

come of ten trips to the Canaries to investigate the avifauna of this famous island group on behalf of the Bird Department of the British Museum. The ornithological report comprises Parts II and III, which treat in detail the author's several expeditions, while Appendix "B" gives a systematic list of the species of birds known from the islands, and 25 others of doubtful occurrence. The ornithological report has already been published in 'The Ibis' and has been reviewed in these columns.

Incidentally the author explains that the investigation of the bird life required the acquisition of some knowledge of the geology and plants of the islands and thus material was secured for Chapters II-VI, which cover these subjects and the more general problem of the distribution and origin of life on the islands.

An introductory chapter treats of the discovery, conquest and early history of the Canaries which will prove of much interest to anyone studying the natural history of the group.

The volume is fully illustrated with views of the country, maps, and several excellent colored plates of birds. All in all Mr. Bannerman has produced a volume which cannot but please the general reader who is interested in travel and exploration, while it demonstrates clearly the methods of intelligent present day research. Collecting and listing the birds of a region by no means solve the problem. One must also study at least the major features of the plant life and the general environment, and ascertain what factors have been active in developing the fauna of today and in bringing about its present distribution.

To the student of zoogeography the book will be an important work of reference and should be in all scientific and general libraries. For detailed comment on the ornithology we must refer to our previous review in 'The Auk' 1920, p. 688.—W. S.

Abel Chapman's 'Savage Sudan.'¹—In this attractive volume the well known hunter-naturalist Abel Chapman has presented the results of his many expeditions into this fascinating section of Africa which, it will no doubt surprise many to know, comprises one fifth of the entire African continent. While in South Africa the exploits of the early hunters of big game can never now be repeated, and while East Africa is being opened up to white settlers, Mr. Chapman tells us that in the Sudan *primaeval* condition remain absolutely unchanged, and he prophesies that while capable of development it will never become a "white-man's land."

His ambition in preparing the present volume is "that ere the reader has completed his perusal, he will feel satisfied that he has been 'personally

¹ *Savage Sudan. Its Wild Tribes, Big-Game and Bird-Life.* By Abel Chapman., author of 'On Safari in British East Africa,' 'Wild Spain,' 'Wild Norway,' etc. With 248 illustrations, chiefly from Rough Sketches by the Author. Gurney and Jackson, London: 33 Paternoster Row. Edinburgh: Tweeddale Court. 1921. 8vo. pp. i-ix+1-452. Price 32 shillings net.

conducted' throughout savage Sudan and afforded an insight into both the physical features and the wild fauna of the country," and we think that his ambition has been realized.

While his descriptions, comments and anecdotes are sometimes thrown together in a somewhat irregular manner the vividness of all is so striking that the reader often feels as if he were an eye witness to the incidents and he is carried along from one stage of the journey to the next, into the heart of the country and out again, with always some new experience before him.

Naturally the author pays his greatest attention to the big game, but there are admirable descriptions of the deserts, rivers and forest country and constantly recurring observations on the birds, with good field sketches by the author, showing characteristic poses and actions. There are also frequent philosophic comments upon problems that present themselves in connection with the various animals and birds that are being discussed. Of these the author evidently feels most strongly on the subject of the extreme claims of what he terms the "color protectionists," and he scores them without mercy. Speaking of Thayer's 'Concealing Coloration in the Animal Kingdom' he says: "In America we know, they don't do things by halves. This book, however seemed to me to top the summit. I gently laid it aside—asphyxiated by the magnificent audacity of its assumptions. Subsequently, however, relief came when I read in another and authoritative American publication (The Auk) a review of Thayer's work that runs as follows: "By skilfull jugglings we are shown how anything and everything may be rendered inconspicuous etc." He presents an interesting array of facts drawn from his personal observations on the protective and non-protective character of animal coloration in different species and emphasizes the important part that sunlight plays in making an animal appear light or dark. "The Zebra" he goes on to say "was probably the worst prototype of their propaganda that the color protectionists could have selected." They are, he says, conspicuous and perfectly distinguishable from other animals at long distances.

"No distance lends enchantment to *my* view,
Nor paints *my* distant Zebra blue."

The ornithologist as well as the general zoologist will find a wealth of varied information in Chapman's book and all who enjoy accounts of travel will find it delightful reading.

We notice one description of a new species buried in the text at p. 110 which has apparently not been published elsewhere, at least there is no indication of the fact. This is *Aquila albipes* the White-footed Forest Eagle, which, contrary to the views of the authorities at the British Museum, the author regards as distinct from *A. rapax* of which they regard it as a dark phase. The type is preserved in the British Museum.— W. S.