

Keyser's 'Bird-dom.'*—Despite its rather unprepossessing title, 'Bird-dom' proves to be a collection of twenty-six ornithological essays possessing much attractiveness as a series of popular sketches of bird life, most of which have previously appeared in various magazines. The writer gives his experiences in the field, in the hope of awakening in others an appreciation of nature. "If the hearts of the young," says our author, "could be stirred to a love of nature, and their minds aroused to study her, much would be done toward solving some of the perplexing social problems of the day." The titles of the essays, as 'The Alert Eye,' 'A Lesson in Bird Study,' 'Difficulties of Bird Study,' 'First Meetings,' 'Birds on the Wing,' 'My Woodland,' 'Lyrist's of a Suburb,' etc., suggest to some degree the character of the book, in which the writer tells how he learned to recognize birds, relating his methods, his successes and his failures, and their causes. A healthful spirit, unlimited enthusiasm, and an intense love of birds pervades Mr. Keyser's little book, which is interspersed with many useful hints to those who would have a 'speaking acquaintance' with the feathered tenants of field and wood. While appreciating the need of specimens on the part of specialists, he disapproves of the killing of birds by amateurs, and offers this good advice: "So I advise that the money spent for guns and cartridges be spent in visiting some good college, or a large city, where an extensive collection of mounted birds may be studied at leisure. In that way you will be able to clear up ornithological points without resort to bloodshed." He has evidently become a proficient field ornithologist without destroying many birds, and writes delightfully and in an original vein of many of his favorite bird friends. The book is based apparently on observations made mainly in northeastern Ohio, and a Kirtland's Warbler is one of the author's much prized discoveries.—J. A. A.

Scott B. Wilson's Aves Hawaiienses.†—The progress of ornithology of late years is well exemplified by the work before us. Twenty years ago a small octavo pamphlet held all we knew about the birds of one of the most interesting and peculiar zoögeographical provinces; while today it requires a handsome quarto volume with numerous colored plates to fully represent our knowledge of the subject. Twenty years ago the number of species known to inhabit the Hawaiian Islands was considered to be about forty by the best authority (Sclater, *Ibis*, 1871, p. 361); today the number is scarcely less than seventy; and the most astonishing fact is that this increase of our knowledge of one of the most accessible and most civilized archipelagoes in the Pacific Ocean has taken place during

* Bird-dom | By | Leander Keyser | [Motto=6 lines, from Lowell] Boston | D. Lothrop Company | Washington Street opposite Bromfield. No date. 1891, 12mo, pp. 226.

† Aves Hawaiienses.—The Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S. Assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. London, R. H. Porter. Part i. Dec. 1890; part ii, Sept. 1891.