

**Mathews 'The Birds of Australia.'**—The last part of Mr. Mathews' large work continues the treatment of the flycatchers, covering the genera *Machaerorhynchus*, *Seisura*, *Piezorhynchus*, *Monarcha*, etc. We notice but one new form, *Seisura inquieta rogersi* (p. 68) from Derby.—W. S.

**Dr. Patch's 'Bird Stories'**<sup>2</sup>—These stories intended for bird students, "Junior Audubon Classes and other boys and girls who are friendly to birds," forms another of the series being published by the Atlantic Monthly Press, under the title of 'Little Gateways to Science.' The twelve stories treat of the life histories of the Chickadee Herring Gull, Spotted Sandpiper, Loon Cliff Swallow Bald Eagle, Crow, Snowy Heron, Nighthawk, Passenger Pigeon, Screech Owl and Bobolink. The birds are given distinctive names and each becomes as it were, the hero of his particular story, developing a personality that cannot fail to hold the attention of the child.

This form of nature story so much in vogue at present is easily abused and too often fact is lost sight of in the desire to intensify the dramatic qualities. Dr. Patch, however, seems to have been particularly careful in this respect and has succeeded in bringing in an astonishing amount of solid information without detracting from the interest of the story.

The 'Notes' at the end of the volume as well as the bibliography show her thorough knowledge of the literature of the subject.

We cannot have too much attention directed to the conservation of nature if we are to save any remnant of our wild country and wild life for future generations, and such books as this, which aim to instill the principles of conservation in the young children, are especially welcome.—W. S.

**Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds'**<sup>3</sup>.—The present part, completes the Owls and covers all of the Accipitres but the Osprey and Vultures. It contains much valuable information on plumages especially on the development of the down, and is of particular interest to American ornithologists as so many of the species are closely allied to ours. In this connection it is to be noted that the opinions of several recent writers are followed with regard to the relationship of American and European forms. All of our Gyrfalcons seem to be referred to the Greenland Falcon, *Falco rusticolus candicans* Gm; our Marsh Hawk becomes a subspecies of *Circus cyaneus* and our Goshawk of *Accipiter gentilis*. The genera *Archibuteo*, *Cerchneis* and *Astur* are not recognized.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. April 15, 1921, pp. 49-96.

<sup>2</sup> By Edith M. Patch. With Illustrations by Robert J. Sim. The Atlantic Monthly Press. Boston (1921).

<sup>3</sup> A Practical Handbook of British Birds, edited by H. F. Witherby, Part X, pp. 81-176. March 1, 1921. Price 4 s. 6 d. per part.