

of prey of the State of Iowa. His manuscripts have been edited and completed by his student and co-worker, Miss Clementina S. Spencer and have now been published by the Iowa Geological Survey in an attractive volume which is a credit to all concerned.

The economic statements are taken largely from Fisher's 'Hawks and Owls of the United States,' but under each of the commoner species there is a table of stomach contents of a dozen or so specimens examined by the author. The consideration of the characters and distribution of the species occupies the bulk of the volume and as a rule seems to be very full and accurate. There is a brief summary of field characters and a fuller description of each species with measurements. Then follows a statement of its general range and a detailed account of its distribution and habits in Iowa, with a map showing county records and breeding localities, and a full bibliography. The illustrations consist of excellent half-tones of mounted birds in the museum of Coe College, some characteristic views of Iowa scenery and a portrait of Dr. Bailey.

There is a lack of consistency in the treatment of some portions of the work, some of the distributions being taken direct from the A. O. U. 'Check-List' while others unfortunately are too general, and consequently somewhat inaccurate or misleading. The northern race of the Turkey Vulture is thus credited with ranging to South America and the Swallow-tailed Kite is stated to breed from the northern United States southward. In the bibliography the authority for the scientific name is quoted in one reference and not in the next without any uniformity, while Dr. Bailey's proposed new race of the Broad-winged Hawk, which has been since regarded as merely a melanistic form, is given as a "new subspecies" in this publication whereas it was described and named in 'The Auk' for January, 1917.

These are, however, minor matters and do not detract from the usefulness of the publication in providing a means for the recognition and proper appreciation of the birds of prey, which is a necessity on the part of farmers and others, before any progress can be made in the destruction of the noxious species and the protection of those which are beneficial.—W. S.

X **Mrs. Farwell's 'Bird Observations near Chicago.'**¹—The late Mrs. Ellen Drummond Farwell, a director and vice-president of the Illinois Audubon Society, was an ardent bird lover and a student of wild bird life. Her note books kept in diary form were replete with observations relating mainly to birds of the Chicago district, although there were two short lists of species observed in Georgia as well as notes on birds seen in Europe.

All of these have now been published in book form, with a foreword by John V. Farwell and an introduction by Mary Drummond. They show a keen power of observation and contain many facts of interest not only to

¹Bird Observations near Chicago. By Ellen Drummond Farwell. Introduction by Mary Drummond. With illustrations. Privately printed. [1919] pp. 1-192.

the local bird student but to others interested in the broader study of the habits and songs of the species to which they refer.

The volume, which is privately printed, is a beautiful example of the bookmaker's art, with perfect typography and excellent half-tones of many of the commoner birds or their nests, from photographs by Henry Emerson Tuttle. There is also a frontispiece portrait of Mrs. Farwell, to whom this little book is a most fitting memorial.— W. S.

Hudson's 'The Book of a Naturalist'¹— Mr. Hudson's many readers will be glad to learn of the appearance of another of his delightful volumes. The sketches which it includes appeared originally in various of the English magazines and hence have probably been read by few on this side of the Atlantic. Almost all of them deal with English country life though there are occasional allusions to Patagonia, with which country the author's name is so closely associated. There are in all twenty-nine chapters treating of the whole range of out-door life — mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, wild flowers, earthworms and even the potato, while a good index guides one to the many interesting and important observations which lie hidden away in the pages. The volume is hardly on a par with its predecessors and while some of the sketches are full of the great out doors of which the author loves to write, they give one the impression of being a collection of odds and ends which had not yet been brought together in book form. Only three of the present sketches relate to birds, two of them dealing with herons and heronries.— W. S.

Dixon on Wild Ducks in a City Park.²— Every visitor to the city of Oakland, California will be shown Lake Merritt, a beautiful body of water of about a square mile in extent, situated in the heart of the city and famous as the winter resort of thousands of wild fowl. In the present paper, Mr. Dixon describes the winter bird-life of the lake illustrating his account with a number of excellent photographs.

Lake Merritt is the oldest State game reservation in California, having been established in 1869. No gunning whatever is allowed there and dogs not in leash are not permitted in the park, furthermore a large area of the lake is shut off by a log boom and boating there in the winter is forbidden. Last but not least about four tons of whole barley are fed to the ducks every winter at a cost to the city of about \$400.

As a result some 2500 wild ducks are to be found on the lake throughout the winter from October to the end of the shooting season, in February, when it is safe for them to scatter over the country for a few weeks before returning north. Large numbers of the birds come out on the lawns adjoin-

¹The Book of a Naturalist. By W. H. Hudson. George H. Doran Company, New York. 8vo. (1919) pp. i-viii, 1-360.

²Wild Ducks as Winter Guests in a City Park. By Joseph Dixon. National Geographic Magazine, October, 1919. pp. 331-342.