

are numerous American warblers belonging to quite a different family—the Mniotiltidae, a large assembly of birds differing much in colour and habits from our warblers.

Though the common house sparrow was introduced long ago and is now widely spread, there are also many types of American sparrows and juncos belonging to the Fringillidae, but more nearly related to the buntings than the true finches.

In spite of the small space allotted to habits Mr. Pough has managed to give us much interesting information which adds to the interest of the book.

N. B. K.

#### SOME COMMON AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

BY ALAN and SHIRLEY BELL. Oxford University Press. 1956. 35s.

This book purports to simplify the identification of about 100 common Australian birds. Brief and chatty information is given on the left of each two pages, and a coloured picture of the corresponding species on the right. It is doubtful, in the case of many species, whether the book will achieve its aim. The illustrations must be amongst the most inaccurate ever published of Australian birds. Much space has been wasted throughout the book. Most pages of letterpress are only partly filled, and often a whole page contains only one small figure. It is astonishing, when we consider the high costs of modern production that a book of such meagre virtue ever found a publisher.

A. J. M.

ÉCOLOGIE, BIOLOGIE ET SYSTÉMATIQUE DES CHEIROPTÈRES.  
Par JACQUES VERSCHUREN (Bruxelles). Exploration du Parc National de la Garamba. Fascicule 7. Bruxelles, 1957. (In French), 478 pp., 178 figs. (photographs, sketches, diagrams, charts, tables, maps); 2 col. plates (1 page); map. Obtainable from: l'Institut des Parcs Nationaux du Congo Belge, 21, rue Montoyer, Brussels, Belgium. Price 900 Belgian francs.

This text-book, devoted to the mammalian order Chiroptera—Bats—and based on the researches of the scientific investigators enumerated on the title page in a small area of N.E. Belgian Congo, is of the high standard which has always been associated with the publications of the Institut des Parcs Nationaux du