

only a few, comparatively speaking, yet remain. As he says: "From the time the birds leave the frozen Northland, until the survivors return to it again in the ensuing year, the hunted fowl run the gauntlet of a nation in arms; and no sooner do they pass the boundaries of the land they seek in the spring for the purpose of reproduction, than the natives continue the slaughter of the birds until they depart for southern climes. Is it any wonder that their numbers are diminishing; is it not rather a wonder that so many are left?"

In an 'Introduction' of six pages the author gives an excellent summary of the leading characteristics of the Duck tribe in general. The 'keys' and other technical matter are relegated to a 40-page Appendix, where also various points of nomenclature and classification are considered. He gives his reasons (which are further elaborated in this number of 'The Auk,' pp. 226-229) for placing all of the Swans in the genus *Cygnus*, and for rejecting *Olor* as untenable. He also claims the tenability of the genus *Exanthemops* for Ross's Goose, and refers the Wood Duck to the Old World subfamily Plectropterinae, where we think it quite as much out of place as it is in the Anatinae. His claims for *Exanthemops* are quite in harmony with his view of genera among the Water Fowl, for he has not only raised all of the groups formerly recognized in the A. O. U. Check-List as subgenera to the rank of full genera, but also separates generically the Canvas-back from the Redhead. He also adopts various emendations of names previously proposed by the 'good spellers.'

The 63 full-page plates are mostly, as in the previous volumes of this series, by Edwin Sheppard, but four are by the late John Wolf, and quite a number by the author, in each case reduced by Mr. Sheppard from larger drawings. There is also a frontispiece, giving a very good likeness of the author.

As the author has had a wide experience with the birds in life of which his books treat, much of what he has to say of their habits and distribution is given from personal knowledge. -- J. A. A.

Thompson's 'Wild Animals I have Known.'¹ -- Of the eight charming stories brought together and beautifully illustrated under the above title only two, 'Silverspot' and 'Redruff,' relate to birds. But the ornithologist who once takes the book in hand will doubtless find its pages, with their effective illustrations, too fascinating to wish to lay it finally aside till all have been read. The 'stories' are, as described in the title page, 'personal histories' of animals Mr. Thompson has studied in life, and

¹ *Wild Animals I have Known and 200 Drawings.* By Ernest Seton Thompson. Being the Personal Histories of Lobo, Silverspot, Raggylug, Bingo, The Springfield Fox, The Pacing Mustang, Wully, and Redruff. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1899. 8vo, pp. 358.

if, as in the case of some of them, the principal hero is composite, the facts are as observed, and to many, with Mr. Thompson's interpretation of motive and purpose, these animals, whether bird or beast, will seem more human in their intelligence, sympathies, and means of communication than is generally believed. In detailing "the real personality of the individual" Mr. Thompson gives us an insight into the real life of a species which any amount of description of the ways of a species as a species would never convey. 'Silverspot' is a Crow, distinguishable from other Crows by an albinistic mark on the side of the face, and the history of this individual as a distinct personality is a most telling way of placing before the reader the 'inner life,' so to speak, of the Crow tribe in general. The same is true of 'Redruff,' a Partridge of distinguished size and mean. In the lives of these 'dumb creatures' there is something pathetically human, that appeals to the reader's sympathies, and shows how much there is in man and beast that is shared in common. The marginal illustrations that cluster about the small type-bed of the pages are as suggestive and appropriate as can well be imagined, while the narrative is graphic, simple, and hence effective. In every way the book is something out of the ordinary, and as pleasing as it is original. — J. A. A.

Stone on the Types of Birds in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.— Under this title¹ Mr. Stone gives us a very interesting historical sketch of the Ornithological Collection in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, — perhaps still the most noted of any in this country, — followed by a detailed descriptive account of the type specimens of the birds it contains, arranged under the names of the authors of the species. In 1857, this collection was regarded, by so eminent an authority on the subject as Dr. Sclater, as the most perfect then in existence. As Mr. Stone has already given the readers of 'The Auk' (April, 1899, pp. 166-177) the history of this collection, — how and whence it was gathered, and the elements constituting its greatness, — which is more briefly and statistically presented again here, we need not dwell upon this phase of the subject.

In 1897 this collection contained 43,460 specimens, including the types of about 350 species. Respecting the early American ornithologists, it is of interest to note that these include types of two of Alexander Wilson's species; 5 of C. L. Bonaparte's; 8 of J. K. Townsend's; 8 of Audubon's; 3 of Nuttall's; 9 of William Gambel's; 1 of Edward Harris's (the only species he described); 2 of George A. McCall's; and 3 of Dr.

¹ A study of the Type Specimens of Birds in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with a brief History of the Collection. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1899, pp. 5-62.