

BOOK NOTICES.

BIRDS OF NEW YORK.—By Elon Howard Eaton. Part 2. General Chapters: Land Birds. New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y., Memoir 12.

In the June, 1910, issue of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, we noted the appearance of Part 1, a volume of 390 pages, of the Birds of New York, which volume discussed the Water Birds and Game Birds. Part 2, as above mentioned treats of the Land Birds and is truly a magnificent contribution to American ornithology. It is a much larger volume, consisting of 543 pages. In Part 1, there are 42 full paged coloured plates, whereas in Part 2, there are no less than 106.

With the presentation of Part 2, the entire field of work as originally planned by the author is covered. Students of birds everywhere will be delighted at the completion of this exhaustive memoir. The coloured plates, which are from drawings by Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertés, are indeed excellent in every way.

The introductory charter of Part 2 discusses Bird Ecology (pp. 5-46.) This is followed by a chapter on The Economic Value of Birds (pp. 46-51.) In the author's own words "the main value of birds is in holding tree and crop enemies in check. Modern methods of fighting injurious insects seem, in some cases, to render the aid of birds unnecessary, but the special value of the bird's work consists in attacking insect pests which are not reached by poison spray and at seasons of the year when spraying is not practised, thereby preventing outbreaks which otherwise would cause great destruction and expense." In this chapter the value of birds as weed seed destroyers is also discussed. Other chapters which follow are "The Status of our Bird Laws," "Special Measures for Increasing Bird Life," "Bird Refugees" and "Private Preserves." These are all of extreme interest. Then follows the main portion of the work, viz., the description of genera and species of the land birds. This occupies pages 61-541. Many text figures appear in this part. The Birds of Prey are first treated of. Each species is discussed under sub-headings, such as description, distribution, habits, etc. These are followed by an account of the Paroquet, the Cuckoos, Kingfishers, etc., the Woodpeckers, the Swifts, etc., etc., until a complete treatment of the land birds is given.