

The section of most interest in this connection is that relating to birds on pp. 285 to 335, based on the field observations of Rupert Vallentin who made three visits to the islands remaining five months in 1897-98, the season of 1901-02 and two years beginning in 1909—much of the time during the last trip on West Falkland. The list of birds includes 35 species of which only 8 are land birds. One of the latter, the Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes falklandica*) is unfortunately becoming rapidly extinct owing to the constant warfare waged upon it. Many interesting notes are given on the three species of Penguins, the King (*Aptenodytes patagonica*), the Gentoo (*Pygoscelis taeniata*), and the Rockhopper (*Catarrhactes chrysocome*).

The principal industry of the islands is sheep raising which has caused a marked change in the vegetation and great diminution in some of the birds. It is said that in 1903 there was considerable agitation for the destruction each year of 150,000 Upland Geese (*Chloephaga magellanica*), which were estimated to consume grass enough for 20,000 sheep. As a result of this demand "An Ordinance for the Destruction of Geese was passed, the number of beaks to be purchased during the first year being for the East Falklands 50,000, for the West Falklands 37,500 (p. 210). Although most of the other birds are protected by law Upland Geese apparently are not as yet protected even during the breeding season.

Readers who are interested in the resources and natural history of this remote southern colony will be well repaid by a perusal of this volume.
—T. S. P.

Thompson's 'Aunt Chloe and Her Birds.'¹—There is something about the negro dialect that fascinates children and the Uncle Remus stories have held the attention of several generations, nor do the children tire of them after they have ceased to be children.

Mr. Thompson has taken this method of presenting his bird stories and has done so most successfully. He has evidently studied the dialect carefully and has reproduced it with great accuracy. Aunt Chloe, well versed in the habits of wild creatures, entertains a group of girls from the city with the life histories of the Baltimore Oriole, the Catbird, the Cardinal, the Crane, the Blue Jay—"dat bird o' satan,"—Cowbird and Cuckoos, English Sparrow, Turtle Dove and Crow, while there are also chapters on the song bird strike and a bird convention.

Mr. Thompson cleverly endows Aunt Chloe with knowledge of the latest reports of the Biological Survey and the Audubon Societies so that much valuable information is instilled into the minds of the young readers which through a more direct medium would be dry and uninteresting.

The most attractive sketches however are those which include some of the traditions and folk lore of the negroes. The old Crane [Heron],

¹ Aunt Chloe and Her Birds. By William Edgar Thompson. Second edition revised and enlarged, with eight full pages in color and many pen and ink sketches. Price \$2.00. William Edgar Thompson, Bedford, Virginia. 1928. pp. 1-208.

for instance, is described as "just like a dahky. He aint got he min' on livin' atall. He all de time studyin' bout dyin' * * * let a huhse go by an a dahky'll lean on de hoe an' watch it as fuh as he kin see it, axin' 'Who dat daid?' Dat 's de way 'tis wid dat crane, but he not only fin' out who's daid, but he know who's gwine die, an' if he fly ovah de roof of yuh house, sayin, 'Cawpse, cawpse-cawpse' he done prophesy."

Some of the best of the Audubon Society's colored bird pictures are used in illustration and there are some black and white drawings depicting negro scenes, in the main, but most unfortunate where the artist attempts to sketch birds, especially where the Pheasant (Ruffed Grouse) "thumpin' a log wid he wings" is depicted as the long tailed English Pheasant!

Mr. Thompson's excellent book should have a wide sale. It is not only interesting reading but educational as well and should do much good in spreading an interest in birds and their protection.—W. S.

Loveridge on Vertebrates of the Smithsonian-Chrysler African Expedition.—Mr. Arthur Loveridge, a member of the recent Smithsonian-Chrysler expedition to East Africa, under the leadership of Dr. W. M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park, presents in this paper¹ his notes on the vertebrates obtained or observed.

The expedition, whose object was primarily the acquisition of live animals, landed at Dar es Salaam, in Tanganyika Territory, on May 6, 1926, and left for home on September 9, making its headquarters at Dodoma, midway between the coast and Lake Tanganyika.

Mr. Loveridge has had previous experience in Tanganyika which renders his observations of the fauna all the more valuable. He presents an itinerary of the expedition with some account of the several native tribes with which the party came in contact and likewise a discussion of their influence on the decrease of the game animals. They are, he tells us, more of poachers than hunters, and catch their game with deadfalls and snares. They also catch the recently born young of many of the smaller antelopes. While there is no justification in their killing of wild game since they have plenty of available meat in their own herds, the same argument applies equally to the European sportsman.

The main text of Mr. Loveridge's paper is devoted to accounts of the captive individuals of the various species which the expedition secured and their habits and character in confinement as well as the methods of feeding them and the most desirable food.

The report will prove of the utmost value to the keepers of animals in zoological gardens showing as it does which species are most satisfactory for captivity and what food proves most acceptable, but it has also great value as a contribution to the life histories of East African animals.

The bird portion contains notes of eighty-six species. Emin Pasha's

¹Field Notes on Vertebrates Collected by the Smithsonian-Chrysler East African Expedition of 1926. By Arthur Loveridge. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 73, Art. 17, pp. 1-69, pls. 1-4. 1928.