

Scoville's 'The Out-of-Doors Club.'¹— To readers of 'The Atlantic Monthly' Mr. Scoville is well known as one who is making the environs of Philadelphia as famous a region for the nature lover as those of Boston and Cambridge have long been, thanks to the larger numbers of writers on outdoor life who seem always to have lived there. The present little volume describes many trips afield in which the writer instructs his children in the wonders of the great out doors. It is impossible to imagine a child,— or a grown-up for that matter,— who will not be attracted by the experiences of the "Band." Birds, mammals, reptiles, plants and camp-lore all come in for their share of attention and the wanderings lead across the Delaware to the author's cabin in the New Jersey pines and even to the remote "plains" in the central part of that State where the famous dwarf forests of pine and oak cover many acres, a region which has probably never before been described in popular writings.

The suggestion that the unidentified peepings that one of the children heard here might have come from a brood of young Heath Hens is hardly to be taken seriously. It is an attractive way, perhaps, to introduce the fact that the birds did once occur here but the region has been too carefully explored by hunters and ornithologists to make such an occurrence at all likely, and if the author really considered it probable the fact is deserving of more serious record elsewhere. The more likely possibility of young Ruffed Grouse is not mentioned! In referring to the peculiar Conrad's Crowberry which finds on the "plains" its southernmost limit we notice that the name of this early botanist is misspelled.

Little books like Mr. Scoville's add greatly to the interest in outdoor life and vastly increase the army of nature lovers who in turn become staunch protectors of the birds and wild flowers and out of whose ranks eventually come a smaller number of real ornithologists and botanists. He who, by his writings, starts such a process of evolution is deserving of all praise. Several of Mr. Scoville's fellow members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club have contributed photographs which add to the attractiveness of his little volume.— W. S.

Gifford's 'Field Notes on the Land Birds of the Galapagos Islands.'²— In 1913, Mr. Gifford, one of the naturalists on the California Academy's Galapagos expedition, published an account of the water-birds and the doves obtained by the party. Having been subsequently occupied with anthropological work he has been unable to complete his report and now presents his ornithological field notes in order that they

¹ *The Out-of-Doors Club.* By Samuel Scoville, Jr. Philadelphia, 1919. The Sunday School Times Company. 12 mo. pp. 1-171.

² *Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Galapagos Islands, 1905-1906. XIII. Field Notes on the Land Birds of the Galapagos Islands and of Cocos Island, Costa Rica.* Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences. Fourth series. Vol. II, Pt. II, No. 13, pp. 189-258. pp. 189-258. June 16, 1919.