

done as much to interest the general public, both of Australia and abroad, in Australian birds as any other man, and his latest book¹ under the above title will receive, as it deserves, a hearty welcome.

This time he has picked Sydney and its environs as the scene of his studies—Sydney where white men first set foot on Australian soil and where now stands a mighty city of a million inhabitants, but fortunately man has confined himself mainly to the vicinity of the shore and much reasonably wild country still remains close at hand where choice flowers and interesting birds still are to be found in plenty, and these are what Mr. Chisholm tells us about.

The wonderful Lyre-bird, thanks to its shyness, still persists in numbers no less than six pairs nesting in the National Park close to Sydney, and in a suburb of the city where a pair built, the song of the female imitated the cackling of domestic fowls in an adjoining yard. Many will be surprised to learn that this bird, chiefly known by its wonderfully constructed tail forming a beautiful representation of a lyre, is a gifted mimic. "Imagine yourself" says our author, "lounging on the veranda of the cabin [used by bird watchers in the National Park] listening idly to the myriad voices of the Bush. Presently you hear a resonant call, as from a voice throbbing with power. The opening shout slips now into the wail of the cockatoo, changes quickly to the crack of the whip-bird, resolves into the screeching of a flock of parrots, and proceeds to encompass many voices of the neighborhood." The activities of the bird are then described as were made familiar to members of the A. O. U. who attended the Salem meeting by the motion pictures shown there by Mr. Francis R. Cope. It is interesting also to know that the Satin Bower Bird also is to be found in the Sydney region and Mr. Chisholm makes us familiar with its habits and its bower. He also comments on the wonder of its eye of cerulean blue with scarlet ring about the pupil and recalls the remark of a native bushman: "If I met a woman with eyes of that tone I would follow her anywhere!"

But we must let the reader pick out the most interesting points for himself. The book is a combination of good writing and good photography and teems with suggestive reflections on the origin of birds and their habits as well as with bits of historic lore.

We congratulate Mr. Chisholm on another success.—W. S.

Townsend's 'From Panama to Patagonia.'—Dr. Charles W. Townsend who since his retirement as a medical practitioner, some years ago, has been spending most of his time in travel and is at the present time in Africa, recently made a tour of South America down the west coast and up the east as far as Rio de Janeiro, going short distances inland to visit

¹ Nature Fantasy | in Australia | By | Alec H. Chisholm | Author of *Birds and Green Places* | *Mateship with Birds*, etc. | Illustrated with a Coloured | Plate, a Regional Map and | Eighty Photographs from Life | by the Author and Others | London Toronto Vancouver | J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. | [1932] Pp. i-xiv + 1-196. Price 12s. 6d. net.

Quito, Cuzco, La Paz, Buenos Aires and Asuncion. An account of this trip¹ prefaced by one to Yucatan and Mexico (no dates are given) is presented in the volume before us.

While the author had little time for ornithological study there is frequent mention of conspicuous birds especially on the guano islands of Peru, but the book deals mainly with countries, inhabitants and scenery, with many historical references and personal experiences.

It is very good reading and interesting to anyone who has covered part or all of his itinerary or contemplates following in the author's footsteps. The reviewer's experience is limited to the chapter on Yucatan and Mexico but so accurately does Dr. Townsend's account tally with conditions as he found them there over forty years ago that comparatively little change seems to have taken place.

A number of illustrations from photographs by the author depict characteristic scenery. 'From Panama to Patagonia' is a worth while book of travel and should prove of interest and value to a large circle of readers.—W. S.

Delacour and Jabouille: 'Les Oiseaux de l'Indochine Francaise.'—

Since December 1923 until February 1930 Messrs. Delacour and Jabouille have been spending the winter months in ornithological explorations in French Indochina, their five trips yielding some 20,000 specimens. These have been reported upon in the 'Revue de Ornithologie' and 'The Ibis' and the papers noticed in the pages of 'The Auk.'

The authors have now embodied their observations and such other information as has been published on the birds of the country in an elaborate work² in four volumes entitled 'Les Oiseaux de l'Indochine Francaise' constituting one of the outstanding ornithological publications of the year. It is a royal octavo with wide margins, beautifully printed on light weight paper and illustrated by 67 colored plates from paintings by Grönvold, some of which have appeared in the previous publications on the individual expeditions. There are addenda and systematic and alphabetical indices to each volume and each has its own pagination although the plates are numbered continuously.

¹ From Panama | to Patagonia | By | Charles Wendell Townsend | Author of "A Labrador Spring," "In Audubon's Labrador," "Sand Dunes and Salt Marshes," "Beach Grass, etc." | With Forty-five Illustrations | from the Author's Photographs | and a Map | H. F. & G. Witherby | 326 High Holborn London W. C. 1. Pp. 1-224, pl. not numbered. Price 12s. 6d.

² Exposition Coloniale Internationale | Paris 1931 | Indochine Française | Les Oiseaux | de | l'Indochine Française | par | J. Delacour & P. Jabouille | Tome I. [Colymbiformes, Procellariiformes, Lariformes, Pelecaniformes, Ardeiformes, Anseriformes, Charadriiformes, Gruiformes and Galliformes]. Pp. 1-lvi + 1-279 + addenda, one page + i-xlvi. Pl. I-XIV, figs. three. Tome II. [Columbiformes, Falconiformes, strigiformes, Psittaciformes, Cuculiformes, Piciformes, Trogoniformes, Cameluliformes, Apodiformes, Coraciiformes]. Pp. 1-339 + addenda one page + i-lxi. Pl. XV-XXVII. Tome III. [Passeriformes] Pp. 1-348 + i-lxxiii. Pl. XXVIII-L. Tome IV. [Passeriformes]. Pp. 1-296 + i-lxvi. Pl. LI-LXVII. Date of publication August 15, 1931.