

specimens which have often apparently been set out amidst natural surroundings, although these facts are not mentioned. There are also some good pictures from life of the Gannet rookeries of Bird Island and Ostriches on an Ostrich farm.

Mr. Fitzsimmons' book should accomplish much for the conservation of bird life in South Africa and we regret that its real mission could not have been brought out in the title.—W. S.

**Dr. Townsend's 'Beach Grass.'**—Dr. Charles W. Townsend, whose delightful volumes on Labrador and Ipswich beach have given enjoyment to so many lovers of nature and the great out doors, has just published another book<sup>1</sup> under the title of 'Beach Grass' which consists of further chronicles of the Ipswich dunes and uplands and is illustrated by many half-tones from photographs by the author.

While birds figure here and there throughout the text four chapters deal exclusively with bird life—'A Winter Crow Roost;' 'Courtship in Birds;' 'Hawking' and 'Swallows at Play.' The first two appeared previously in 'The Auk' and much of the third in the 'Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club.' The chapter on Swallows deals with the life history of the Barn and Tree Swallows, two species especially characteristic of the sea coast, and Dr. Townsend's observations will prove most interesting reading to those who have studied these birds at other points on the Atlantic seaboard.

The description of the flock of migrants in the dune thickets in Chapter I, is a vivid picture of autumn migration as we find it near the coast, while the account of the courtship performances of the Terns is one of the best we have read. These are the more important ornithological contributions but a good index directs one to many other observations on various species of birds.

Of more general interest are the accounts of the dunes and the ice formations of winter; the tracks of birds, beasts and insects in the sand and the development of a 'forest' on a twelve acre lot of grass-land by the salt marsh. All of these are interesting, while throughout the book as we read Dr. Townsend's vivid descriptions of nature in her several garbs and under varied weather conditions, we seem to catch the salty smell of the sea, to feel the winds sweeping the sand before them and to hear the boom of the surf on the beach.—W. S.

**Laimbeer's 'Birds I Have Known.'**—This is the story of a man who took up bird study rather late in life as a result of a realization of the threatened destruction of many of our familiar species and who desires to tell us all about it. The key note of the volume<sup>2</sup> is the cultivation of an intimacy

<sup>1</sup> Beach Grass. By Charles Wendell Townsend, Boston, Marshall Jones Company. (212 Summer St., Boston) 1923. 12 mo. pp. i-xii + 1-319, 82 illustrations. Price \$3.50.

<sup>2</sup> Birds I Have Known. By Richard Harper Laimbeer. Illustrated with 50 Colored Plates and with 48 Snapshots from Life by the Author. G. W. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, The Knickerbocker Press. 1923, pp. i-xviii + 1-401. Price \$4.00.