

the local bird student but to others interested in the broader study of the habits and songs of the species to which they refer.

The volume, which is privately printed, is a beautiful example of the bookmaker's art, with perfect typography and excellent half-tones of many of the commoner birds or their nests, from photographs by Henry Emerson Tuttle. There is also a frontispiece portrait of Mrs. Farwell, to whom this little book is a most fitting memorial.—W. S.

Hudson's 'The Book of a Naturalist'¹—Mr. Hudson's many readers will be glad to learn of the appearance of another of his delightful volumes. The sketches which it includes appeared originally in various of the English magazines and hence have probably been read by few on this side of the Atlantic. Almost all of them deal with English country life though there are occasional allusions to Patagonia, with which country the author's name is so closely associated. There are in all twenty-nine chapters treating of the whole range of out-door life — mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, wild flowers, earthworms and even the potato, while a good index guides one to the many interesting and important observations which lie hidden away in the pages. The volume is hardly on a par with its predecessors and while some of the sketches are full of the great out doors of which the author loves to write, they give one the impression of being a collection of odds and ends which had not yet been brought together in book form. Only three of the present sketches relate to birds, two of them dealing with herons and heronries.—W. S.

Dixon on Wild Ducks in a City Park.²—Every visitor to the city of Oakland, California will be shown Lake Merritt, a beautiful body of water of about a square mile in extent, situated in the heart of the city and famous as the winter resort of thousands of wild fowl. In the present paper, Mr. Dixon describes the winter bird-life of the lake illustrating his account with a number of excellent photographs.

Lake Merritt is the oldest State game reservation in California, having been established in 1869. No gunning whatever is allowed there and dogs not in leash are not permitted in the park, furthermore a large area of the lake is shut off by a log boom and boating there in the winter is forbidden. Last but not least about four tons of whole barley are fed to the ducks every winter at a cost to the city of about \$400.

As a result some 2500 wild ducks are to be found on the lake throughout the winter from October to the end of the shooting season, in February, when it is safe for them to scatter over the country for a few weeks before returning north. Large numbers of the birds come out on the lawns adjoin-

¹ *The Book of a Naturalist*. By W. H. Hudson. George H. Doran Company, New York. 8vo. (1919) pp. i-viii, 1-360.

² *Wild Ducks as Winter Guests in a City Park*. By Joseph Dixon. National Geographic Magazine, October, 1919. pp. 331-342.

ing the lake to rest in the sun and Mr. Dixon's photographs show them close to the houses and driveways apparently entirely devoid of fear.

The most abundant species is the Pintail, followed by the Canvas-back, Baldpate and Shoveller. Other species of ducks occur, however, as well as Grebes, Coots, Gulls and Killdeers. The pleasure derived by the thousands of persons who visit the lake to watch the ducks, and the protection of the birds as a factor in the preservation of the species are well worth the comparatively small expense and trouble. Why do not other favorably located communities try the same experiment? — W. S.

Recent Circulars by Forbush.¹— The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture has recently published two excellent educational pamphlets by the State ornithologist, Mr. Edward Howe Forbush. One of these deals with outdoor bird study and is full of practical hints as to where and how to study wild birds. The other describes the building of bird houses and nest boxes. It seems that the demand for such publications is never satisfied, every year sees the additions of thousands of persons to the army of bird students and it is fortunate that there are State governments able and willing to supply the literature that they desire. It would seem, however, that some of the best of these pamphlets might be stereotyped so that an unlimited number of copies could be printed without the expense of resetting the type.— W. S.

The Birds of the Albatross Expedition of 1899-1900.²— The long delayed report on the birds obtained on the cruise of the "Albatross" to the southern Pacific in 1899 and 1900 has at last appeared, the systematic study of the collection being by Alexander Wetmore while the introduction and field notes are contributed by Charles H. Townsend one of the naturalists who accompanied the expedition and made the collection. Specimens were obtained from thirty-three islands some of which were visited by naturalists for the first time. Representatives of ninety-three species or subspecies were collected and of these the following fourteen are described as new:— *Ixobrychus sinensis moorei* (p. 173) Middle Caroline Islands; *Globicera oceanica townsendi* (p. 191), Ponapé, Eastern Carolines, *Sauropatis sacra rabulata* (p. 197), Eua, Tonga Islands; *S. c. celada* (p. 198) Vavau, Tonga Group; *Myiagra townsendi* (p. 205), Kambara, Fijis; *Conopodera atypha* (p. 206), Fakarava; *C. a. rava* (p. 208), Whitsunday Isl.; *C. a.*

¹ Outdoor Bird Study. Hints for Beginners. By Edward Howe Forbush. Department Circular No. 12, Mass. Dept. Agr. pp. 1-51, numerous cuts. May, 1919.

Bird Houses and Nesting Boxes. By Edward Howe Forbush. Circular No. 10, Mass. Dept. Agr. pp. 1-28, 7 plates and numerous cuts. April, 1919.

² Reports on the Scientific Results of the Expedition to the Tropical Pacific in charge of Alexander Agassiz, on the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer "Albatross," from August, 1899, to March, 1900, Commander Jefferson F. Moser, U. S. N., commanding. XXI. The Birds. By Charles Haskins Townsend and Alexander Wetmore. Bull. Museum Comp. Zool., Vol. LXIII, No. 4. August, 1919. pp. 151-225.



Dixon, Joseph S. 1920. "Dixon on Wild Ducks in a City Park." *The Auk* 37, 158–159. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4073009>.

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