Ungava Canada Goose). The bulletin is illustrated with 2 maps, 9 photographs, and 25 line drawings.

The indication of subspecies in the common names in the table adds very little to the list's value, and since nothing is said about subspecies in the text this feature is apt to be confusing to the beginner. Ornithologists may disagree with a few of the author's statements of a bird's status or habitat preference, but these points are in general very well handled. This bulletin will be a valuable addition to the library of the Ohio bird student.

Donald J. Borror.