

A skin collection of more than 2000 birds from Nepal was presented by Bailey to the British Museum (Natural History). Various notes and papers on birds were published in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. Mammals receiving attention included the kyang, serow and takin. A large collection of butterflies from Tibet and elsewhere is now in New York.

A. LANDBOROUGH THOMSON

**Handbook of the Birds of Cyprus and Migrants of the Middle East, by D.A. Bannerman and W.M. Bannerman. Oliver and Boyd, £3.00.**

Since 1958, when Dr and Mrs Bannerman published their pioneer *Birds of Cyprus*, much new knowledge of the avifauna of this varied and attractive island has been obtained, largely by the observations and ringing activities of the members of the Cyprus Ornithological Society. For this new volume, devised as a handbook rather than a comprehensive history, these distinguished authors have been able to draw on these results as summarised in the recent *Check List of the Birds of Cyprus, 1971* by P.F. Stewart and S.J. Christensen. This handbook concentrates on 285 of the species occurring in Cyprus, and includes brief notes on identification, the present and former status for breeding species, and times of appearance and indications of numbers for passage migrants and winter visitors. Many of these species are attractively illustrated by colour plates from paintings by Chloe Talbot Kelly and D.M. Reid-Henry, and others by line-drawings. They also include an appendix giving details of the occurrence of rarer species with some past records now rejected.

The species accounts make very clear the decline or disappearance of many of the larger breeding species (even though some past records may be doubted) due partly to increased population and development of the island, but mainly to the almost uncontrolled shooting which has to be seen to be believed. In addition, liming in some areas takes a heavy toll of passage migrants. The Cyprus Government has recently strengthened the protective legislation and is extending the reserve areas, the most recent being the Klidhes islands where a small colony of Audouin's gulls nest. This handy work, valuable for the visiting ornithologist, should also stimulate the growing efforts by the Cypriots themselves to improve their laws and to ensure that in future they are better observed.

STANLEY CRAMP

**The Birds of Zambia, by C.W. Benson, R.K. Brooke, R.J. Dowsett and M.P.S. Irwin. Collins, £2.50.**

This latest and most valuable addition to Collins popular Field Guides ranks high among text books on African ornithology. Each of the four experts discharged his special task with infinite care and exemplary diligence, but, writes Benson, 'we remain firm friends'. The simplicity of the style is admirable, and brevity is achieved without detracting in any way from the importance of the essential information. They must all be congratulated for having compressed into a book of handy size so much information, so comprehensive a treatise, while it is impossible to praise too highly the twelve pages of beautiful colour illustrations by Commander A.M. Hughes who makes his subjects really live.

The reviewer has a special personal interest in this book for the original Northern Rhodesia Check List was included in his 1934 Report