

acquainted with Mr. Chisholm's popular writings on Australian birds and will welcome another work from his pen. The present volume,¹ he tells us, was prepared at the request of his publishers, with the idea of presenting accurate accounts of the peculiar habits and actions of certain Australian birds which had often been grossly exaggerated or misconstrued by careless writers of the past. They could not have selected a better author for such a work than Mr. Chisholm who is not only an ornithologist of repute but an experienced writer on popular natural history, and his book fully meets the idea of his publishers. From the grotesque portrait of the Frog-mouth, which forms the frontispiece, to the photographs of the mud, retort-like, nests of the Fairy Martins, the numerous illustrations present the unusual in bird life while the author's chapters on Lyre-bird Revels; Birds that Bury their Eggs; Queer Relations of Birds and Insects; Feathered Players and Dancers, etc., etc., tell us, from personal observation, of the peculiar actions of the birds of a peculiar land.

Of especial interest is the account of young blind Cuckoos throwing the young of their foster parents from the nest which was done repeatedly under the eyes not only of the author but of a number of bird students and the Governor of the province of New South Wales. The latter dignitary at first suggested the advisability of throwing out the Cuckoo's egg but after careful consideration said "perhaps it will be as well to let nature take its course." In one case described by Mr. Chisholm the young Cuckoo was in a closed nest but managed to back up to the entrance with a young Warbler on his hollowed back and eject it from the opening. This was done several times after the Warbler had been replaced in the nest, both young birds having not yet opened their eyes! The same reaction has been gained by placing sticks or any object on the back of the young Cuckoo which is very sensitive and the bird immediately tries to throw off anything which touches it.

The appropriateness of the title for one chapter 'The Land of Parrots' is appreciated when we learn that there are no less than fifty-nine species found in Australia and, in spite of the sad destruction of numbers of these beautiful birds, since the time of John Gould, it is refreshing to know that "considerable numbers" still remain and that Australia is still a "land of Parrots." A chapter on "Why Birds Dress Up" is a discussion of Hingston's 'The Meaning of Animal Colour and Adornment' and the author's experience in applying Hingston's theories² to Australian birds. ¶

But it is impossible to even list the many interesting matters discussed by Mr. Chisholm and we can only recommend his book to those interested in foreign birds and in the broader problems of ornithology.—W. S.

Sutton's 'Eskimo Year.'—Some months ago (*Auk*, 1933, p. 498) it was our privilege to review Dr. George Miksch Sutton's account of his ornithological observations and collections made on Southampton Island during a residence of a year in that remote spot. Now we have his personal account³ of his experiences during that sojourn with the Eskimos.

He tells us in a brief foreword that his book "is not a dissertation on Arctic beasts and birds but a study of relationships and of human adjustment, but first of all it is the story of a glorious adventure in a glorious country." This admirably describes

¹ Bird Wonders of | Australia | By | Alec H. Chisholm | F. R. Z. S., C. F. A. O. U. | With Fifty-eight Illustrations | Australia | Angus & Robertson Limited | 89 Castlereagh Street, Sydney | 1934. Pp. i-xiii + 1-299. Price 6 shillings.

² See F. H. Allen, *Auk*, October, 1934, p. 454.

³ Eskimo Year | A Naturalist's Adventures in the Far North | By | George Miksch Sutton | Illustrated | with Drawings and Photographs by the | Author and with Photographs by several | Men of the North Country | New York | The Macmillan Company | 1934. Pp. i-xi + 1-321. Price \$3.00.

this very interesting volume. Dr. Sutton writes so clearly and so directly that we seem to see before us the incidents and the individuals that he describes and we doubt if any other sketch gives one such an intimate picture of the Eskimos and of their daily life and character.

While it may not be an account of Arctic beasts and birds they figure not a little on its pages, and, although the author says that he is not an ethnologist, ethnologists will read his book with interest and profit, while anyone interested in travel in far off places, whether he be explorer, ornithologist, or what you will, will find 'Eskimo Year' a most attractive piece of reading.

Dr. Sutton, as is well known, is an artist as well as an ornithologist and his pages are enriched by numerous pen sketches of birds and mammals, while excellent photographs of Eskimos, arctic scenery, etc., make many attractive plates.—W. S.

Meise's Birds of Manchuria.—This excellent report¹ is based on a study of a collection of 2400 bird skins obtained by Walter Stoltzner on an expedition through northern Manchuria, in the years 1927-1929, and now in the Museum für Tierkunde at Dresden.

The author wisely includes additional species mentioned as occurring in Manchuria by other writers and no less than 333 species together with a number of additional subspecies are included in the report. There is a brief account of the character of the Manchurian avifauna and of previous investigations that have been made with a complete list of localities, which will prove of great value to future workers on the fauna.

In the main text each species is marked as resident, transient, breeding species, etc., and there is a list of the specimens obtained by Stoltzner with a discussion of relationships and peculiarities of each form with detailed measurements.

We notice eight new forms, all from Manchuria unless otherwise stated, *Parus cyanus apeliotes* (p. 31), *Locustella certhiola sparsimstriata* (p. 39), West Siberia; *Ianthocincla davidi chinganica* (p. 41); *Saxicola torquata kleinschmidti* (p. 44) Szetschwan; *Hirundo dauria gephyra* (p. 48) Szetschwan; *Riparia riparia stolzneriana* (p. 48); *Dryobates hyperythrus miniakorom* (p. 53) Tatsienlu, Szetschwan; *Dryobates kizuki permutatus* (p. 53).

Dr. Meise has made a welcome addition to our knowledge of the avifauna of northern Asia which will probably stand as our authority on the birds of Manchuria for many years to come.—W. S.

Stone and Roberts on Matto Grosso Birds.—This annotated list² of 157 species and subspecies is the catalogue of a collection of birds obtained by Mr. J. A. G. Rehn in the vicinity of Descalvados, Brazil, from June 16 to September 19, 1931. More than four-fifths of the forms known from this locality are represented in the collection, and, since those not obtained at this time but previously recorded are named in an appended list, the paper is, in effect, a complete roll of the known avifauna of this restricted locality. One species, *Phaeotriccus hudsoni*, is recorded for the first time from Brazil; others are noted for the first time from the locality. Critical remarks are made on the plumages of certain species or specimens and field notes are added from the collector's journal.

¹ Die Vogelwelt der Mandschurei Von Dr. Wilhelm Meise. Abhandl. und Berichte der Museen für Tierkunde und Völkerkunde zu Dresden. Band XVIII (1931-34.) No. 2. Pp. 1-86, Leipzig, July 5, 1934. Price 20 R. Marks.

² Zoological Results of the Matto Grosso Expedition to Brazil in 1931,—III. Birds. By Witmer Stone and H. Radclyffe Roberts. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia Vol. LXXXVI, pp. 363-397. August 16, 1934.