

phia." The original specimen was as a matter of fact taken in the city and a number of others have been seen or taken in subsequent years. Mr. Scoville's book is by no means limited to accounts of bird-life—the four-footed beasts, the snakes, the wild flowers, trees and stars all come in for consideration—nor is literature forgotten, and in speaking of his cabin in the Jersey pines he refers to the book shelf that is maintained there, for, says he, "no book ever tastes so well as before a great fire in the heart of the wilderness, even if the wilderness be only a few miles away." And those who love the wilderness, we might add, will have no trouble in tasting it as they peruse the pages of Mr. Scoville's little volume.—W. S.

**Hudson's 'Birds of La Plata.'**—The first ornithological work of W. H. Hudson was the 'Argentine Ornithology' prepared in collaboration with the late Philip Lutley Sclater, the biographies of the species with which he became acquainted during his life in La Plata being prepared by Hudson and the technical portion—synonymy etc., with brief notice of such species as had been found in the more northern provinces of Argentina, being supplied by Sclater. Owing to the very limited edition the work is usually to be found only in scientific libraries and but few of Hudson's later admirers have had an opportunity of reading these biographies. This fact alone would have warranted a new edition of the work but surprising as it may seem, in the thirty years that have intervened since the appearance of the 'Argentine Ornithology' practically nothing additional to it has appeared, so far as the life histories of the birds are concerned, and Mr. Hudson's biographies are still the best accounts of the La Plata birds that we have. This double need of a new edition has just been met by the publication of Mr. Hudson's portion of the original work with the synonyms and references to the birds of northern Argentina omitted. As the author says in the preface, the character of the work is thereby altered and a new title had to be provided and in as much as the biographies all relate to the birds of the province of La Plata it was thought proper to call it 'Birds of La Plata.'

The accounts of the various species are almost identical with those of the earlier work, most of them being reprinted verbatim, but a number of the more inconspicuous species which were not treated at length are briefly mentioned in the closing paragraph of the sketch of an allied form which demanded more detailed consideration. This together with the elimination of the species of northern Argentina has reduced the number of specific headings from 434 to 190, although the extent of the biographical portion is the same in each work. The earlier book contained twenty hand colored lithographic plates, while the present work is illustrated by twenty-two beautifully printed three-color process plates, from paintings by H. Gronvold. Only two of these latter plates, however, illustrate the same species as those of the earlier series. Of the present pictures those of the Military Starling, the Many-colored Tyrant—that little Kinglet-like Flycatcher, and the Pampas Woodpecker are perhaps the most pleasing.

Of the 190 birds whose life histories Mr. Hudson has traced for us and which comprise the most characteristic and most abundant species of the La Plata avifauna, it is interesting to note that of the eighty-five Passerine birds only forty-two are song birds, while forty-three are non-oscine. In one of our eastern United States the figures would stand 132 to nine showing the far greater proportion in La Plata of non-oscine species, notably Tyrant Flycatchers, of which there are 28, and Woodhewers with 22 species. The song birds of Mr. Hudson's country comprise 6 Thrushes, 6 Swallows, 13 Finches, 13 Troupials, 2 Wrens, a Tanager and a Pipit. The birds other than Passerine are 2 Woodpeckers, 2 Cuckoos, 2 Parrots, 2 Owls, a Hummer, a Goatsucker and a Kingfisher, 14 Hawks, a Vulture, 5 Pigeons, 4 Tinamous and a Rhea together with 56 "water birds."

The introduction contains a brief history of the work and comparison of Argentine bird-life with that of the rest of South America, besides a little personal touch describing an early incident in the author's life.

Mr. Hudson's bird biographies are delightful reading and like all of his accounts of this far away land and its wild life he manages to bring in the atmosphere of the Pampas, and as we follow his pages we are able to picture many birds in their native haunts and in all the vigor of their everyday life, which have hitherto been to us merely stuffed specimens or denizens of the cages at the Zoo. Those who have read and re-read the more recent works of Mr. Hudson will be glad of the opportunity of familiarizing themselves with this earlier product of his pen, and lovers of beautiful books will wish to add the two volumes of 'Birds of La Plata' to their libraries. The work is clearly printed in large type on extra heavy paper with broad margins and attractive title pages, while the excellence of the plates has already been referred to. It is a gratification, when a book is found worthy of reprinting, to have the work done well; and the publishers have certainly fulfilled their part in bringing out these volumes.—W. S.

**New Genera by Ridgway.**—It is gratifying to realize from the appearance of this little paper<sup>1</sup> that Mr. Ridgway is at work on the final volumes of his 'Birds of North and Middle America.' The seven new genera which he proposes are for Eagles and Rails and are for species which his researches show are to be separated from those with which they are usually associated. The differences pointed out seem however to be of unequal value and it seems unfortunate that subgenera cannot be more frequently used to indicate the lesser differences; in which case the genera would not only denote the greater differences between groups but also the relationships between minor groups.

The new names proposed by Mr. Ridgway are: *Oroaetus* (p. 1) for *Falco isidori* Des Murs; *Phaeoactus* (p. 2) for *F. limnaetus* Horsf.; *Morphnar-*

<sup>1</sup> Birds of La Plata. By W. H. Hudson. With twenty-two colored illustrations by H. Gronvold. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London & Toronto. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1920. 2 Vols., 8vo., pp. i-xviii, 1-244; and i-x, 1-240. Edition limited to 3200 copies, 200 on large paper. Price \$15.00 net per set.

<sup>2</sup> Diagnoses of Some New Genera of Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Smithsonian Misc. Coll., Vol. 72, No. 4, Publ. 2588. December 6, 1920, pp. 1-4.