

Mr. Lowe on the expeditions to various parts of the world which he here describes, and with even more enthusiasm by those who delight in entertaining and accurate accounts of travel and adventure.

Speaking of his youth in England and his deep interest in natural history he alludes to an interview with Sir William Flower, who, he writes, "impressed upon me that work in Natural History was very poorly paid; in this he was right." He also "thought I would, like most boys as they grow older, forget all about birds. Here he was wrong!" How many other similar interviews have taken place in America and how many, many, times have *both* of Sir William's predictions come true and how seldom has the enthusiastic boy really proved to be a naturalist.

Having settled this point Mr. Lowe takes us to Colorado where he spent several years of his early manhood assisting his brother on his sheep ranch but devoting every spare minute to collecting birds. Thence we follow him to the Philippines; later, as naturalist on H. M. S. Mutine, along the African coasts and inland to Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria, Gambia, and other parts of the Dark Continent; then to Siam and finally to Madagascar—always as collector for the British Museum.

The pages of his book teem with interesting bits of ornithology as well as with experiences with natives and incidents of travel in remote lands. It is well written, well illustrated with photographs as well as some sketches by the author's son, the late J. P. W. Lowe, whose portrait forms the frontispiece. In closing the introduction Mr. David A. Bannerman writes: "Now we have the narrative of these expeditions before us, and shortly after the book is in the hands of the public the narrator will be off once more on his beloved Trail—this time to the Gold Coast."—W. S.

Cayley's 'Australian Finches in Bush and Aviary.'—The purpose of this attractive volume,¹ the author tells us, "is two-fold: (a) to supply a much-needed manual for the use of lovers of these beautiful birds, who keep and breed them; (b) to offer to those who take a more scientific interest in them information concerning them in their natural haunts." In carrying out his plan he seems to have succeeded admirably.

Weaver-finches have always been popular as cage birds and the Australian species have been among the most desirable. There are some nineteen species of these gay little birds and each is described at length with paragraphs on references, descriptions, distribution, historical, field notes, aviary notes, and hybrids. There is also an outline map showing the distribution of each species and colored plates, from paintings by the author, depicting the several plumages, as well as a number of half-tones illustrating nests and aviary appurtenances.

Many of our readers have doubtless kept one or more of the Australian

¹ Australian Finches | in Bush and Aviary | By | Neville W. Cayley, F.R.Z.S. | etc. | Illustrated by the Author | Australia Angus & Robertson Limited, 89 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, 1932. Pp. i-xix + 1-256, colored plates 10, half-tone plates 16.

weaver-finches in captivity and will like to learn something of their habits in the wild as well as the experience of others in caring for them in their aviaries. Mr. Cayley is especially fitted to furnish this information authoritatively as he is both ornithologist and aviculturist, as well as an accomplished bird artist, and we congratulate him upon producing a valuable book of reference. We admire especially the plate of the Gouldian Finches and note that the peculiar dimorphism exhibited by this species—some being black headed and some red headed—has not yet been explained.—W. S.

Moody's 'Water-fowl and Game-birds in Captivity.'—This is another admirable book¹ for the aviculturist as well as for the game-breeder. It relates in detail the experience of the bird-keeper of the grounds of Mr. W. H. St. Quintin, at Scampston Hall, in England, where a remarkable number and variety of birds have lived and thrived in the open. The various chapters treat of Herons, Geese, Swans, Ducks, Sand-Grouse, Pheasants, Turkeys, Megapodes, Partridges, Quail, Grouse, Rails, Cranes, Bustards, Plover, Sandpipers, etc.

Each species is treated separately with accounts of its appearance, habits, disposition, breeding, hardiness, voice, sexual differences etc., etc., the information being given concisely under definite headings so as to be readily accessible. There are also chapters on aviaries, food, handling, shipment, etc.

It is interesting to learn that Flamingos survive the winter in England and do well where broad pools of shallow water are available, and that Mound-builders have bred there successfully and require only the shelter of an open shed in winter. While the latter select only leaves and similar material for their mound when at liberty, a male, confined in a closed shed, finding his supply of available leaves exhausted piled his water pan on the heap as well as a cabbage, a lump of rock salt, some sand, and numerous stones—in fact everything moveable that was within reach. The male bird alone built the mound.

There are many other incidents bearing on the behaviour of birds which will interest the general reader, but it is to the bird keeper with a large estate available that the book will most strongly appeal. A number of halftones illustrate this excellent work.—W. S.

Pearson on the Herons.—The second instalment² of the series of articles on North American birds being published in the 'National Geographic Magazine' is by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson and deals with the herons, ibises, storks, spoonbill, and flamingo—birds upon which he is especially fitted to write through his long experience with them, in the work of pro-

¹ Water-Fowl | and Game-Birds in | Captivity | Some Notes on Habits & Management | By | Arthur F. Moody | Illustrated from Photographs | H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. Pp. 1-240. Price 10 shillings 6 pence net.

² The Large Wading Birds. By T. Gilbert Pearson. Nat. Geogr. Magazine, LXII, No. 4, pp. 440-469. October, 1932.