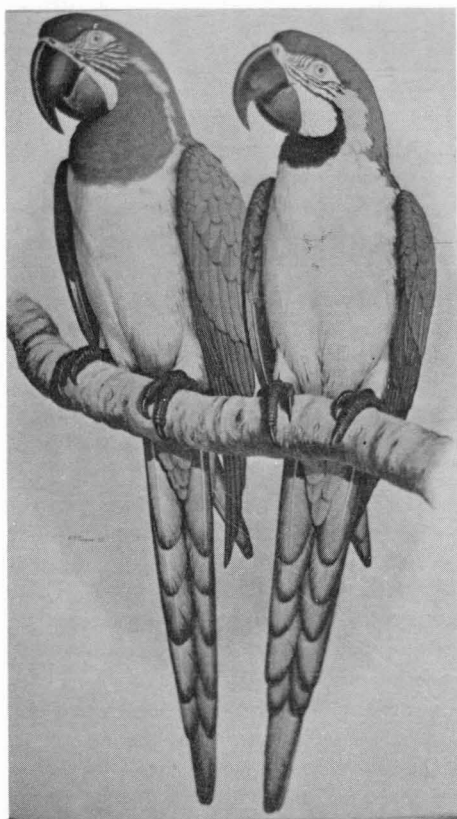
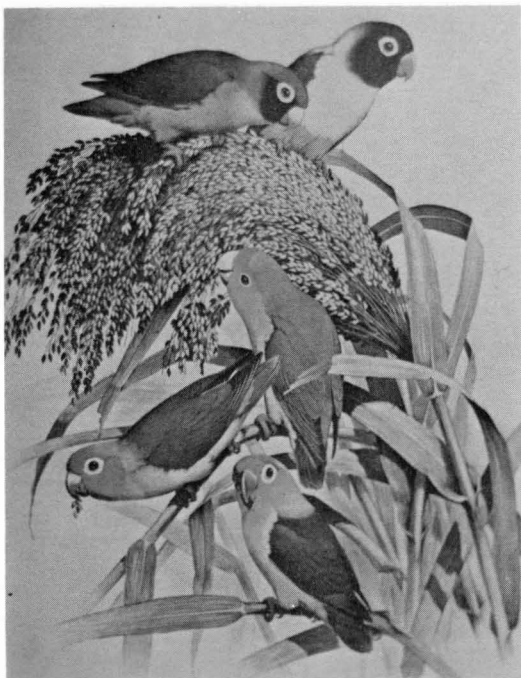


ardless how much one knows about parrots, one's knowledge will be increased by reading the introduction.

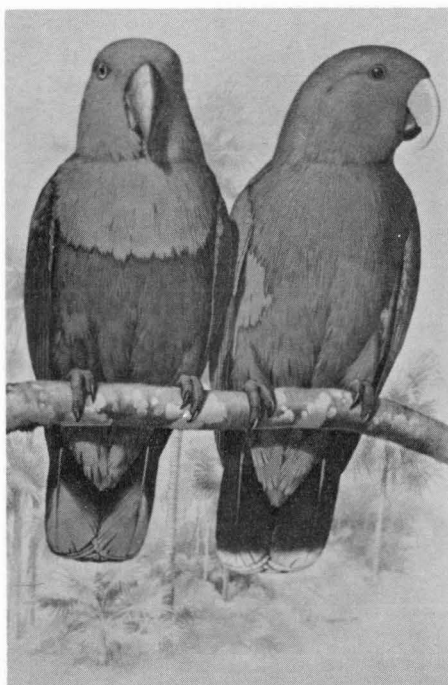
The remainder and bulk of the volume is devoted to the birds. Forshaw has divided the world's parrot population into three main categories each defined in geographical terms called Distributions. There is the Pacific Distribution with Australia being the dominant land mass; the Afro-Asian Distribution which includes Africa, India and most of the Orient; and the South American Distri-



bution. The first and last distributions contain a wealth of parrots from Lori-keets to Macaws. The Afro-Asian Distribution although huge, contains surprisingly few species of parrots.

At the beginning of each distribution section Forshaw gives a general run-down on the avian history of the area and explains the probable migrations and relationships of the birds. He includes large maps that give the reader a clear picture of the geography discussed in the text. From this general introduction Forshaw moves right on to consider the birds themselves.

Each species of bird is dealt with according to the same format. The common and Latin names are given, followed by description, distribution, and general notes. General notes contain very lucid discussions regarding the birds behavior in the wild, its call, nesting habits, diet, and avicultural aspects. There is no other book available that gives so much information on so many parrots. It is



these accounts of species that most readers turn to most often.

The entire volume is well organized with a good table of contents, an index of scientific and English names, and a grand bibliography. The only features that ruffle my feathers, so to speak, are the use of the metric system in descriptions and an inconsistent numbering system on the small pictures that identify each bird on the larger plates. Granted, Forshaw is not responsible for my ignorance of metrics but he might have devised a consistent format to identify the birds.

All things considered, Forshaw's mon-

ograph *Parrots of the World* is a very excellent book that no bird enthusiast should be without. It is a very beautiful and useful book published by Doubleday and retailing for sixty-five dollars. It is the type of book that will increase in value as time moves along and should eventually become a collectors item. I'm betting on it. I bought three copies ■



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