

the local bird student but to others interested in the broader study of the habits and songs of the species to which they refer.

The volume, which is privately printed, is a beautiful example of the bookmaker's art, with perfect typography and excellent half-tones of many of the commoner birds or their nests, from photographs by Henry Emerson Tuttle. There is also a frontispiece portrait of Mrs. Farwell, to whom this little book is a most fitting memorial.— W. S.

Hudson's 'The Book of a Naturalist'¹— Mr. Hudson's many readers will be glad to learn of the appearance of another of his delightful volumes. The sketches which it includes appeared originally in various of the English magazines and hence have probably been read by few on this side of the Atlantic. Almost all of them deal with English country life though there are occasional allusions to Patagonia, with which country the author's name is so closely associated. There are in all twenty-nine chapters treating of the whole range of out-door life — mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, wild flowers, earthworms and even the potato, while a good index guides one to the many interesting and important observations which lie hidden away in the pages. The volume is hardly on a par with its predecessors and while some of the sketches are full of the great outdoors of which the author loves to write, they give one the impression of being a collection of odds and ends which had not yet been brought together in book form. Only three of the present sketches relate to birds, two of them dealing with herons and heronries.— W. S.

Dixon on Wild Ducks in a City Park.²— Every visitor to the city of Oakland, California will be shown Lake Merritt, a beautiful body of water of about a square mile in extent, situated in the heart of the city and famous as the winter resort of thousands of wild fowl. In the present paper, Mr. Dixon describes the winter bird-life of the lake illustrating his account with a number of excellent photographs.

Lake Merritt is the oldest State game reservation in California, having been established in 1869. No gunning whatever is allowed there and dogs not in leash are not permitted in the park, furthermore a large area of the lake is shut off by a log boom and boating there in the winter is forbidden. Last but not least about four tons of whole barley are fed to the ducks every winter at a cost to the city of about \$400.

As a result some 2500 wild ducks are to be found on the lake throughout the winter from October to the end of the shooting season, in February, when it is safe for them to scatter over the country for a few weeks before returning north. Large numbers of the birds come out on the lawns adjoin-

¹The Book of a Naturalist. By W. H. Hudson. George H. Doran Company, New York. 8vo. (1919) pp. i-viii, 1-360.

²Wild Ducks as Winter Guests in a City Park. By Joseph Dixon. National Geographic Magazine, October, 1919. pp. 331-342.