

leading as to detail. For example, we note on a vegetational map, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley of California marked "tall grass"; hence, by context, a suitable habitat for certain tinamous!

Of course, all those of like mind with the present reviewer can but deplore the prospect of the many admittedly hardier, more aggressive, more adaptable Eurasian gallinaceous species dominating in America, to the probable final extinction of most if not all of our native kinds of upland game birds. Think of the hunter-naturalist climbing Mount Pinos at some future day, to seek a specimen of the local race of the native Sooty Grouse, only to reach the fir-clad upper slopes and put up some species of Oriental pheasant!—J. GRINNELL.

OUTDOOR HERITAGE* is a book which every Cooper Club member will want to read. It deals with those natural history subjects which hold the interests of all bird students, and it was written by a member of the Club whose success in picking out and presenting nature lore is acknowledged throughout the state of California.

Among the subjects treated in the 465 pages are the following: First there is a chapter treating of the more characteristic topographic and physiographic features of the state, along with some general statements as to the principles of animal and plant distribution. A rather full interpretation of former animal life of the state as it is revealed by fossil deposits will especially interest persons whose studies of animals have been limited to living types. Next, in turn, the animals and plants of California's valleys, mountains and deserts are treated and the more conspicuous and curious forms are indicated and described. Trees and features of them peculiar to California take up one chapter. Another on the fishes of the state contains much from the rich, first-hand experience of the author. Accounts of the principal kinds of game birds and mammals cover the whole state. Two chapters are devoted to the subjects of parks and recreation. The final chapter is devoted to conservation problems.

The task of writing a general natural

history of California can be considered in no sense a simple one. Such a great lot of reliable and well selected facts have been assembled in the present work that it might have been fairer to overlook such obvious slips as the statement (p. 76) that . . . "in the wren-tit, California may boast of the only bird family peculiar to America," or (p. 283) the unqualified assertion that "the cottontail is a burrowing rabbit." The implication of richness of the vertebrate life in certain sections of the state seems scarcely justified when comparison is made with more humid areas of the United States.

Fortunately, the book has a complete index so that particular species may be looked up. A bibliography, arranged by chapters, contains forty pages of references to works dealing with the out-of-doors in California.

We have the author's own statement that he has been "most at home in writing chapters which deal with vertebrates" and his admission of regret that he should "have to resort to the printed word." Even if this book does not always stir its reader to go into the field and make firsthand nature studies it will serve well as a source of reliable facts concerning the out-of-doors. No other single volume contains so much natural history matter covering so many fields in California as this one. Strangers to California who are acquainted with the plant and animal life of another region and who wish to learn quickly the peculiarities of California's fauna and flora are the persons likely to profit most by reading this book. Even those naturalists whose lives have been spent in California will find much material new to them in some chapters.

Aside from its value as a source of natural history information this book is useful as a guide to the problems and progress of conservation in the state. Its writer has had better opportunity than any other person in late years to keep in touch with such developments and he has drawn upon this experience to provide a theme for this work. This has been done so successfully that the chapters toward the end, the ones given over entirely to conservation subjects, have for us more of real interest than the early ones.—JEAN M. LINSDALE.

*Outdoor Heritage | By Harold Child Bryant ||
of the series | California | Edited by | John Russell
McCarthy | Powell Publishing Company | Los
Angeles | 1929. Octavo, pp. 14+465, 14 Ills. Price,
\$5.00.

LAING AND TAVERNER ON BIRDS OF THE
MOUNT LOGAN DISTRICT, ALASKA.—This
wording is gatherable from the rather