

rather unusual yet popular way the more striking features of their probable development.' The chapter headings are too numerous to quote in full, but the following will give an idea of the style of treatment: I, A bird's forefathers; II, How did the birds first fly, perhaps? V, The cut of a bird's frock; VI, About a bird's underwear; VII, A bird's outer wrap; VIII, A bird's new suit; IX, 'Putting on Paints and Frills' among the birds; XI, War and weapons among birds; XIV, Freaks of bachelors and benedicts in feathers; XXIII, Tools and tasks among birds; XXV, A little talk on birds' toes; XXVIII, What a bird knows about geography and arithmetic; XXX, A bird's modern kinsfolk.

Mr. Baskett has treated the various topics relating to birds,—their structure, functions and various adaptations,—in a manner likely to interest the general reader, and for the most part has shown a creditable familiarity with his subject. He has, however, a predilection for hypothesis, and thinks every fact relating to habit or structure should be accounted for, and that even a poor theory is better than no theory at all. A good square admission that there are still some things we do not know is not to be tolerated. In the main, however, our author may be taken as a safe leader, and his little book should do much toward enlightening the general reader about birds and their relation to their surroundings. The last 20 pages consist of notes on birds as seen 'Through the Window Pane' of the author's study. The illustrations are largely from Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America,' to which they are duly credited in the Publishers' Note.—J. A. A.

Chapman's 'Bird-Life', Colored Edition.—In the new edition of Chapman's 'Bird-Life' (see Auk, XIV, July 1897, pp. 336–339) the text has been revised, and the size of the book increased to a full octavo, and the plates enlarged and beautifully reproduced in colors, adding greatly to the value of the work as an aid to the identification of the 100 species thus figured. The publication of 'Bird-Life' in its present form thus well meets the demand for a popular work on our common birds, illustrated with colored plates, at a reasonable price.—J. A. A.

Montgomery's List of the Birds of West Chester, Chester Co., Pa.¹—This is a carefully annotated list of 145 species observed in the immediate vicinity of West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, during the years 1885–91, and 1895–97. Most of the observations were made within an area of only five miles' radius from West Chester, and no species is included in the list which was not either taken by the author or seen by him in the

¹ A List of the Birds of the Vicinity of West Chester, Chester Co., Pennsylvania. By Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr., Ph. D. American Naturalist, 1897, pp. 622–628, 812–814, 907–911.