

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.

history and of scraps from a wide field of literature, while scattered through are chapters dealing wholly with birds some of them as delightful bird biographies as have yet been written, others dealing with special features of bird life and presenting valuable ornithological data. So we find as chapter headings: Brown Creeper, Robin, Flicker, Kentucky Warbler, Wren, Fox Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, A Chimney Swift's Day, Rain Crow, Field Sparrow, Louisiana Water Thrush, Screech Owl, and Dove while there are also: Birds and Barrens, Roosting of Birds, and Concerning Birds-egging. Among other titles may be mentioned, In Praise of Wild Cherry, Heaths and Heathy Places, Mice and Mousing, Plums and Plum Blow, Possums and Persimmons and Seven Scents.

New England with her long line of nature writers has always done justice to her wild life, especially to her birds, but most of the other sections of our country have been more or less neglected. In 'The Wissahickon Hills,' however, we feel that Pennsylvania has come into her own. It is difficult to quote any special paragraphs from the volume since the sketches should be read in their entirety to appreciate their beauty but some descriptions particularly appeal to us. Of the Fox Sparrow, Dr. Weygandt writes "There is no bird song that has for me so much of 'over the hills and far away' in it as that of the fox sparrow. As the honk of the wild geese speaks to the hunter, so this long and liquid melody speaks to me. When I hear it I want to be on the road, I want to visit the distant places to which it opens vistas. Whether my feelings arise out of the very quality of the song, or whether I read a suggestion into it because of old associations, or because of my knowledge that the plump and bouncing fellow who utters it is a traveller on a long trail, a summerer in the sub-arctics, I do not know. But so it affects me."

Of the Field Sparrow's song he says: "The song of the Field Sparrow is a little song, a trembling and lonely melody, minor certainly, but never uncheerful. This year it first fell upon my ears one morning late in our May-like March, a morning with just enough of coolness on the air to give a tang to the day. . . . In quality it is essentially a spring song modestly ventured, but not timid, minor but not frail. An overflow of the bird's mating gladness, there is in it no echo of human passion. It is as tenderly austere as the April air through which its cadence falls. All through the mating season the song continues in its keen freshness, losing nothing of its springlike quality on mornings of midsummer or on some eve of November grown halcyon by chance."

And of Thrush song: "The Woodrobin's is the song for the country side as surely as the Hermit Thrush's is the song for more northern hills. The song of the woodrobin is deliberate, full, untroubled, heart-easing. The song of the hermit-thrush is uplifting, rhapsodic, rare, unsubstantial. Its music is a music northern, and sweet of the air, the music of the woodrobin is sweet of the woods of a richer more southern land." Every lover of nature should have Dr. Weygandt's book and share with him his enthusi-

asm for the hills which are his home "The Wissahickon Valley," he writes, "is not only a place of a thousand memories, but a place for new revelations of beauty of landscape. I who have lived on its hills for more than fifty years, have by no means exhausted their possibilities for surprise and for the awakening of wonder. . . . Tomorrow I may see birds here I never saw before, or arctic snowbirds again; and some day I may find gentain again or a lucky penny. And dawn and sunset, dewfall and the fall of night, moonrise and the stars are never twice the same. These hills, I know, will have freshness and charm for me all the days of my life."—W. S.

Birds of the German Gran Chaco Expedition.—Dr. Hans Krieg, Director of the museum at Munich accompanied by Dr. E. Linder of Stuttgart and a preparateur, Michael Kiefer, during the latter part of 1925 and most of 1926, made an expedition from Buenos Aires up the Rio Parana and through the Gran Chaco country to Santa Cruz and back to Asuncion. The bird collection which they obtained has been studied by Dr. Alfred Laubmann and his report upon it is presented in the volume before us.¹ He lists 339 species and subspecies of which *Taraba major krugi* (p. 172) from Santa Cruz, and *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris hellmayri* (p. 198) from Puerto Bermejo, Argentine Chaco, are described as new.

There is a synonymy under each species of all references pertaining to the region under consideration and a full discussion of the relationship of each form. Many halftones of scenery, birds and nests illustrate the text while there are a number of outline maps.

Dr. Laubmann, in the introductory pages, discusses the physical features of the Chaco region and the life zones, listing the characteristic birds of each and comparing his conclusions with those of Dr. Alexander Wetmore.² His whole treatment as well as his nomenclature is thoroughly up to date and he is to be congratulated upon an excellent piece of work. The volume forms a most welcome addition to the literature of South American ornithology and connects, as it were, the report of Mrs. Naumburg just reviewed with that of Dr. Wetmore to the south.—W. S.

Phillips' 'Catalogue of Game Books.'—Dr. John C. Phillips has placed all lovers of sport as well as ornithologists and mammalogists' under lasting obligations by the publication of this painstaking bibliography.³ The main portion consists of a list of works dealing, in whole or in part,

¹ Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse der Deutschen Gran Chaco-Expedition (Leiter: Professor Dr. Hans Krieg). Vögel, Alfred Laubmann, pp. i-xv, 1-334. Price RM 42. Strecker und Schröder, Verlag, Stuttgart.

² Observations on the Birds of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile. Bull. 133, U. S. Nat. Mus. 1926.

³ American Game Mammals and Birds. A Catalogue of Books, 1582-1925. Sport, Natural History, and Conservation. By John C. Phillips with the approval of the Boone & Crockett Club. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company; The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1930, pp. 1-639. Price \$10.