

Admiral Lynes has made another valuable contribution to the zoogeography of Africa as well as to the ornithology of the area covered, which should be considered in connection with the publications of Loveredge, Chapin and Bowen on the distribution of African birds.—W. S.

Holman's 'Sheep and Bear Trails.'—Mr. John P. Holman has recently published an attractive series of hunting experiences in Alaska and British Columbia, under the above title,¹ dealing mainly with white sheep, Rocky Mountain goats, and bears, with a little prelude dealing with the lure of the 'Rivers of the North.' There are a number of good half-tone illustrations from photographs of the country and the game.

While ornithologists with a liking for the wilderness trail will find much good reading in Mr. Holman's accounts of his trips it is his final chapter that will appeal especially to the bird lover: 'The Keeper of the Swans.' This consists of verbal accounts and letters of Ralph A. Edwards, of British Columbia, who located on one of the lonely lakes of this country where a few Trumpeter Swans come every year. He has taken upon himself the protection of these fast disappearing birds and does all in his power to guard them against any possible enemies. Severe winters prove very hard on the birds and some of them perish though others were saved from starvation by feeding them on cabbage until their strength was regained. The history and personality of the "keeper" are as interesting as his account of the birds.—W. S.

New Boat-tailed Grackles.—While the recent discussion in 'The Auk' on the color of the iris of the Boat-tailed Grackle brought out the apparent fact that there were two forms of the bird, no one seemed anxious to pursue the matter further until quite recently, when two papers on the subject appeared almost simultaneously. One by Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr.,² names the brown-eyed bird as new under the name *Cassidix mexicanus westoni*, type from St. John's River Marshes, Indian River County, Florida; the other by Dr. Francis Harper³ describes the yellow-eyed bird as new with the name *Cassidix major torreyi*, type from Chincoteague, Virginia.

The first Boat-tail to be described was named by Vieillot *major* and was from Louisiana; it was therefore necessary at the outset to find out what the color of the eye was in Louisiana birds, since Vieillot failed to mention this point, in order to fix his name on one form or the other. Mr. Sprunt says "the fact that the birds of the type locality are yellow-eyed proves it to be a characteristic of that form (*major*)," but gives no further evidence

¹ Sheep and Bear Trails | A Hunter's Wandering in | Alaska and British Columbia | by | John P. Holman | introduction by | Capt. Robert A. Bartlett | Approved by the | Boone and Crockett Club | With 43 Illustrations | New York | Frank Walters | Grand Central Palace | 1933. Pp. 1-xvi + 1-211. Price \$3.00.

² A New Grackle from Florida. By Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Charleston Museum Leaflet, No. 6. February 24, 1934. Pp. 1-5.

³ The Boat-tailed Grackle of the Atlantic Coast. By Francis Harper. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., LXXXVI, 1934, pp. 1-2. March 8, 1934.