

The scene is set in the Introduction with a description of the vegetation, climatic conditions and geography; then some 400 species of birds are described, the English, scientific and local names being given, together with an indication of the size of each species, a description which includes measurements, the status, habitat, habits, breeding information, including a description of nest and eggs, and the distribution beyond the boundaries of Sikkim.

Important items of the relevant literature already published are listed.

Identification is further helped by the coloured plates, depicting some 140 species, by Paul Barruel, David Reid-Henry and Robert Scholz. The photographs, with one exception, show types of country and the line drawings by Walter Ahrens and Paul Barruel illustrate a further thirty-six species of the birds.

In addition to the species fully described, there is an Appendix which lists many more that have been recorded as occurring in the area. The author has collated information supplied by other distinguished ornithologists who have worked either in this difficult terrain or on the material gathered there.

Sikkim has long been comparatively well known to botanists: this well-produced volume is warmly commended, for it adds greatly to knowledge of its large and diverse bird population.

J. J. Y.

**IBAMBA.** By WYNANT DAVIS HUBBARD. New York Graphic Society Publishers, Ltd. \$ 6.95.

This is a posthumous publication, the author having died in April, 1961. It is a story, expressively and somewhat melodramatically related, of endeavour, hardship and disaster in Northern Rhodesia in the early thirties. For anyone who has struggled against the forces of nature in undeveloped Africa much of what is described is commonplace; for others the trials and tribulations of such a life are most revealing. Amongst the many hardships experienced certainly the worst was the ordeal by locusts, protracted and progressively devastating.

The author's primary concern was not farming, but the establishment of a wild life research station. Why this never materialized after four years of unremitting effort this story explains. The behaviour and individual characteristics of an odd medley of animals and birds—orphans of the wild—mainly acquired shortly after birth and brought up in intimate association with their human "parents", provide much material for serious thought. The author has some strange theories on the subject of animal behaviour as influenced by the human/animal association, but the reader can judge them for himself. The wild creatures which shared his and his wife's home he did not regard as "pets", but as equals. Sad to relate, as is so often the case with those adopted orphans which are allowed complete freedom, nearly all came to an unfortunate end. The climax of the story is the heart break at the eleventh hour when Paddy, the lioness—who had always been the most beloved member of the adopted family and who was devoted to the infant daughter—had to be shot, when about to be moved to America because an outbreak of foot and mouth disease unexpectedly prevented all movement of livestock, and the Hubbard's own departure could not be postponed.

C. R. S. P.