

There is a charm about the pursuit of game with one's favorite gun and well trained dog, that cannot be equaled in the minds of many lovers of the outdoors and the varied accounts of days afield which are here presented will arouse many a memory. The numerous reproductions of old prints and etchings as well as several more modern works by Frank W. Benson, notably the colored frontispiece of the Woodcock, add greatly to the attractiveness of the book.—W. S.

Fuertes' Last Paintings.—Mr. C. Suydam Cutting has done a very gracious thing in making possible the publication by the Field Museum of a number of the paintings of African birds and mammals made by the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes on the Field Museum-Chicago Daily News Expedition to Abyssinia of which party both the artist and Mr. Cutting were members.

The entire collection of 108 paintings was purchased by Mr. Cutting, after Fuertes' untimely death, and presented to the museum and now through his further generosity a selection of thirty-two of these have been beautifully reproduced by offset lithography and issued in a portfolio as a special publication¹ of the museum.

Fuertes it is generally agreed was at the very peak of his genius when his life came to its tragic end and the wonderful pictures painted on this last trip fully confirm this opinion. Most of them are heads of the Eagles, Vultures and other large birds, in the drawing of which he took such keen delight; others represent Kingfishers, a Trogon and a Prionops, with all the delicacy of a Japanese painting and there are in addition four pictures of mammals—heads of a wolf, a baboon and a duiker and a group of baboons. There is a brief explanation of each plate on the back and each is mounted on cardboard so that it can be framed if desired. An introduction by Dr. W. H. Osgood, curator of zoology in the museum, who was leader of the expedition, explains the publication.

The portfolio makes a most suitable memorial to the artist-ornithologist and renders it possible for his friend and admirers to possess some of his very last and best work so perfectly reproduced that it is almost as satisfactory as the originals.—W. S.

Birds of the British Antarctic Expedition of 1910.—When the "Terra Nova" returned from the Antarctic she brought back the bird skins and notes prepared by Dr. E. A. Wilson, ornithologist of the expedition, who perished with Scott and others of the ill fated polar party. Owing to the subsequent death of Mr. Ogilvie Grant, who was to have prepared a report on the birds, the publication has been long delayed but now appears under the able handling of Messrs. Percy R. Lowe and N. B. Kinnear.²

¹ Abyssinian Birds and Mammals Painted from Life. By Louis Agassiz Fuertes. Published by Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, U. S. A. Through the generosity of C. Suydam Cutting. Price \$3.00.

² British Antarctic ("Terra Nova") Expedition, 1910. Natural History Report. Zoology, IV, No. 5, pp. 103-193. Birds. By P. R. Lowe and N. B. Kinnear. With twenty-four text-figures and sixteen plates, British Museum, London, 1930. Issued July 26, 1930. Price 20 shillings.

Sixteen quarto plates, many of them in colors and all from drawings by Dr. Wilson, illustrate the heads and feet of many birds and flight poses of various Tubinares sketched from life. Forty species of birds were collected or observed, including two Penguins, three Skuas, twenty-two Petrels, seven Albatrosses, two Boobies and two Frigate-birds.

Beside Dr. Wilson's notes which are reproduced verbatim and a list of the specimens, data are presented on many additional specimens in the British and Tring Museums and there are full discussions of the relationship of species and plumages so that the report becomes a most important contribution to Antarctic ornithology. The perplexing phases of plumage presented by many of the Tubinares are discussed and much light thrown upon their significance.

The authors deserve our thanks for the care that they have taken in the preparation of this publication.

American ornithologists will recall that Dr. Wilson, well known for his previous Antarctic report on the birds of the "Discovery" expedition and other papers, was a great-nephew of Dr. Thomas B. Wilson one time president and patron of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and donor of many of its most important collections notably the Gould collection of Australian birds and the famous Rivoli collection.—W. S.

Vertebrates of the Lassen Peak Region.—Dr. Grinnell and his associates of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology have put forth another massive volume¹ concerned with the vertebrate fauna of California. This time they deal with northern California covering a section 24 x 124 miles in extent cutting through the Lassen Peak region from east to west.

Numerous trips by members of the museum staff to various parts of the section have resulted in a collection of 3592 specimens and voluminous notes, which form the basis of the report. The objects of the work as outlined by the authors are to determine the species of vertebrates present in the region, their relative abundance, their habitat distribution and factors governing it, their annual cycle of activity and "the determination of a way to analyze vertebrate communities and successions."

The factors accounting for habitat limitations of terrestrial vertebrates as determined by the authors are (1) inherent structural peculiarities, (2) vegetation, (3) nature of ground surface, (4) presence of water, (5) altitude, (6) physiographical relation to surrounding territory, (7) presence of absence of other animals. The thirty-seven habitats of the region they group under aquatic, low vegetation, brush-land, wood-land, forest, rock-land, and human made. These are discussed in great detail with numerous photographic illustrations.

We then pass to a consideration of the life zones of the area with lists

¹ *Vertebrate Natural History of a Section of Northern California through the Lassen Peak Region.* By Joseph Grinnell, Joseph Dixon, Jean M. Linsdale. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool., Vol. 35, pp. i-v+1-594, 181 text figs. Berkeley, Calif., 1930. Price \$6.