

## RECENT LITERATURE.

**The A. O. U. 'Memorial Volume.'**—In commemoration of the Semi-centennial of the A. O. U. a memorial volume<sup>1</sup> entitled 'Fifty Years Progress of American Ornithology' was published on the first day of the fifty-first annual meeting, on November 13, 1933.

The volume consists of a frontispiece photograph of the founders of the Union; fourteen articles on various branches of ornithology as developed in America, by those who are authorities on the several subjects, and a chronology of the A. O. U. activities. While the work is necessarily not a bibliography nor a complete history of ornithology, since it is limited to the work of Americans, it presents an astonishing amount of information in a minimum of space and is not only interesting reading but will prove a handy and valuable work of reference, while all members of the A. O. U. will find in it ample reason to be proud of the part that American ornithologists have played in furthering the science for which our organization stands.

The contents of the volume are as follows: A Brief History of the A. O. U., by T. S. Palmer; American Ornithological Literature—1883—1933, by Witmer Stone; Fifty Years of Bird Migration, by William Rowan; Bird Banding by Frederick C. Lincoln; The Theory of Territorialism, by Margaret M. Nice; Advances in Life History Work, by Herbert Friedmann; Economic Ornithology, by W. L. McAtee; Collections of Birds in the U. S. and Canada: Study Collections, by James L. Peters; Exhibition Collections, by Frank M. Chapman; History and Progress of Bird Photography in America, by Alfred O. Gross; Fifty Years of Progress in American Bird Art, by George M. Sutton; Fifty Years of Bird Protection, by T. Gilbert Pearson; Ornithological Education in America, by Arthur A. Allen; and Fossil Birds, by Alexander Wetmore, with an introduction and the chronology. The book was planned by a Committee consisting of Frank M. Chapman and T. S. Palmer who with the assistance of Witmer Stone supervised its publication. It is uniform in every way with 'The Auk' but is issued as an independent publication.

Owing to the financial situation it was found impossible to distribute this volume to all members of the Union, as was at first intended, and it has been necessary to sell it at a nominal price of one dollar. It may be ordered from W. L. McAtee, 200 Cedar St., Cherrydale, Va., and it is hoped that every member will secure a copy, not only for his own gratifica-

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<sup>1</sup> Fifty Years' Progress of American Ornithology | 1883—1933 | Published by the American Ornithologists' Union | on the occasion of its Semi-Centennial | Anniversary, New York, N. Y. | November 13—16, 1933 | Lancaster, Pa. 1933 | Pp. 1—249 with frontispiece plate. Price \$1.00 from W. L. McAtee, 200 Cedar St., Cherrydale, Va.

[An edition of 500 copies was issued on November 13 and a second edition of 500 copies on December 26 containing some slight corrections.]

tion but so as to cover in part the cost of publication and thereby help to tide 'The Auk' over these days of depression.—W. S.

**Chapman's 'Autobiography of a Bird-Lover.'**<sup>1</sup>—To those with the proper appreciation of bird study the biography of an ornithologist must always have as great an interest as an ornithological biography and of books of the former type none will excite greater interest or be more generally read as the years pass by than the volume before us. When we realize the errors into which a biographer may unwittingly fall we feel deeply grateful to those who, like Dr. Chapman, have prepared their own biographies and have given us not only the facts of their lives but their personal reactions to them.

Dr. Chapman's ability as a writer and speaker is well known and his command of the English language has been equalled by no American ornithologist save Elliott Coues. We find in his autobiography, therefore, beautiful composition and fascinating pen-pictures of nature as well as the scientific and historical data that constitute the basis of his book.

One is deeply impressed with the singleness of purpose that has marked his life; his object was the study of birds; his aim to become an ornithologist; and his story demonstrates the fullness of his achievement.

He seems to have come to the American Museum of Natural History at exactly the right time for developing the career which he had always, perhaps unconsciously, in mind, and year after year he realized with uncanny accuracy the needs of ornithology and promptly met them.

His 'Handbook,' for the latest edition of which he has just received the Brewster Medal, was just what the rising generation of bird students needed; his advocacy of bird protection and popular education in this field met with instant response from all bird lovers; and 'Bird Lore,' the magazine that he conceived, became their mouth piece.

At the museum he advocated and developed the new ideas in exhibition and personally secured the material for the bird habitat groups that grace the halls. With these successes he turned to more serious scientific work planning and executing the ornithological surveys of South America, the results of which have established his reputation as an ornithologist throughout the world.

All these experiences are described in his autobiography. The delightful accounts of his travels in the tropics, of his meetings with foreign ornithologists at the International Congresses, and with many other notable characters outside of the ornithological circle, furnish interesting reading for the general public; the ornithologist with a fuller understanding of the subject will delight in a more careful study of the book; and the young bird student will profit greatly by its perusal. One striking

<sup>1</sup> *Autobiography of a Bird-Lover* | By | Frank M. Chapman | Curator of Birds in The | American Museum of Natural History | With Photographs by the Author; | Drawings and Four Color Plates by | Louis Agassiz Fierstein. | D. Appleton-Century Company, Incorporated, New York 1933. London. Pp. i-xiii + 1-420. Price \$3.75.