

hocus-pocus, and as such it is puerile, unscientific, and immoral." We shall long stand disconsolate outside the pearly gates of paradise, like the Peri of oriental allegory, if we try to enter the blessed abode of nomenclatural stability on any such shifty tack as that!¹ In some other respects Mr. Elliot ties fire-brands to foxes' tails and turns them loose in the stubble of bad names on our Check-List, with a cool audacity to be expected by those who know him, and to make him a holy terror, something like the undersigned, to those who mistake misspelling for stability of nomenclature. Baird, for example, could he speak now, would thank nobody for perpetuating his blunder of *Pediocetes*; Mr. Elliot corrects it to *Pediacetes*, uniformly with our 'Key' since 1872, unconformably with our Check-List. Of what use is our obnoxious Canon XL, if it cannot be enforced? Tyros and amateurs, virtuosos and ignoramuses, may respect it, because they know no better; but it is a dead letter to such as Mr. Elliot, who will continue to disregard it with imperturbable severity. We trust that the dignified weight of his example will not be lost upon those who have need to feel its force.

Mr. Elliot's two books, 'Shore Birds' and 'Game Birds,' are, we believe, the first appearance of a veteran technician in the distinctive rôle of a publicist. Their success is assured. We point to the *Anseres* as other suitable subjects upon which to exercise a facile pen, and trust that the work required to complete a trilogy may soon appear. — E. C.

Gibson's 'Studio Neighbors.'²—The late William Hamilton Gibson, as a reporter with pen and brush of the life-histories of our familiar birds, beasts, and flowers, was without a rival. There have been and are greater writers and more talented artists than he, but in no one man was the gift of observing animals and plants and the power of describing what he saw, both verbally and pictorially, so well developed. His death was an irreparable loss to the cause of popular nature study, a loss with which we are impressed anew as we examine this posthumously published volume of his writings. It is only in part devoted to birds, for in the later years of his life Mr. Gibson's attention was largely given to flowers, but the charm with which he invested his subject is well illustrated here in the chapters entitled 'A Familiar Guest' and 'The Cuckoos and the Outwitted Cowbird.'

While we must regret Mr. Gibson's premature death, we have reason to give thanks for the legacy he has left us. In addition to the present work,

[¹ See also *Science*, July 2, 1897, p. 18. — J. A. A.]

² My *Studio Neighbors* | By | William Hamilton Gibson | Illustrated by the Author | [Seal] | New York and London | Harper & Brothers, Publishers—1898. — 8vo., pp. x + 237. Numerous illustrations.

he was the author of some six others,¹ all containing original observations on the habits of our birds. — F. M. C.

'Bird Neighbors.'²—This is an interesting addition to the rapidly growing list of bird books, designed to popularize ornithology, by an author whose name was previously unknown to naturalists. It is evident, however, that she understands the needs of the audience to whom her book is addressed, and the key-note of the book is to simplify the problem of identification. This is done by grouping the species treated according to their haunts, characteristic habits, season, and finally color. About a page is devoted to the life-history of each species, and here the author shows that not only has she a practical grasp of her subject but also fully appreciates its æsthetic and poetic sides.

Fifty-one of the species are represented in color by plates which have appeared in the Chicago magazine 'Birds.' They are of special interest as showing the most recent development of the three-color printing process. It is evident, however, that poor taxidermy and lack of taste in composition have combined to furnish originals whose faults the process has reproduced with painful accuracy. — F. M. C.

The New Birdcraft.³—It is not often a reviewer's pleasure to have a publisher accept his advice in so literal and liberal a sense that its soundness is more than vindicated. We would not claim undue credit for the appearance of this beautiful book in its present form, but so fully does it now meet our ideas of what it should have been that we cannot forbear quoting from our review of the first edition⁴ with its inharmonious

¹'Eye Spy'; 'Sharp Eyes'; 'Strolls by Starlight and Sunshine'; 'Happy Hunting Grounds'; 'Highways and Byways'; 'Pastoral Days'—all published by Harper & Brothers.

²Bird Neighbors. An | Introductory Acquaintance | with one hundred and fifty | Birds Commonly Found in on the gardens, meadows, and | woods about Our Homes. | By | Neltje Blanchan | with Introduction By John Burroughs | and Fifty Colored Plates | New York | Doubleday & McClure Co. | 1897. — 8vo., pp. xii + 234, Colorotype plates, 51.

³Birdcraft | A Field Book of two hundred Song | Game, and Water Birds | By | Mabel Osgood Wright—Author of 'The Friendship of Nature,' 'Tommy Anne' | 'Citizen Bird,' etc. | With Eighty Full-Page Plates by | Louis Agassiz Fuertes | New York | The Macmillan Company | London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1897 | All rights reserved — | 8vo. pp xvi + 317; colored frontispiece and 79 full-page half-tones.

⁴The Auk, XII, 1895, p. 283. 2-81