

and that referring to the Magpie

One is sorrow, two mirth,
Three a wedding, four a birth,
Five heaven, six hell,
Seven the de'il's ain sell.

Ancient Swan-worship is referred to and the survival to the present day of the ancient oath, in the form 'I swan' or 'I swanny.'

The only criticism that we would make of this valuable book is the need of fuller cross references. Under 'Swan' we find, "see mute-Swan" (p. 163) while as a matter of fact there is more information regarding Swans under Whooper Swan (p. 253) than under the reference cited, and such general terms as Sandpiper, Gull, Owl, etc. are not to be found at all, though under some one of the species doubtless the origin of the names is explained.—W. S.

Chapman's 'Color Key to North American Birds.'¹—This is a new edition of Mr. Chapman's well known and useful volume. The main text is unchanged but the Systematic Table presents all the species and subspecies of North American Birds with their nomenclature revised to and including the last supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union's 'Check-List,' while an Appendix explains in detail the changes that have taken place since the first edition of the 'Color Key,' and presents descriptions of the forms that have been added to the list.

A second appendix consists of a 'Faunal Bibliography,' of publications dealing with the birds of various localities in North America arranged by states and provinces. This is very complete and is the most important list of the kind since that published by Dr. Elliot Coues as an appendix to his 'Birds of the Colorado Valley' in 1878. It will prove indispensable to those who are forming a collection of works on North American ornithology. With all its good features retained and the valuable additions to which we have alluded the 'Color Key' should continue to hold its deservedly popular place in American bird literature.—W. S.

Hornaday's 'Our Vanishing Wild Life.'²—So numerous are the publications treating of wild-life conservation and so similar are many of them, that the average reader is inclined to pass by any new contribution to the

¹ Color Key to North American Birds. With Bibliographical Appendix. By Frank M. Chapman, Curator of Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History. With Upward of 800 Drawings by Chester A. Reed, B. S. Revised Edition. New York. D. Appleton & Company. 1912. Svo., pp. i-x, 1-356. Cloth, \$2.50 net. Postpaid, \$2.74.

² Our Vanishing Wild Life. Its Extermination and Preservation. By William T. Hornaday, Sc. D., Director of the New York Zoölogical Park; author of "The American Natural History"; Ex-President of the American Bison Society. With Maps and Illustrations, New York, New York Zoölogical Society, 1913. Svo. pp. i-xvi, 1-411, net \$1.50 (Chas. Scribner's Sons, N. Y. City).

subject, so that in a way it fails of its mission. It is gratifying therefore at a time when the support of the entire country is necessary, to the success of this movement to find a work such as Dr. Hornaday's which in originality of illustrations and method of presentation, *compels* the attention of everyone into whose hands it finds its way.

The first paragraphs of the preface sound the key note of the work: "Beyond question, we are exterminating our finest species of mammals, birds and fishes *according to law!* I am appalled by the mass of evidence proving that throughout the entire United States and Canada, in every state and province, the existing legal system for the preservation of wild life is fatally defective. There is not a single state in our country from which the killable game is not being rapidly and persistently shot to death, legally, or illegally, very much more rapidly than it is breeding, with extermination for the most of it close in sight. This statement is not open to argument; for millions of men know that it is literally true. We are living in a fool's paradise." In the 44 chapters into which the work is divided every phase of the subject is considered and the terse and forceful comments of the author follow the quotations on the title page "Hew to the line! Let the chips fall where they will"; "Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."

The book is a mine of information for the army of people who are enlisting in the effort to save our wild life from extermination and they can obtain here in concise form the facts and arguments that they require in carrying on the campaign.

There is a strong 'Foreword' by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, President of the New York Zoölogical Society and a fitting dedication to Mr. William Dutcher, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies and "life-long champion of American birds."

All friends of wild life owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Hornaday and to the New York Zoölogical Society for the preparation and publication of such a work.

The Zoölogical Society's Bulletin for May, 1913, contains reproductions of many of the illustrations of Mr. Hornaday's work, with a fine colored plate of birds threatened with extinction and strong articles on Wild-life conservation.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'¹—Three parts of Mr. Mathews' great work have appeared since our last issue. Part 5 of Volume 2 completes the account of the Pacific Gull and covers the Skuas, while the two parts of volume 3 deal with the Charadriiformes, treating of the *Morinellidæ* (Turnstones), *Hæmatopodidæ* (Oyster catchers), *Charadriidæ* (Plovers) *Recurvirostridæ* (Stilts and Avocets), and *Scolopacidæ* (Snipe etc.).

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews, Vol. II., pt. 5, January 31 (pp. 477-527, pl. 121-124, Contents, Preface etc.); Vol. III., pt. 1, April 2 (pp. 1-104, pl. 125-137); pt. 2, May 2, (pp. 105-204, pl. 138-150). Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London.