

the intelligence of an expert ornithologist, as witness the case, among others, of the Florida Meadowlark.

It is to be hoped that the author will be blessed with health and further opportunities for the completion of the grand work he has so successfully undertaken and already carried so far.—J. A. A.

**Bird-Nesting with a Camera.**<sup>1</sup>—The prospectus accompanying this sumptuous work tells us that the edition will be limited to 300 copies of 18 to 20 parts, each part to contain ten plates, with descriptions of the habits of the species, and a more special history of the nests illustrated. Material has already been collected for the first thirteen parts, which will be issued at intervals of four to six weeks, and with the exception of "one or two" of the rarer species the author expects to present a complete series of the nests of British birds photographed *in situ*. If he succeeds in his undertaking, and in the remaining parts of his work maintains the standard of excellence reached by Part I, he will have made an unparalleled contribution to ornithology.

Only those who have tried it know how much patience and ingenuity is required to obtain satisfactory photographs of birds' nests, and only those who have had experience with publishers know how difficult it is to secure a proper reproduction of the photograph after it is made. In both tasks Mr. Lee has achieved unqualified success. The ten photogravures included in Part I of his work, whether viewed from the standpoint of the photographer or reproducer, are above criticism, while neither pen nor pencil could so graphically illustrate the nesting haunts of the species they represent.

The text presents a general account of the species as a British bird, and very wisely, a particular account of the nest figured, with interesting incidents concerning the making of the photograph.—F. M. C.

**Thompson's Art Anatomy.**<sup>2</sup>—This admirable work is an outcome of the author's training both as a naturalist and artist. It goes without saying that no anatomist could alone have produced the series of beautiful plates

<sup>1</sup> Among British Birds in their Nesting Haunts. Illustrated by the Camera. By Oswin A. J. Lee. Part I. Edinburgh. David Douglas. Folio, pp. 39, pll. x. (Price 10s. 6d. per part to subscribers only.)

<sup>2</sup> Studies in the | Art Anatomy of Animals | Being a Brief Analysis of the Visible Forms of the more | Familiar Mammals and Birds. Designed for the | Use of Sculptors, Painters, Illustrators, | Naturalists, and Taxidermists. | By | Ernest E. Seton Thompson | Naturalist to the government of Manitoba; Author of "The Birds of Manitoba," "The Mammals of Manitoba," | "The King of Currumpaw," *Exposant au Salon*. | Illustrated with One Hundred Drawings by the Author | London | Macmillan and Co., Ltd. | New York : The Macmillan Co. | 1896.—Folio, pp. viii + 87; pll. xlix.

with which Mr. Thompson illustrates his theme and proves his thesis; and it is equally true that no artist could have drawn them without a knowledge of the anatomical details upon which they are based. Mr. Thompson's plea is for scientific exactness as well as for artistic excellence. He rightly claims that no result can be correct which is fundamentally wrong, and he presents his fellow artists with a series of original studies of the visible form of mammals and birds as it is governed by bones and muscles, tendons, veins and nerves, hair, feathers, which they will do well to consider.

We are here concerned only with that part of the work relating to birds. Plates are given illustrating the pterylosis of a typical passerine bird (*Passer domesticus*), a Kestrel (*Falco alaudarius*), and a Quail (*Coturnix communis*). Special attention is paid to the intricate arrangement of the feathers of the wing, and to the effect produced by the feathers of certain pteryllæ when in proper position. This is further shown by a remarkable drawing of the Peacock's spread train, which, when in good condition, is found to present a perfect half circle, the ocelli being bisected by the radii and equidistant concentric circles.

Mr. Thompson has rendered a service to science and to art for which all lovers of truth and beauty cannot be too grateful.—F. M. C.

Miss Merriam's 'A-Birding on a Bronco'.<sup>1</sup>—'A-Birding on a Bronco' consists of a series of nineteen chapters or studies, mostly here printed for the first time, illustrated with numerous 'half-tones' from photographs of some of the scenes described and by spirited drawings of birds and birds' nests by Mr. Fuertes. The scene of Miss Merriam's studies is the vicinity of Twin Oaks, in southern California, "thirty-four miles north of San Diego, and twelve miles from the Pacific," where parts of two summers were spent a-field with the birds. About sixty species are referred to at greater or less length, while a score or more are made the subject of special study. Some twenty pages are devoted to 'The Little Lover,' in other words, the Western House Wren, and as many more to the Western Gnatcatcher. The chief characters of another chapter are some young California Woodpeckers, while Bush-tits, Orioles, Chewinks, Humming-birds, the Valley Quail, the Road-runner, and others come in for a liberal share of attention. Miss Merriam is a sympathetic as well as a keen observer of birds in their native haunts, and relates in minute detail the vicissitudes of bird-life as seen in her numerous excursions to their favorite haunts. As may be inferred from the title of the book, two trusty broncos—one during the season of 1889 and the other in 1894—afforded her not only means of easy travel during her daily excursions but also pleasant

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<sup>1</sup> A-Birding on a Bronco | By Miss Florence A. Merriam | . . . [= Motto, 3 lines] | Illustrated | [Vignette] | Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1896.—16mo, pp. x + 227. (Price \$1.25.)