

["Some Useful Australian Birds." By Walter W. Froggatt, F.L.S., F.E.S., Government Entomologist N.S.W., etc. Published by the Department of Agriculture, N.S.W., through the Government Printer. Price 10/6].

This modest title introduces a book originated, the Preface says, to serve as the re-publication of a series of notes on birds useful to the man on the land. These were begun in the *Agricultural Gazette* (N.S.W.) by the late A. J. North, C.M.B.O.U.

The birds are treated in three sections:—

1. Birds of the Garden, Orchard and Field.
2. Birds of the Forest and Brushes.
3. Birds of Inland Plains, Swamps, Open Forests and Scrubs.

The author has utilised the opportunity to include many original and valuable field observations made by himself during a life-time of study in natural history.

The fine plates, over 60 in number, are excellent full-page reproductions in colour of the magnificent plates of Gould's great folio work, "The Birds of Australia."

An interesting section deals with the "Effect of Changing Environment on the Habits of Birds." Another deals with introduced mammals and birds—foxes, rabbits, domestic cats gone wild, sparrows and starlings—serious pests, one and all.

This handy volume contains much of interest for the bird-man as well as for the man on the land. It is written in a popular, interesting style. References are given to Gould's "Handbook" and to Leach's "Bird Book."

About Members

Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, Sydney, on retiring recently from the Government service, was presented by the fellow-officers of his Department with a valuable pair of field-glasses, and a solid leather suit case. Mr. Hull still retains his position as honorary ornithologist to the Australian Museum. We wish him many years at his labour of love.

From birds to trees is but one remove. Mr. A. J. Campbell is shortly bringing out an artistic production entitled "Our Golden Wattles, or Australia's National Flower," which will be illustrated by a unique series of full-plate photo-pictures.

Captain S. A. White at present is leading a small exploring party into Central Australia. Hitherto on such trips he had often, at the risk of his life, to scratch for water. This time floods impede his progress.