

we are told, "have scarcely been mentioned in print save through the medium of text books." Mr. Chisholm's familiarity with his subject and his literary ability enable him to tell us about these birds in anything but text book style, and he presents vivid pictures of the various species in their native haunts, which will appeal to all students of bird life.

Of the elusive Scrub Bird (*Atrichornis*) there is probably more life history in the pages of Mr. Chisholm's book than in all other literature combined. The extraordinary mocking ability of the Lyre Bird is described at length and we learn that it is able to mimic the human voice as do the Parrots. The various problems involved in the marvellous playgrounds of the Bower birds also come in for detailed consideration as well as the swarming of the Martins, which by the way are not Martins at all but Wood Swallows, a family peculiar to the old world—but one must read the book to realize the amount of interesting information that it contains.

We have several times in these columns criticised the killing of the Emus in Australia and Mr. Chisholm speaks very strongly on the same subject, although the bounty on the birds has now, we understand, been removed. After referring to the extinction of the Emus on King Island, Kangaroo Island and Tasmania, he says: "are we to permit the tragedy to reach its zenith in the case of the mainland bird?" We learn that Emus were first hunted for sport, then persecuted as destroyers of fences etc., and finally outlawed on suspicion of spreading the prickly pear cactus. Bonuses were paid on some 132,000 Emus and 100,000 eggs and "while the holocaust was in progress an entomologist found 2991 injurious caterpillars in the stomach of one Emu!"

A sheep grower is quoted by Mr. Chisholm as refusing to join in the extermination of the Australian Eagles, which are charged with the destruction of lambs, on the ground that "there's enough lambs for both me and the Eagle." Would that our wealthy Duck and Quail hunters and the salmon fishers of our northwest, would take such an attitude regarding our birds of prey instead of making every effort for their extermination!

Mr. Chisholm is already well known to the ornithological world as a bird photographer, author of 'Mateship with Birds' and as a former editor of 'The Emu', but this volume seems to be his greatest achievement, and we can recommend it heartily to all who would gain some knowledge of the bird life of the Antipodes. The book is well gotten up and illustrated with half-tones from photographs and colored plates of the Lyre bird and Paradise Parrot.—W. S.

**Scoville's 'Wild Honey.'**—This volume<sup>1</sup> of Mr. Scoville's is, we think, the best that he has produced. While there is plenty of local color and many amusing incidents the general tone is more serious and much interesting

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<sup>1</sup>Wild Honey by Samuel Scoville, Jr. With Reproductions of Etchings by Emerson Tuttle. Boston. Little, Brown, and Company. 1929, pp. 1-203. Price \$3.00.

information is presented, drawn from the author's experiences while accompanying his friends of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and others on trips in search of nests and eggs, daily lists of birds or nature lore of other kinds. The chapters deal with his favorite tramping ground, the New Jersey Coast and the Pine Barrens; with the Okefinokee Swamp; with the lowlands of Virginia; and with the hill country of Connecticut and northern New Jersey.

Mr. Scoville has the gift of presenting nature to us in all her beauty and again and again there are paragraphs that recall vividly to memory experiences that we have all enjoyed. Of the singing of the Sparrows, for instance, he writes: "The Fox Sparrow of the Far North has a song whose notes are as rich and beautiful as gold. The minor cadences of the White-throated Sparrow, the silver flute notes of the Field Sparrow, which sings in the twilight, and the dreamy melody of the Vesper Sparrow are all beautiful; but the Pinewoods Sparrow has a mystery in his song that is not of earth."

All nature lovers will be interested and stimulated by reading 'Wild Honey' and doubtless it will enlist others in the growing army which is developing a love for the wilderness and a desire to see large portions of it preserved for posterity.—W. S.

**Hose's 'Field Book of a Jungle-Wallah.'**—Here we have another popular work<sup>1</sup> on wild life of the old world tropics in which Dr. Hose tells of the animal and plant life of Borneo where he has spent so large a part of his life as naturalist, explorer, and member of the supreme council of Sarawak. His researches and discoveries are well known to the scientific world and when he discusses bird life he speaks with authority. In the present volume he presents some vivid pictures of the shores of Borneo, the Baram River, and the jungle, which form an interesting narrative replete with discussions of the native birds which most Americans know only as inhabitants of our Zoos.

The peculiar habits of the Hornbills are described at length. The male, as is generally known, walls up the female in the tree hollow in which she is incubating and feeds her through the small aperture which is left for her bill but he tells us also that after the young are nearly ready to leave the nest and the female has broken her way out, the hole is again walled up and the young fed by the parents in the same way as the male cared for the female during incubation. He also states that seeds dropped by the birds germinate in the ground below and that the natives can judge the age of the young in the nest by the size of the resulting plants. Attention is also called to the oil secreted from the oil sac of these birds and its apparent function in preserving the color of the neck feathers. May it

<sup>1</sup> The Field-Book of a Jungle-Wallah being a description of Shore, River & Forest Life in Sarawak. By Charles Hose, Hon. Sc. D. (Cantab.) etc.. With frontispiece in colour, and Black-and-white Plates. London. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W. C., pp. 1-216. Price 12 sh. 6. d. net.