

RECENT LITERATURE.

Mrs. Naumburg's 'Birds of Matto Grosso, Brazil.'—Upon the return of the Roosevelt Brazilian Expedition in 1914 it was planned to have the ornithological collections worked up by George K. Cherrie, ornithologist of the party, with the assistance of Mrs. Naumburg and some of the new forms obtained were described by them jointly. Then, owing to the return of Mr. Cherrie to Matto Grosso for additional collecting and his subsequent absence in other fields, Mrs. Naumburg was left to prepare the report¹ alone, a service to science and the American Museum which she has rendered voluntarily.

Her work has been admirably done; not only is it a report on the collections obtained by the expedition and by Mr. Cherrie but also of the other Matto Grosso material in the American Museum and in various European museums which she has visited in the course of her study, while she has added all of the species hitherto recorded from the region with necessary references. We have therefore a list of the 658 species and subspecies of Matto Grosso birds with detailed ranges of each as well as annotations by Mr. Cherrie, embodying the observations of the Roosevelt party, and by Mrs. Naumburg upon her studies of museum material.

There is also, in the preliminary pages of the report, a narrative of the Roosevelt expedition with a list of localities, prepared by Cherrie, and an account of the physiography, climate and faunal relations of the state of Matto Grosso, compiled by Mrs. Naumburg. The report is illustrated by numerous excellent halftones from photographs of the country and five colored plates from paintings by Jacques, as well as outline maps and text figures. An interesting forestry map shows the several floral areas of Brazil to which the faunal regions largely correspond. From this we learn that there are three principal areas represented within the borders of Matto Grosso: (1) the marshland about Corumba in the flood plain of the Rio Paraguay, (2) the Campo or tropical grassland country which covers so much of Brazil and in which is situated Chapada, a principal collecting ground, and (3) the Tropical Forest region of the Amazon drainage which follows the large rivers southward into northern Matto Grosso especially along the Rio Theodoro. Lists of endemic species of Matto Grosso, of birds secured by the expedition in Paraguay only, and of North American birds which winter in Brazil are presented and give a further idea of the relationship of the region. There is also an ornithological bibliography of Matto Grosso.

In this notable publication the American Museum has added one more to the series of monographs of South American bird life and for the time

¹ *The Birds of Matto Grosso, Brazil. A Report on the Birds Secured by the Roosevelt-Rondon Expedition.* By Elsie M. B. Naumburg, with Field Notes by George K. Cherrie. Bull. Amer. Museum Nat. Hist., Vol. LX, 1930, pp. 1-432.

and labor that Mrs. Naumburg has expended in its preparation ornithologists the world over are indebted.

In turning the pages of this report the reviewer is reminded of his enthusiasm upon receiving, from the late Dr. J. A. Allen, the successive parts of his 'Birds of Chapada, Matto Grosso' published in 1891-1893 and a comparison of this classic paper with Mrs. Naumburg's volume illustrates in a most striking way the development in methods of exploration and collecting during the forty years that have intervened as well as the enormous advance in ornithological knowledge in America.—W. S.

Weygandt's 'The Wissahickon Hills.'—The great charm of ornithology lies in its breadth of field. Now we have a technical monograph in which we marvel at the learning of the systematist, now an illustrated brochure in which the skill of the artist or photographer demands our admiration or again a sketch of bird life with a broad background of nature so written that it holds us in rapt attention as it brings before us as clearly as the artists brush the scene or the life that the author would portray.

Perfection in the last form of ornithological literature is difficult of attainment as it requires not only a thorough knowledge and appreciation of the subject and a regard for absolute accuracy of statement, but also an exceptional ability in the use of the English language. We feel, however, that all readers will agree that Dr. Weygandt in his 'The Wissahickon Hills,' has fulfilled all these requirements.

Widely known as Professor of English Literature in the University of Pennsylvania he is the author of many books on literature and history while to a smaller circle he is known as a member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union of many years standing. While he has delighted his fellow members of the Club with his beautiful sketches of local bird life and has published some of them in 'Cassinia,' the present volume¹ is the first of his books in which nature constitutes the chief motif and in which the ornithological background runs from cover to cover.

From the title 'The Wissahickon Hills' only those familiar with the environs of Philadelphia and the natural beauty of the historic stream about which the sketches center, would suspect the wealth of bird-lore that the volume contains. These hills were the playground of the author in early boyhood and at their edge he has spent almost his entire life drinking in their beauty and storing up in memory and note books that intimate knowledge of their wild life, both animal and plant, that he pours forth so lavishly in his pages.

The book is a delightful combination of memories of boyhood, of local

¹ The Wissahickon Hills. Memories of Leisure Hours out of Doors in an Old Countryside By Cornelius Weygandt. Professor of English Literature in the University of Pennsylvania. "The best thing that we're put here for's to see" Frost. University of Pennsylvania Press. Philadelphia: 1930. pp. 1-xii 1-366 with 11 plates from old prints and paintings. Price \$4.00.