

studying at the Barro Colorado Zoological Station. Mrs. Sturgis is to be congratulated upon an excellent piece of work.—W. S.

**Van Schaick's 'Nature Cruisings.'**—The editor of the 'Christian Leader,' John Van Schaick Jr., has written many articles for his paper dealing with the great outdoors and the best of these have been gathered together in the present volume.<sup>1</sup> Those who enjoy reading nature books will find both pleasure and profit in Mr. van Schaick's book. He has the gift of putting his observations in a way that constantly holds one's interest and his descriptions bring vividly before our mind's eye the scenes that he describes.

There is much about his old home town of Cobleskill, N. Y., a series of chapters dealing with the environs of Boston, and another on Washington and the Potomac, while other sketches treat of "cruises" farther afield.

Trees, plants and birds all appeal to the author as well as the beauty of nature in general, while his constant reference to and quotations from the writings of a long list of authors bear evidence of his wide reading of nature lore. There are interesting accounts of associations with the Audubon Societies of Massachusetts and the District of Columbia and he acknowledges his indebtedness to the secretary of the A. O. U. for starting him on his "life list" although on account of an unfortunate typographical error that gentleman's identity is concealed under the name of "G" S. Palmer.

Many members of the Union will find familiar trails in Mr. van Schaick's delightful volume and all nature lovers will enjoy it.—W. S.

**Hausman's 'Hawks of New Jersey.'**—At the present time when the tide of public opinion guided by sportsman interests is setting against the Hawks with the danger of their utter extermination, a book<sup>2</sup> like that which Dr. Hausman has published is most welcome. It calls attention vigorously to the beneficial character of most Hawks and their especial value to the farmer.

In his foreword the author sums up the situation aptly with the following statement: "If one should see a man in a blue suit making his escape after robbing a house, and should thereupon sally forth into the street with a shot gun and blaze away at every man in a blue suit that he happened to meet he would be carrying out in practice the principle upon which many act when they wage indiscriminate warfare upon our native hawks." He then proceeds to set forth the characteristics, habits and value of the thirteen Hawks and the Turkey Vulture found in New

---

<sup>1</sup> *Nature Cruisings to the Old Home Town and the Little Hill Farm.* By John van Schaick, Jr. Editor of the *Christian Leader*. Author of *The Little Corner Conquered, Cruising Around a Changing World, Cruising Cross Country.* The Murray Press, Boston, Mass. 1928. pp. 1-448.

<sup>2</sup> *The Hawks of New Jersey and their Relation to Agriculture.* Dr. Leon Augustus Hausman. New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J., Bulletin 439. January, 1927. pp. 1-48, figg. 1-48.

Jersey, illustrating his report with cuts from Fisher's 'Hawks and Owls' and other Government publications besides some original photographs and drawings.

We cannot have too many publications like this if we are to save our birds of prey as only by educational methods can we make the public at large realize what is in store for them if these natural checks on the increase of rats and mice are destroyed—not to mention the loss that nature suffers in the elimination of these splendid picturesque birds. Dr. Hausman deserves our gratitude for his admirable report.—W. S.

**Robinson's 'Birds of the Malay Peninsula.'**—The second volume<sup>1</sup> of Mr. Robinson's 'Birds of the Malay Peninsula,' the first part of which was reviewed in 'The Auk' for April 1928, has recently appeared and is devoted to the birds of the "hill stations."

It is similar in all respects to the preceding volume and fully maintains the high standard both as to method of treatment and printing that was established by its predecessor.

The region covered in this volume is the mountainous region above 2500 feet. An outline map shows the extent of this area in the British portion of the Peninsula although the data on the Siamese portion is so inadequate that no attempt to delimit it has been attempted. While most of the species now considered are different from those described in Part I, some occur in both regions and in such cases only a brief description is given with reference to the fuller account previously published. In this way unnecessary duplication is avoided and yet each volume is complete in itself.

There are twenty-five excellent plates by Grönvold all but two of them in colors. Among others such striking Malayan birds as the Long-tailed Broadbill (*Psarisomus*), the White-headed Babbler (*Gampsorhynchus*), the curious Liothrichine birds *Mesia* and *Siva*, Green Bulbuls and Blue Flycatchers are figured.

One plate depicts the heads and enormous casques of the several species of Hornbills found in this region and, in describing the habits of the helmeted species (*Rhinoplax vigil*), the author says that in flight its action is very similar to the other large Hornbills—"three or four beats of the wings in rapid succession being followed by a period in which they are held rigid, the rattling sound made by the air against the primaries being audible at a very great distance. The call of the bird is equally characteristic being a series of single whoops at decreasing intervals . . . representing the ringing note of the axe against timber."

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of the Malay Peninsula. A General Account of the Birds Inhabiting the Region from the Isthmus of Kra to Singapore with the Adjacent Islands. By Herbert C. Robinson, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., C. M. Amer. O. U., Late Director of Museums, F. M. S. Volume II: The Birds of the Hill Stations, with twenty-five full-page plates. Issued by Authority of the Federated Malay States Government. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1. 1928. pp. i-xxii + 1-310, pls. 1-25, 1 map. Price 35 shillings.