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muscular systems, vertebrate neuromuscular systems, sense organs, hormones, and behavior. Each section and experiment is preceded by a brief discussion of the more important concepts stressed in each experiment or group of experiments. The author has placed considerable emphasis on the student obtaining valid results and interpreting them. The experimental procedures are stated briefly, as are the directions for handling the results. The student is told more-or-less specifically what to do but ample freedom is given to allow the student to use his own imagination.

Although the manual is useful, like many other laboratory manuals it was designed for use in a particular course, and whether it would be suitable for comparable courses at other institutions would depend upon the instructors involved.

Carl W. Prophet
Department of Biology
Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia

THE AFRICAN LION, Mervyn Cowie, 96 pp., Golden Press, New York, 1966.

This is a companion book to the *African Elephant*. Authenticity is assured by its author having been director of the Royal National Parks of Kenya since 1946. The illustrative material is of top quality, both in color and black and white. It is too bad that this volume does not contain a chapter on population and distribution as does the book on the African elephant in the same series. The chapter on "Lion Men and Witchcraft" seems somewhat gratuitous in terms of the general excellence of the rest of the text. There are minor textual errors such as crediting the remarkable vision of the lion in darkness as causing the lions eyes to reflect light, which seems somehow to reverse cause and effect. There is a tendency toward anthropomorphism into which the author slips occasionally as when crediting the lions' leaving the wildlife sanctuary to a matter of simply being bored with the monotony of their peaceful life or with knowing perfectly well that they are not tolerated in the midst of native cattle.

These minor textual flaws do not detract from the general intellectual tone of this generally well written work which will provide valuable insight on the African Lion in its native habitat to both secondary and collegiate audiences.

William V. Mayer
Department of Biology
Wayne State University

A POCKET GUIDE TO BIRDS, Allan D. Cruickshank, 216 pp., 60¢, Washington Square Press, New York, 1953.

One of the classics in the Pocket Guide identi-



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fication booklet series and now in a recent reprinting. Although it has not been edited or revised since 1953, the latest printing is a valuable edition and should be inspected by biology teachers who have an interest in field biology. Further, it is a booklet which will be quite handy for the amateur, at whatever age level, for the identification of birds. A full color insert is of pictures of many of the most common birds, and the rest of the book is concerned with more detailed descriptions of the habits and appearance of birds, together with line drawings. Introductory material is a valuable guide for the use of the book for identification purposes. An index also makes this a handy volume as the birds are organized into the families involved.

This is a most inexpensive yet authoritative book for those biologists who wish a handy identification guide.

RAISING LABORATORY ANIMALS, A Handbook for Biological and Behavioral Research, James Silvan, 225 pp., \$4.95, The Natural History Press, Garden City, New York, 1966.

All biology teachers interested in collecting and maintaining laboratory animals will find this handbook invaluable. The animals discussed are Amoeba, Paramecium, Stentor, Hydra, Planaria, the nematodes, annelids, grasshoppers, insects, termites, guppies, goldfish, pigeons, mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, and opossums.

Mr. Silvan presents the ecology of the animals and gives specific techniques for collecting them. He also provides detailed instructions for building proper environments, feeding, and handling the animals. A brief natural history of each animal is included, and the author suggests many areas for research and investigation.

An appendix includes a list of supply houses for live and research animals and laboratory equipment. An excellent annotated bibliography for further reading is also included.

Every high school library should have a copy of this well-written handbook. It can also be obtained as a paperback.

Elizabeth H. Crider
*George Washington High School
Indianapolis, Indiana*

ANIMALS WITHOUT BACKBONES, 2nd Ed., Ralph Buchsbaum, 405 pp., University of Chicago, 1966.

In the original format with most of the original photographs and illustrations.

The popularity of this book in the business of biology teaching does not make it necessary to have more information than this. This seems to be just a useful reminder that the book is still available.