

Townsend's 'In Audubon's Labrador.'¹— Dr. Townsend has written so many interesting accounts of the life and natural history of the Labrador coast that we have come to associate his name instinctively with the wild, rugged north-land which he so delights to tell us about. To those who are familiar with his previous books the announcement of another volume will mean another treat in store for them. The volume in question however, has an added charm in the fact that the course of the writer on this trip followed that of Audubon on his famous voyage of 1833. Stops were made at the same points, the same localities were visited, the same birds were studied and in several instances descendants of the very people whom Audubon visited were met with.

The first chapter gives a brief resumé of Audubon's trip, with appropriate quotations from his diary and some account of the men who were associated with him. Then follows the narrative of the voyage of Dr. Townsend and his companion Mr. Harold St. John, the botanist, from Natashquan to Blanc Sablon, while two chapters on the conservation of wild life in Labrador, and on the protection of the Eider, the latter of which appeared originally in 'The Auk' for 1904, complete the main text of the volume. There is however an appendix consisting of letters from George C. Shattuck, Jr., who accompanied Audubon, from his father, from B. Lincoln, brother of another member of the party, and from Audubon himself, all of which relate to the famous expedition. Dr. Townsend's narrative is written in a delightful style giving one a vivid picture of the country and its inhabitants, while the pages teem with ornithological matter including many original observations on bird habits.

The illustrations are half-tone reproductions of photographs of localities, general scenery, birds and plants as well as portraits of many of the persons mentioned in the text. A map of the coast of Labrador with the routes of the two expeditions recalls to mind the comparatively small portion of the coast which Audubon visited, and the fact that it lay entirely on the southern side of the peninsula bordering on the Straits of Belle Isle and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A good index completes this attractive volume.— W. S.

Pearson's 'Tales from Birdland.'²— With the constantly increasing interest in bird study there is a steady demand for bird books, not only for the advanced student, but for the little folks as well, and probably there is no better way to arouse a lasting interest in birds in the child than to tell him stories which are woven about the personality of some imaginary bird hero. As a contribution to this class of bird books Mr. Pearson has just

¹ In Audubon's Labrador. By Charles Wendell Townsend, M. D., with illustrations and a map. Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company. 1918. pp. i-xii + 1-354. Price \$2.50 net.

² Tales from Birdland. By T. Gilbert Pearson. Illustrations by Charles Livingston Bull. Doubleday, Page & Company, 1918. pp. 1-237. Price 70 cts. postpaid.

published a little volume under the above title describing the experiences of 'Hardheart, the Gull'; 'Longtoe, the Gypsy Robin'; 'Jim Crow of Cow Heaven' and other similar celebrities, ten in all, into which he has managed to incorporate a great deal of valuable suggestion regarding bird protection without destroying the interest of the stories. The book should prove a valuable one both as a story book and for school reading.—W.S.

Mathews' 'Birds of Australia.'¹—This attractive number of Mr. Mathews' great work includes the Frogmouths, Rollers and part of the Kingfishers, groups which the author prefers to regard as distinct orders rather than as families of the Coraciiformes. We notice however that through inadvertence the order heading for the 'Coraciiformes' which should precede the account of the genus *Eurystomus* has been omitted so that this genus would appear to be included in the 'Podargiformes.'

The accounts of the life and habits of the Frogmouths are very interesting while the peculiar poses shown in the plates illustrate how much protective coloration and rigidity of posture figure in rendering them inconspicuous. We note the following new forms: *Podargus strigoides centralia* (p. 34), Central Australia; *P. s. capensis* (p. 35), Cape York; *Aegotheles cristata tasmanica* (p. 65), Tasmania; *A. c. olivei* (65), Cairns, N. Queensland; *A. c. centralia* (p. 67), Stevenson's River; *A. c. melvillensis* (p. 67), Melville Island; *Alcyone azurea wallaceana* (p. 94), Aru Is.; *A. a. distincta* (p. 94), Humboldt Bay, New Guinea; and *Micralcyone pusilla yorki* (p. 103) Cape York.

In considering the Kingfishers five new genera are proposed as follows: *Cyanoceyx* (p. 96), type *Ceyx lepida*; *Ceycalcyon* (p. 97), type *C. cyanopectus*; *Argyroceyx* (p. 97), type *C. argentata*; *Ispidella* (p. 97), type *Halcyon leucogaster* and *Ceycoides* (p. 98), type *C. madagascariensis*. The discussion on the relative value of color patterns and details of structure is interesting and the points brought out are well worthy of the attention of systematists. It might be mentioned in this connection that a similar discussion based largely upon the same group of species was published by the reviewer in 1912, in a paper which appears to have been overlooked by Mr. Mathews (Journal Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., Vol. XV, pp. 313-319).—W. S.

Lincoln's 'The Woodpeckers of Colorado.'²—This little pamphlet is published by the Colorado Mountain Club and is intended to give to the layman concise information on the habits and appearance of the woodpeckers of the state. A preliminary sketch of the habits and structure of woodpeckers in general is followed by detailed accounts of the nine Colorado

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VII, Part I, pp. 1-112. March 4, 1918.

² The Woodpeckers of Colorado. By F. C. Lincoln. Illustrated. Published by The Colorado Mountain Club. Publication No. 6. Denver, Colorado. December 8, 1917. pp. 1-22.