

**A Flying Trip to the Tropics.**<sup>1</sup>—In this pleasantly written journal the author gives us an account of a trip which occupied fifty-four days. Leaving New York June 11, 1892, with his wife and brother, he visited the Island of Curaçao, journeyed by boat up the Magdalena in Colombia as far as Yeguas, travelled by train to Honda, and thence proceeded over the mountainous Bogota road as far as Guadas, returning over the same route.

We cannot expect that so hurried a reconnaissance should yield much that was new from a naturalist's point of view, but the author proves conclusively that in comparatively few weeks we can visit lands which seem permanently beyond our horizon and make the acquaintance in life of at least the more characteristic forms of tropical bird-life. Indeed, to the naturalist the peculiar value of the book lies in the fact that the writer had no time to make a special study of anything. He found an abundance of material on every side, and his daily record of commonplace sights and incidents evidently forms a well-balanced picture of town, roadside, and riverside bird-life.

From Curaçao he records 23 of the 39 species of birds known from the island, while his list of Colombian birds includes 91 species or perhaps one-sixth of those which inhabit the region passed through. In view of the limited time available for field-work he may feel proud of the 210 bird-skins which figure among the material results of his trip.

Few books of travel are more adequately or handsomely illustrated. The numerous maps, half-tone cuts, and drawings of animals admirably supplement the text. Naturalists will welcome the colored plates by Keulemans, and black and whites by Keulemans and the late Gustav Mützel; while the extended bibliographical appendix will be of value to future workers in the same field.—F. M. C.

**Shufeldt on the Osteology of Cranes and Rails.**<sup>2</sup>—After reviewing the recent classifications of the Paludicolæ, Dr. Shufeldt presents a synoptic table of the osteological characters of *Porzana carolina*, which are said to agree in the main with those of the genera *Crex* and *Rallus*, and also with those of the Coots (*Fulica*) and the Gallinules. In another table is given a comparative synopsis of the osteological characters of *Rallus longirostris*, *Aramus giganteus*, and *Grus americana*, from which

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<sup>1</sup> A Flying Trip to the Tropics. A Record of an Ornithological Visit to the United States of Colombia, South America, and to the Island of Curaçao, West Indies, in the year 1892. By Wirt Robinson, Second Lieutenant, Fourth U. S. Artillery. Cambridge: Printed at the Riverside Press, 1895. Sq. 8vo., pp. i-x, 1-194, 108 illustrations.

<sup>2</sup> On the Osteology of Certain Cranes, Rails, and their Allies, with Remarks upon their Affinities. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D. Journ. Anat. and Phys., Vol. XXIX, 1894, pp. 21-34.