

the bird in Pennsylvania published in 'Cassinia' are omitted, one of which shows the birds present in the breeding season in Fulton Co., not far from the Maryland line, as early as 1905.—W. S.

Bowen's Catalogue of Sudan Birds.—In 1926 while still Deputy Curator of the Sudan Government Museum, Mr. W. Wedgwood Bowen published the first part of a 'Catalogue of Sudan Birds' carrying the subject as far as the Passeres. More recently the birds of this group have been listed and the second part appeared in August, 1931, the author having meanwhile removed to America and become Assistant Curator of Birds at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

The "Catalogue"¹ is more than the title would imply as there are keys for determination of the families and for the species under each family; also a very brief statement of character of occurrence, habitat and relative abundance of each species and subspecies, and data for all specimens in the Sudan Government Museum. Seven hundred species are listed and a number of subspecies, while in part II there is an appendix supplying additional information, changes in names and twelve additional species with several subspecies. A second appendix consists of a list of type localities, in Sudan, from which birds have been described and a list of the species with references. There is an excellent faunal map published in each part. Mr. Bowen has furnished a very handy list not only for those interested in studying Sudan birds in the field but for ornithologists in general who have to deal with birds from this part of Africa.—W. S.

La Touche's 'Birds of East China.'—Part II of Vol. 2 of this valuable work² has appeared covering the Goatsuckers, Owls, Ospreys, Vultures and part of the Falconidae.

The method of treatment follows that of the preceding parts and in the discussion of habits etc., there is much about the nesting of the eagles and also their capture for purposes of falconry and for their feathers, while several halftones from photographs show the method of netting them as well as falconers carrying eagles at the railroad stations. We congratulate Mr. La Touche on the progress of his work which we can assure him from personal experience is of the greatest aid to those working up Chinese collections.—W. S.

Chisholm's 'Nature Fantasy in Australia.'—Many of our readers are doubtless familiar with the writings of Alec Chisholm who has probably

¹ Catalogue of | Sudan Birds | Based on the Collection in the | Sudan Government Museum | (Natural History) | By | W. Wedgwood Bowen, B.A. (Cantab.). [etc.] | Part I—Struthionidae to Picidae | Sudan Government Museum Publ. No. 1, May 1926, pp. 1-120.

Part II. Alaudidae to Fringillidae. Sudan Govt. Mus. Publ. No. 2, August 1931, pp. 1-163. Price P. T. 20 (= 4 shillings) per part.

² A Handbook | of the | Birds of China | [etc.] By | J. D. D. La Touche. Vol. II, Part II, Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Pp. 97-192, January 1932. Price 7s. 6d. net per part.

done as much to interest the general public, both of Australia and abroad, in Australian birds as any other man, and his latest book¹ under the above title will receive, as it deserves, a hearty welcome.

This time he has picked Sydney and its environs as the scene of his studies—Sydney where white men first set foot on Australian soil and where now stands a mighty city of a million inhabitants, but fortunately man has confined himself mainly to the vicinity of the shore and much reasonably wild country still remains close at hand where choice flowers and interesting birds still are to be found in plenty, and these are what Mr. Chisholm tells us about.

The wonderful Lyre-bird, thanks to its shyness, still persists in numbers no less than six pairs nesting in the National Park close to Sydney, and in a suburb of the city where a pair built, the song of the female imitated the cackling of domestic fowls in an adjoining yard. Many will be surprised to learn that this bird, chiefly known by its wonderfully constructed tail forming a beautiful representation of a lyre, is a gifted mimic. "Imagine yourself" says our author, "lounging on the veranda of the cabin [used by bird watchers in the National Park] listening idly to the myriad voices of the Bush. Presently you hear a resonant call, as from a voice throbbing with power. The opening shout slips now into the wail of the cockatoo, changes quickly to the crack of the whip-bird, resolves into the screeching of a flock of parrots, and proceeds to encompass many voices of the neighborhood." The activities of the bird are then described as were made familiar to members of the A. O. U. who attended the Salem meeting by the motion pictures shown there by Mr. Francis R. Cope. It is interesting also to know that the Satin Bower Bird also is to be found in the Sydney region and Mr. Chisholm makes us familiar with its habits and its bower. He also comments on the wonder of its eye of cerulean blue with scarlet ring about the pupil and recalls the remark of a native bushman: "If I met a woman with eyes of that tone I would follow her anywhere!"

But we must let the reader pick out the most interesting points for himself. The book is a combination of good writing and good photography and teems with suggestive reflections on the origin of birds and their habits as well as with bits of historic lore.

We congratulate Mr. Chisholm on another success.—W. S.

Townsend's 'From Panama to Patagonia.'—Dr. Charles W. Townsend who since his retirement as a medical practitioner, some years ago, has been spending most of his time in travel and is at the present time in Africa, recently made a tour of South America down the west coast and up the east as far as Rio de Janeiro, going short distances inland to visit

¹ Nature Fantasy | in Australia | By | Alec H. Chisholm | Author of *Birds and Green Places* | *Mateship with Birds*, etc. | Illustrated with a Coloured | Plate, a Regional Map and | Eighty Photographs from Life | by the Author and Others | London Toronto Vancouver | J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. | [1932] Pp. i-xiv + 1-196. Price 12s. 6d. net.