

With reference to the Antarctic Tern (*Sterna vittata*)—the only breeding tern of the South Orkneys, since *Sterna hirundinacea* is confined to South American littoral waters—it seems that the author has used the subspecific name *georgiae* somewhat rashly. He states that only one specimen was collected; no measurements are given, and there is no indication that a comparison has been made with South Georgian examples, which are at least likely to prove to be endemic at that single island.

The final life history gives us the first definite and objective description of courtship, or connubial behavior, of the Sheathbill. Ardley's observations lead, also, to the conclusion that the rather extensive migrations of this curious bird are made without any ingestion of food during its flights from land to land.

This contribution, added to Matthews's account of the birds of South Georgia, Hamilton's study of the sub-antarctic Skuas, etc., gives ornithology a high place in the notable 'Discovery Reports,' which have now reached 13 volumes.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *American Museum of Natural History*.

**Sutton's 'Birds in the Wilderness.'**—Those who have read Dr. Sutton's 'Eskimo Year' are aware of his ability to write entertainingly of his experiences and they will find a wealth of good reading and personal anecdotes as well as much ornithology in the interesting book<sup>1</sup> that he now offers to the public. He begins with a brief account of his own early life—in Nebraska, Minnesota, Oregon, Illinois, Texas and West Virginia, and the circumstances which led his ornithological career. Then follows a delightful chapter on Louis Agassiz Fuertes who gave him instruction and inspiration in his bird painting—a field in which the student has certainly realized the hopes of his teacher! Other chapters describe the author's many trips in search of bird lore to James Bay, Labrador, British Columbia, Churchill, Oklahoma, southern Florida and interior Louisiana, with sketches of the habits and personalities of familiar birds nearer home. The Turkey Vulture, Blue Goose, Roadrunner, Chimney Swallow are among the numerous species of which the author writes sympathetically, while he also tells us of many bird pets, notably Owls and Ravens. Poe, he considers, was no ornithologist and *his* Raven was "a monster, a fiend, and a hybrid creature of blasted soul."

Dr. Sutton tells us that "ornithologists are not good conversationalists. They do not care to talk about anything but birds; and when they talk they must needs continually toss off such formidable terms as 'pileated,' 'semipalmated,' 'flamulated,' etc.," but in his little book he proves the error of his statement, for one finds much of interest in 'Birds in the Wilderness' that is not ornithology and the ornithology is presented in a way that everyone can understand and enjoy. There are twelve illustrations by the author, of which several are in color, while several others illustrate juvenal plumages in depicting which Dr. Sutton excels. We heartily recommend 'Birds in the Wilderness' to all who love wild life and experiences afield.—W. S.

**Peattie's 'Green Laurels.'**—When one looks over the "Contents" of this notable book<sup>2</sup> he infers that it is a series of biographies of naturalists but he soon finds that it is far more than that. As the author himself says: "I am telling about the great naturalists not simply from a biographical point of view; these men are the

<sup>1</sup> Birds in the Wilderness | Adventures of an Ornithologist | By George Miksch Sutton Illustrated | by the author, with pencil drawings | and field-sketches in color made | from living or freshly killed birds | . New York | The Macmillan Company | 1936. Pp. 1-xiv + 1-200. Price \$3.50.

<sup>2</sup> Green Laurels | The Lives and Achievements | of the | Great Naturalists | Donald Culross Peattie | Author of "Singing in the Wilderness" | and "An Almanac for Moderns" | Simon and Schuster, 386 Fourth Ave., New York 1936. Pp. i-xxiii + 1-368. Price \$3.75.