

the page, each being about three by four inches. This publication will prove of much use to teachers and children who desire colored pictures in connection with their studies. On the back of each picture is a short text describing the habits, etc. of the bird or mammal, by Carra E. Horsfall. The pictures may thus be cut apart without losing the descriptive matter.—W. S.

Dayton's 'Bird Rhymes.'—This little book¹ deals with the songs and habits of our familiar birds and the aim of the writer is to give a personality to the birds that will make more people interested in them and add a few more to the host of bird protectors.

In his rhymes he shows an intimate knowledge of his feathered friends and their habits, and his pages will doubtless interest the boys and girls to whom he especially appeals. While his writings are, as a rule, rhymes, they are hardly verse, and the author takes many liberties with his meters so that it is not always easy to make them come out right.—W. S.

Chapman on the Nesting Habits of Oropendola.—Dr. F. M. Chapman has spent several months for the past three winters at Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone where he has built himself a sort of house in the tree tops, near the laboratory and spends his time in an intimate study of tropical wild life. Leaving the more strenuous investigation of the Andean avifauna which occupied many previous years he has concentrated his attention at Barro Colorado, on an intensive study of the nesting habits of that interesting Icterine bird *Zarhynchus wagleri*, or Oropendola, several colonies of which occupy large trees on the island. The tree in which the colony described in his paper² was located stood close to the laboratory and seated in a camp chair, under his house, with a twenty-four power binocular mounted on a tripod, Dr. Chapman was able to study the birds at about 80 feet distant as they went about their business of life totally undisturbed by his presence.

Few tropical birds have been intensively studied as ornithologists have hitherto been too busy collecting specimens, and consequently Dr. Chapman with an almost untouched field before him has made a contribution of especial value to ornithological literature, in the paper which he has just published and in which the results of his studies are set forth.

He finds that the Oropendola although a permanent resident in the tropics is non-resident and migratory in the immediate vicinity of Barro Colorado, departing after the nesting season is over, returning with remarkable regularity and beginning to nest about January 8. The females in each colony outnumber the males about three to one and the species is

¹ Bird Rhymes and Field Songs. By Bert Dayton. The Palisade Press, 125 Church Street, New York City. pp. 1-47. Price 35 cents.

² The Nesting Habits of Wagler's Oropendola (*Zarhynchus wagleri*) on Barro Colorado Island. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. LVIII, Art. III, pp. 123-166. December 31, 1928.