

tion but so as to cover in part the cost of publication and thereby help to tide 'The Auk' over these days of depression.—W. S.

**Chapman's 'Autobiography of a Bird-Lover.'**<sup>1</sup>—To those with the proper appreciation of bird study the biography of an ornithologist must always have as great an interest as an ornithological biography and of books of the former type none will excite greater interest or be more generally read as the years pass by than the volume before us. When we realize the errors into which a biographer may unwittingly fall we feel deeply grateful to those who, like Dr. Chapman, have prepared their own biographies and have given us not only the facts of their lives but their personal reactions to them.

Dr. Chapman's ability as a writer and speaker is well known and his command of the English language has been equalled by no American ornithologist save Elliott Coues. We find in his autobiography, therefore, beautiful composition and fascinating pen-pictures of nature as well as the scientific and historical data that constitute the basis of his book.

One is deeply impressed with the singleness of purpose that has marked his life; his object was the study of birds; his aim to become an ornithologist; and his story demonstrates the fullness of his achievement.

He seems to have come to the American Museum of Natural History at exactly the right time for developing the career which he had always, perhaps unconsciously, in mind, and year after year he realized with uncanny accuracy the needs of ornithology and promptly met them.

His 'Handbook,' for the latest edition of which he has just received the Brewster Medal, was just what the rising generation of bird students needed; his advocacy of bird protection and popular education in this field met with instant response from all bird lovers; and 'Bird Lore,' the magazine that he conceived, became their mouth piece.

At the museum he advocated and developed the new ideas in exhibition and personally secured the material for the bird habitat groups that grace the halls. With these successes he turned to more serious scientific work planning and executing the ornithological surveys of South America, the results of which have established his reputation as an ornithologist throughout the world.

All these experiences are described in his autobiography. The delightful accounts of his travels in the tropics, of his meetings with foreign ornithologists at the International Congresses, and with many other notable characters outside of the ornithological circle, furnish interesting reading for the general public; the ornithologist with a fuller understanding of the subject will delight in a more careful study of the book; and the young bird student will profit greatly by its perusal. One striking

<sup>1</sup> *Autobiography of a Bird-Lover* | By | Frank M. Chapman | Curator of Birds in The | American Museum of Natural History | With Photographs by the Author; | Drawings and Four Color Plates by | Louis Agassiz Fuyertes. | D. Appleton-Century Company, Incorporated, New York 1933. London. Pp. i-xiii + 1-420. Price \$3.75.

feature that appears again and again in the volume is the author's love and affection for Louis Agassiz Fuertes, his companion on many trips, and whose untimely death made his life "never quite the same." His friendship and admiration for William Brewster is also beautifully expressed and the lives and characters of many others of the group that formed the American Ornithologists' Union are touched upon. Dr. Chapman has had wonderful opportunities but they are largely of his own making and it is a privilege to have his own account of them. Especially is this appreciated by the present reviewer who has followed Dr. Chapman's ornithological career from its very beginning. We were elected to the A. O. U. at the same meeting, entered the respective institutions in which we have spent our lives on the same day, and a friendship then developed has continued unbroken for nearly fifty years.

Apart from its interest as an autobiography Dr. Chapman's volume constitutes one of the most important contributions to the history of American ornithology.

The book is handsomely gotten up with numerous half-tones, mainly from photographs by the author, and several color plates from paintings by Fuertes. There is also a bibliography of his principal publications, 1888-1932, comprising fourteen books and some 180 papers and notes.—W. S.

**Bannerman's 'Birds of Tropical West Africa.'**—We are pleased to announce the appearance of the third volume<sup>1</sup> of this splendid work, covering the groups from the Owls to the Woodpeckers and including all the "Picarian" families; the Passeres will be covered in the three remaining volumes.

The more we see of this work the more we are impressed with the excellence of its plan and the beauty of its execution. Twelve handsome color plates adorn the present volume from paintings by Major Henry Jones (8), George Lodge (3) and H. Grönvold (1), while the last mentioned has contributed many line drawings and half-tones to the text, some of these showing birds in flying positions and other attitudes not often attempted. He is also responsible for the excellent drawings of heads, feet, etc., used in the illustrated key which is an admirable feature of the work.

The text is even fuller than in the preceding volumes and contains a vast amount of new information contributed by many recent explorers or resident naturalists who have placed their field notes at Mr. Bannerman's disposal. Full use has been made of the publications of American authors, notably, Drs. J. P. Chapin, Herbert Friedmann and Glover M. Allen.

West Africa will always hold a place in the interests of American ornithol-

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<sup>1</sup> The | Birds of Tropical West Africa | With Special Reference to those of the Gambia, | Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria | By | David Armitage Bannerman | M.B.E., M.A. (Cantab.), F.R.S.E. | [etc., etc.] | Map and Coloured Plates | Volume Three | Published under the Authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Milbank, Westminster, London, S. W. 1, 1933. Pp. i-xxxv + 1-487, pl. I-XII + Map. Price 22s 6d.