

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

colored figures, in criticizing which we said: "We can wish Mrs. Wright's book no better fortune than that in the future editions it is sure to reach, it may have illustrations in keeping with the exceptionally high character of the text"; and no better compliment can be paid to either than to add that this hope has been fully realized. Mr. Fuertes's drawings, which so vivify the pages of 'Citizen Bird,' are here reproduced for the most part as full-page plates, which in size are obviously more just to the originals than the smaller text figures of the work in which they first appeared. — F. M. C.

Dixon's Migration of Birds.¹ — The 'amended edition' of Mr. Dixon's book, 'The Migration of Birds,' is very different from the original, published in 1892 (*cf.* Auk, X, 1893, pp. 70-73). Many of the theories and statements then put forth with so much confidence are now discarded, the book having been not only, as claimed on the title page, "entirely rewritten," but rewritten from a wholly different standpoint. His views are perhaps still subject to change, as he says that in writing the present book he was compelled to modify his views as expressed in his recent work on 'The Migration of British Birds,' published in 1895, wherein he propounded "a hitherto undiscovered Law of Dispersal." This law he looks upon as his "first *original* attempt to solve the problem of bird migration." Although written with the same confidence in his own conclusions as was the first, the present is a vastly better work, both in matter and method, for he now deigns to give his readers references to some of his sources of information. He also displays much greater familiarity with the literature of the subject, and has evidently greatly profited by works that were quite unknown to him, although previously published, when his first book was written. We miss many of the ideas so strikingly Gätkean met with in the first edition, many of which are now not only discarded, but formally controverted at considerable length. Especially is this the case with Gätke's "assumption" that "young birds migrate absolutely before their parents" (p. 113), where several pages are devoted to a critical analysis of Gätke's evidence.

The author states in his preface: "In some respects the present volume may be regarded as an effort to stem the torrent of mystery which bids fair soon to overwhelm the subject of Migration; to explain its varied phenomena by an appeal to natural laws and to common sense; not by the invocation of esoteric influences and supernatural impulses." Again he says (p. 125): "The effort to increase the mystery of Migra-

¹ The | Migration of Birds: | an attempt to reduce Avian Season Flight to Law. | By | Charles Dixon. | — | Amended Edition. | Entirely rewritten in accordance with the Author's latest Discoveries and | Views respecting the Subject of Avine Dispersal. | — | London: Horace Cox, | Winsor House, Bream's Buildings, E. C. | — | 1897. — 8vo, pp. xix + 426, with 2 maps.