

is before us is in the nature of a memorial, edited and revised by his successor in the Museum of Natural History at Milan, Dr. Egardo Moltoni, associated with Dr. Carlo Vandoni. It is a quarto volume of over 700 pages with 308 text figures or full page half-tones and sixteen colored plates. The illustrations are mainly from water colors by the author with the addition of a few by Dr. Vandoni and illustrate a large number of the 476 species and subspecies so far found in Italy. They vary in excellence and artistic merit but are all satisfactory representations of the subjects that they depict while many are excellent and show the intimate knowledge of the author concerning the actions and poses of the familiar birds of his country.

The text consists of a description of each species with measurements and a brief account of distribution and habits. The nomenclature and classification follow that of Sharpe's 'Hand-List.'

The book is more popular in character than the 'Ornitologia Italiana' of Arrigoni degli Oddi, to which it makes a satisfactory companion, furnishing the illustrations which the latter lacks.

The authors are to be congratulated upon an excellent volume and one which should stimulate interest in birds throughout Italy.—W. S.

Wetmore on 'Birds.'—The Smithsonian Institution is sponsoring a series of volumes dealing with all branches of science. Volume 9 of the series treats of the warm-blooded vertebrates and the first part covering the birds¹ is by Dr. Alexander Wetmore. The intention is to give a résumé of general information regarding bird life such as will interest the reader, without attempting to cover technical matter or to present a systematic account of the species, or even of the higher groups. The chapter headings will give a good idea of the contents of the volume: viz.; Birds in Relation to Man; Adaptations for Progression by Flying; Color and its Arrangement; Ancestors and Ancestry; Migration and its Study; Homes and their Location; Eggs and their Care; Something about Young Birds; Voice and Other Sounds; Studies Afield and in the Laboratory; Food and Economic Relations; The Kinds of Birds in Brief Review.

Dr. Wetmore has exercised excellent judgment in choosing the information that he has presented, with the result that he has included in a small space a surprising amount of important matter. As an additional attraction there are a number of admirable photographs of birds in life and several beautiful color plates from paintings by Allan Brooks. If the other volumes of the series measure up to Dr. Wetmore's contribution it will prove a unique summary of scientific knowledge.

Chapman on the Bird-life of Mts. Roraima and Duida.—The fauna and flora of these two isolated mountains rising from the tropical

¹ Smithsonian Scientific Series Vol. 9, Part 1. Birds, by Alexander Wetmore, Assistant Secretary Smithsonian Institution. Pp. 1-166. 69 Plates and several text figures. 1931.