

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,<sup>1</sup> 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.,<sup>2</sup> 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 Harper<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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

as to the source of his information. Dr. Harper states that "Mr. Alfred M. Bailey has recently secured the desired information [on the color of the iris] in Louisiana and has generously passed it on to me." As he describes the yellow-eyed bird as new it is inferred that Mr. Bailey's birds had brown eyes!

We now face a curiously involved problem with conflicting statements as to the eye-color of the Louisiana birds which is the crux of the whole matter! At any rate both forms have now been abundantly named and Louisiana ornithologists have an important task before them to determine positively whether their Boat-tails have yellow or brown eyes or whether both sorts occur there.—W. S.

**Griscom's 'Birds of Dutchess County, New York.'**—This handsomely gotten-up publication<sup>1</sup> is a memorial to the late Maunsell S. Crosby by his most intimate ornithological friend and associate, and dedicated to him by the Linnaean Society of New York, of which he was an active member and in whose 'Transactions' it appears.

Mr. Crosby had intended to prepare this report himself and in carrying out his intention the author, who accompanied him in much of his field work, has made full use of Crosby's notes as well as those of other members of the Society who have carried on field studies in Dutchess County.

Besides the fully annotated list of 254 species there is a discussion of migration in the county with a reproduction of several of Crosby's carefully prepared daily lists and a grouping of the breeding species into Carolinian and Canadian categories, the former more strongly represented in the Hudson Valley than in the Connecticut Valley at the same latitude.

Mr. Griscom in his careful preparation of this report, has evidently considered it a labor of love and a tribute to a dear friend, and it will be a satisfaction to Mr. Crosby's many associates to see this work which he had always had in mind, completed in such an admirable manner.—W. S.

**Willett's 'List of the Birds of Southwestern California.'**—The members of the Cooper Ornithological Club show a commendable interest in keeping their distributional lists up to date. In 1912 Mr. George Willett published as 'Avifauna No. 7' a brochure of 120 pages on the distribution of the birds of the coast region of southern California. Now after twenty years he has just published a revised edition<sup>2</sup> of 200 pages, entirely re-written and embodying the results of a very active period in the ornithology of the region.

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Dutchess County | New York | From Records Compiled By | Maunsell S. Crosby | By Ludlow Griscom | With Three Plates | Published by the Society, December, 1933 | New York; | Press of Uner-Barry Company | MCMXXXIII Trans. Linn. Soc. of New York, Vol. III. Pp. 1-184.

<sup>2</sup> A Revised List of the Birds of Southwestern California. By George Willett. Contribution from the Los Angeles Museum. Cooper Ornithological Club Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 21. Los Angeles. Published by the Club. December 1, 1933. Pp. 1-204. Price \$4.00.