

## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Chubb's 'Birds of British Guiana.'**<sup>1</sup>—The second and concluding volume of this notable work has at last appeared, having been long delayed by war conditions. In our notice of Volume I we commented on the invaluable work of the late Frederick Vavasour McConnell, upon whose collection the report is primarily based, and on the generosity of Mrs. McConnell who has provided for the publication of the volumes.

With regard to the present volume we can say that it is fully up to the high standard of its predecessor as regards the work both of the author and publisher. The introduction contains an itinerary of the second journey to Mt. Roraima in August 1898, covering some seventy pages, by Mr. John J. Quelch who accompanied Mr. McConnell; a most interesting and thrilling account of the experiences of the party, with comments on both the fauna and flora of the regions traversed. Half-tone views of the summit of the mountain and portraits of natives serve as illustrations.

The main text covers the passeriform birds, 367 in number with ten colored plates and 204 useful text figures, of heads, bills, tails, and wings, all of which are drawn by Grönvold.

We find only three new forms described in this volume—*Grallaria regulus roraimae* (p. 80); *Vireo roraimae* (p. 393) and *Pachysylvia thoracicus abariensis* (p. 395), but no less than twelve genera and forty-two new species and subspecies have been published elsewhere as the work progressed, all based upon a study of the McConnell collection. The genus *Vavasouria* named in his honor is proposed for the remarkable white Bell-bird formerly known as *Casmorhynchus*.

Mr. Chubb's treatment is very satisfactory, the descriptions are full, the synonymy admirable and the accounts of habits selected from the writings of the best authorities on the ornithology of British Guiana—Quelch, Brown (Canoe and Camp Life), Schomburgk, Beebe, etc. The work is likely to remain the authoritative one on the birds of British Guiana for some time to come and will be an important aid to the many ornithologists whose attention is now being directed to the neotropical avifauna.—W. S.

**Bannerman on the Canary Islands.**<sup>2</sup> This interesting book is the out-

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of British Guiana, based on the collection of Frederick Vavasour McConnell, Camfield Place, Hatfield, Herts. By Charles Chubb, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., Zoological Department, British Museum. Vol. II. London: Bernard Quaritch, II Grafton Street, W. 1921, pp. i-xcvi+1-615 royal 8vo. 8 half-tone plates, ten colored plates and 214 text figures.

<sup>2</sup> The Canary Islands Their History, Natural History, and Scenery. An account of an Ornithologist's Camping Trips in the Archipelago. By David A. Bannerman, M. B. E., B. A. (Cantab.), M. B. O. U., F. R. G. S., Etc. With Illustrations and Maps. Gurney and Jackson. London: 33 Paternoster Row. Edinburgh: Tweedale Court. 1922, 8vo. pp. i-xv + 1-365, 84 illustrations and maps. Price 30 shillings net.

come of ten trips to the Canaries to investigate the avifauna of this famous island group on behalf of the Bird Department of the British Museum. The ornithological report comprises Parts II and III, which treat in detail the author's several expeditions, while Appendix "B" gives a systematic list of the species of birds known from the islands, and 25 others of doubtful occurrence. The ornithological report has already been published in 'The Ibis' and has been reviewed in these columns.

Incidentally the author explains that the investigation of the bird life required the acquisition of some knowledge of the geology and plants of the islands and thus material was secured for Chapters II-VI, which cover these subjects and the more general problem of the distribution and origin of life on the islands.

An introductory chapter treats of the discovery, conquest and early history of the Canaries which will prove of much interest to anyone studying the natural history of the group.

The volume is fully illustrated with views of the country, maps, and several excellent colored plates of birds. All in all Mr. Bannerman has produced a volume which cannot but please the general reader who is interested in travel and exploration, while it demonstrates clearly the methods of intelligent present day research. Collecting and listing the birds of a region by no means solve the problem. One must also study at least the major features of the plant life and the general environment, and ascertain what factors have been active in developing the fauna of today and in bringing about its present distribution.

To the student of zoogeography the book will be an important work of reference and should be in all scientific and general libraries. For detailed comment on the ornithology we must refer to our previous review in 'The Auk' 1920, p. 688.—W. S.

**Abel Chapman's 'Savage Sudan.'**<sup>1</sup>—In this attractive volume the well known hunter-naturalist Abel Chapman has presented the results of his many expeditions into this fascinating section of Africa which, it will no doubt surprise many to know, comprises one fifth of the entire African continent. While in South Africa the exploits of the early hunters of big game can never now be repeated, and while East Africa is being opened up to white settlers, Mr. Chapman tells us that in the Sudan *primaeval* condition remain absolutely unchanged, and he prophesies that while capable of development it will never become a "white-man's land."

His ambition in preparing the present volume is "that ere the reader has completed his perusal, he will feel satisfied that he has been 'personally

<sup>1</sup> *Savage Sudan. Its Wild Tribes, Big-Game and Bird-Life.* By Abel Chapman., author of 'On Safari in British East Africa,' 'Wild Spain,' 'Wild Norway,' etc. With 248 illustrations, chiefly from Rough Sketches by the Author. Gurney and Jackson, London: 33 Paternoster Row. Edinburgh: Tweeddale Court. 1921. 8vo. pp. i-ix+1-452. Price 32 shillings net.