

still concurs, although they of course appear (necessarily) in the comparative lists of the Appendix.

The 'Key' is still entitled to the high favor it has hitherto received, and will prove, as it ever has, a work of the greatest utility. It has, of course, its short-comings, but they detract little from its usefulness. Some of its statements about the nesting-habits of certain species or groups of species are a little too sweeping, and the descriptions of the eggs, as to number and color, not always above criticism, while there are a few lapses of a graver sort. When the fourth edition is called for, as it doubtless ere long will be, the author may then find it expedient to once more recast and perfect a work which has not only proved a great boon to the ornithological public, but has had unquestionably a marked influence upon the progress of ornithology, and done more than any other to make the subject popular and comprehensible to the general reader. — J. A. A.

Townsend's Field-notes on the Birds of Northern California.*— Mr. Townsend's 'Field-notes' were based on observations made in the counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen, April 1, 1883, to July 15, 1884, and in Humboldt County, Nov. 15, to Dec. 17, 1885. To make the list of birds as complete as possible for that portion of California north of the fortieth parallel, he has added to the two hundred observed by himself some sixty additional species made known by others as inhabitants of the region, making 261 in all. The list is copiously annotated and contains interesting biographical matter. His account of the nest and eggs of the Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) is especially noteworthy as the first for the species. The bird portion of the paper closes with a table illustrating the vertical range of birds of Northern California, modelled after a similar one in 'The Auk' (Vol. II, 1885, p. 11) by Mr. F. M. Drew on the birds of Colorado.

The 'Field-notes' on the mammals and reptiles are equally full and interesting, but of course call for no special remark in the present connection. A useful sketch-map of the region accompanies the paper, and several pages of introductory matter describes the topographical features of the country under notice. — J. A. A.

Shufeldt's Contributions to Avisection.† — Dr. Shufeldt continues his admirable avisections. His latest article reviews some of the taxonomically important musculatures. These are, namely, five pectorimyon;‡

*Field-notes on the Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles of Northern California. By Charles H. Townsend. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, pp. 159-241. (Birds, pp. 190-237.)

†A Review of the Muscles Used in the Classification of Birds. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., C. M. Z. S., Captain Medical Corps, U. S. Army, etc. Journ. Compar. Med. and Surg., Oct. 1887. 24 pp.

‡Myon, any individual unit of musculature; what Dr. Coues formerly called a "muscular integer." — *Pectorimyon*, any myon of the pectoral arch or shoulder girdle proper. — *Pelvimyon*, any myon of the pelvic arch or hip girdle.

five pelvimyons; the so-called "obturator internus"; several syrinomya; and the tendons of profundiplantar mya. The five pectorimya treated are: — 1, tensor patagii longus; 2, tensor patagii brevis; 3, dermatensor patagii; 4, bicipital slip to the patagium; and 5, expansor secundariorum.* The five pelvimya discussed are the ambiens and those other four already handled with much effect by Garrod and others under their respective symbols, A, B, X, Y.† If the author is correct in identifying the muscle he called "obturator internus" with the myon of that name in hominisection, it is the obturiformis of Coues and Shute,‡ whose origin, whether oval or triangular, is discussed in its possible bearing on classification. The paper concludes with remarks well worthy of attention, on the profundiplantar tendons. It is quite fully illustrated with thirteen figures, in part original. — E. C.

A New Ornithichnite. § — Prof. F. H. Snow describes and figures a fossil, apparently that of a true bird, found in August, 1885, in Ellsworth Co., Kansas, in an excavation 44 feet deep in the Dakota Sandstone, on a geologic horizon about 200 feet below the upper level of the Dakota rocks. "The impression appears to have been made by the left foot of some bird with elevated hind toe just reaching the ground at its extremity, as in the modern Snipes and other Wading-birds, or in the family of Sea Gulls and Terns." The fossil is a small one, only two inches in total length. The object is not named, but Prof. Snow compares it with such a track as the foot of an *Ichthyornis* might have made." The discovery of this avian footprint. . . . considerably lowers the geological horizon of Kansas birds," which were not before known from strata below the Niobrara group, or highest of the Cretaceous rocks, beneath which the Dakota "rests unconformably upon the Permio-Carboniferous, with apparently an entire exclusion of the Triassic and Jurassic formations." — E. C.

Clark's 'Birds of Amherst.' ¶ — This annotated list of the birds occurring about Amherst seems to have been written not as an exhaustive contribution to faunal literature, but rather for the enlightenment of the farmers

*The progress of improvement in myological terminology makes it desirable to rename some of these mya. They may be called: 1, longitensor patagii; 2, brevitensor patagii; 3, dermatensor patagii (of Shufeldt); 4, bicipitensor patagii; and 5, secund-expansor.

†A = femorocaudal; B = "accessory femorocaudal," which is now named accessicaudal; X = semitendinosus; Y = "accessory semitendinosus" which is now called accessitendinosus.

‡See N. Y. Med. Record, July 30, 1887, p. 125.

§On the discovery of a fossil bird-track in the Dakota Sandstone. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci., Vol. X.

¶The | Birds of Amherst | and Vicinity, | including nearly the whole of | Hampshire County, Mass. | — | Herbert L. Clark, | with an Introduction by | Prof. C. H. Fernald Ph. D. | — | Amherst, Mass.: | J. E. Williams, Publisher. | 1887. 8vo. pp. 55.