

**THE HERON OF CASTLE
CREEK AND OTHER
SKETCHES OF BIRD LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649241804

The heron of Castle Creek and other sketches of bird life by Alfred Wellesley Rees

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ALFRED WELLESLEY REES

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W. W. Kees

Photo by J. Russell & Sons.

THE HERON OF CASTLE CREEK

AND OTHER SKETCHES OF
BIRD LIFE

BY ALFRED WELLESLEY REES

WITH A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR
BY J. K. HUDSON AND A PORTRAIT

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1920

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TO
"GEORGE" AND "ESTHER"
IN MEMORY OF
"PA"

" My birds, come back ! the hollow sky
Is weary for your note,
(Sweet throat, come back ! O liquid, mellow throat !)
Ere May's soft minions hereward fly.
Shame on ye, luggards, to deny
The brooding breast, the sun-bright eye,
The tawny, shining coat."

ALICE BROWN.

PREFACE

THE articles in this volume were selected some years ago by the author for re-issue in book form, and were partially corrected by him. Their publication was held over during the war, and owing to the author's death they still lacked his final revision. As Mr. Rees's literary executor I have prepared them for the press, and prefixed a short memoir.

The bulk of the book appeared originally in *The Standard* newspaper. I wish to thank the editor of *Chambers' Journal* for permission to reprint, in revised form, "Bird Life in a Western Valley." The chapter on the Bittern, called "A Moorland Sanctuary," appeared first in the *Monthly Review* (Murray). The portrait is reproduced by permission of Messrs. J. Russell & Sons.

There still remains a considerable amount of Mr. Rees's work that seems worthy to receive a more permanent form. I trust the reception of this volume will justify the issue of another, perhaps more miscellaneous, selection.

J. K. HUDSON.

