

clear although that is the title by which they are most generally known. A search through the first volume of the 'Ornithological Biography' fails to find it used while the title page of the three volumes in which the sketches occur refers to them as "Delineations of American Scenery and Manners" which is different again from the title used by Prof. Herrick in the book now before us.

It has been a matter of general regret that many of our host of younger bird students have been unable to obtain a copy of the classic work of the great painter naturalist, as no recent edition has been published. Now however the need, so far as the episodes are concerned, has been met in the publication of fifty-nine of them—all but the one dealing with the feet of birds, in a separate volume edited by Prof. F. H. Herrick the well known authority on Auduboniana.

Besides the episodes or delineations there are reproduced the prefaces to the first and second volumes of the 'Ornithological Biography' and there is a biographical and historical preface by Prof. Herrick and an excellent reproduction of the Inman portrait of Audubon as a frontispiece.

The book is handsomely printed and attractively bound and the reading of the classic episodes will fire the enthusiasm of many a would-be naturalist and prove profitable reading for all who may be interested in the early history of America, though they should also read Prof. Herrick's remarks upon the inconsistencies of some of the episodes as set forth in his 'Life of Audubon.'—W. S.

Banfield's 'Last Leaves from Dunk Island.'¹—Many of our readers are familiar with the writings of the "Beachcomber" of Dunk Island—E. J. Banfield; with his twenty-five years sojourn on the little island, two and a half miles off the coast of Queensland, Australia, and with his death there in June, 1923, with no companion but his devoted wife.

His books recall in some respects the writings of Thoreau while his isolation from the world has been likened to the life of R. L. Stevenson. Three volumes were published during his life, 'The Confessions of a Beachcomber,' 'My Tropic Isle,' and 'Tropic Days' and now we have a number of short sketches, originally published in the 'Townsville (Australia) Bulletin', and some other manuscripts, issued in a posthumous volume under the title 'Last Leaves from Dunk Island,' with the sympathetic editorship of A. H. Chisholm, the well known Australian ornithologist, also a lover and chronicler of nature.

These sketches, thirty-two in number, cover a variety of subjects—the devastating cyclone of 1918, stories of the native blacks and numerous bird biographies treating of the Metallic Starling, Sunbirds, Swamp

¹ Last Leaves from Dunk Island. By E. J. Banfield. With Introduction by A. H. Chisholm, Australia, Angus Robertson, Ltd. 89 Castlereagh Street [Obtainable at the British Australian Bookstore, 51 High Holborn St., London E. C. 1] 1925, pp. i-xxvi + 1-232, and 34 illustrations. Price 12s. 6d.

Pheasant, Swiftlets, Nutmeg Pigeons, etc. All who love nature-lore will find this volume a most interesting and readable book, the unfamiliar birds, trees and plants of the Antipodes, of which we in America know all too little, adding a zest to the perusal. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Chisholm for preserving these last papers of Banfield for posterity.—W. S.

Walter's 'Wild Birds in City Parks.'—This well known little book,¹ which has been helping beginners in bird study for over twenty-five years—comes out in another new and revised edition. The amount of information contained in the 100 odd pages of this brochure is astonishing and proves it to be a veritable *multum in parvo*. Besides the general list and the key there is a table of distribution and occurrence which helps in identification, and a table of arrivals for a period of seven years and one of frequency, both based upon observations in Lincoln Park, Chicago, which are important contributions to ornithology.

As we glance through the pages two suggestions occur to us. One is that when such closely related birds as the four small Flycatchers and Grinnell's Water-Thrush are given a place in the main list, the Carolina Chickadee might be accorded the same honor. Possibly it is the very suppression of this species in a book so widely used that has resulted in so many erroneous identifications of this species as the Black-cap in our more or less popular journals. Our other suggestion would be to include in the index, the names of birds in the supplementary list. We were under the impression that some important birds had been entirely omitted until we discovered that they simply had not been indexed.

We congratulate the authors upon the continued success of their little volume which will soon begin to instruct its second lineal generation of bird students!—W. S.

Todd on Neotropical Goldfinches.—Like all of Mr. Todd's monographs his review of the Neotropical Goldfinches² is a painstaking and thorough piece of work. Based on all the material that could be assembled—upwards of 1000 skins—and backed by a thorough study of the literature he has given us by far the most satisfactory account of this difficult group that has so far appeared.

As anyone who has had to do with these birds realizes, the range of individual, seasonal and age variation is so great that it often obscures the geographical variation upon which our systematic studies must be

¹ Wild Birds in City Parks. Being hints on identifying 203 birds, prepared primarily for the spring migration in Lincoln Park, Chicago, but adapted to other localities in northeastern United States and Canada. By Herbert Eugene Walter and Alice Hall Walter. Twelfth Edition, Revised. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1926. Price \$1.50.

² A Study of the Neotropical Finches of the Genus *Spinus*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Annals of the Carnegie Museum, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 1926. Issued June 9, 1926. pp. 11-82.