

Warren's 'Birds of Pennsylvania.'*—The purpose of this book appears to be to enlighten the public, especially the farming communities, in Pennsylvania in regard to the birds that are to be found in the State, to awaken a desire for their protection upon economic grounds, and to stir up an interest in natural history among the people. It begins with a brief introduction chiefly devoted to explaining, with the aid of a plate, the technical terms used in the book. Then follows the body of the work in which one hundred and forty-two species are treated in systematic order. These include, as a rule, the commonest and the most interesting. Accidental stragglers and others that by their rarity or from other causes would be unlikely to come under the readers' notice, have been omitted for lack of room; the author informs us in the introduction that over two hundred and fifty pages of manuscript have been left out in order to bring the size of the book more nearly within the limits prescribed by the act of Legislature authorizing its publication.

Under the head of each species is given a short description in simple language. These "have in some instances been taken from 'Birds of North America,' by my late lamented friend, Prof. S. F. Baird; others have been compiled, in part, from the works of Dr. Elliott Coues and Robert Ridgway." This is followed by a statement of the habitat, borrowed from the A. O. U. Check-List. Then comes, in all but one or two cases, a biographical sketch which aims to be not merely instructive, but interesting as well, and in this it is usually remarkably successful. Dr. Warren has here supplemented his own experience by abundant extracts from the writings of Audubon, Nuttall, Wilson, Coues and others. Much attention is paid to the birds' preferences in regard to food, and the author's stomach examinations are given, often in tabular form. The whole space allotted to each species averages a page and a half. As might be expected, the Birds of Prey come in for their full share of mention, and a detailed account is given of the Pennsylvania 'Scalp Act' and the evidence that led to its repeal.

The descriptions of the species are supplemented by forty-nine chromolithograph plates, all, with exception of that of the House Sparrow, copied from Audubon, although we find no mention made of their source. Of course the execution is by no means equal to that of the originals, and we fear Mr. Audubon would hardly enjoy some trifling liberties the artist has occasionally taken, such as changing a bird's attitude or leaving out the fly it is trying to snatch. The printing of one plate upside down is probably not the artist's fault. The colors are not always printed with the care the subjects merit, but nevertheless the plates will well serve the purpose of stimulating the readers' interest, and Dr. Warren deserves our

*Report | on the | Birds of Pennsylvania. | With Special Reference to the Food-Habits, based | on over Three Thousand Stomach | Examinations. | By | B. H. Warren, M. D., | Ornithologist of the State Board of Agriculture; Associate Member of the American | Ornithologists' Union; Secretary of the Chester County (Pa.) | Academy of Arts and Sciences, etc. | Illustrated with fifty plates. | — | Harrisburg: | Edwin K. Meyers, State Printer. | 1888. 8vo pp. xii + 260.

thanks for giving us such a generous supply of plates that are on the whole so excellent.

The volume ends with an annotated 'List of the Birds of Pennsylvania' covering twenty-one pages and including 310 species, affording opportunity to briefly treat the species omitted from the body of the work. It is "based chiefly on observations made during the past ten years in Eastern Pennsylvania, especially in the Counties of Chester, Delaware and Lancaster," but it is in part compiled from manuscript notes of John Krider and H. B. Graves, the published writings of Ridgway, Coues, Gentry, Turnbull, Baird, Michener, Barnard and Pennock, and information received from Mr. Geo. B. Sennett. Some forty or fifty names are entered without annotations, though most of these have been already discussed in the previous pages. The list contains some new and interesting records and occasionally a statement that would interest one much more if supported by a detailed account of the facts or a citation of the authority.

The 'Report' was printed by direction of the Legislature of Pennsylvania for gratuitous distribution in the State, and the demand so far exceeded the supply that the edition of 6000 copies was quickly exhausted and, we are very glad to learn, the publication of a second edition of 10,000 copies, revised and enlarged, has been ordered. When this book has found its way into the schools and farmhouses throughout Pennsylvania the profit to the birds, to the farmers, and to ornithology, that ought to result, is incalculable. If other States would but follow such a good example, it would be an important step toward lifting the cloud of ignorance that hangs over the rural mind upon matters of natural history.—
C. F. B.

Ridgway on New or Little-known American Birds.—In the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum and Boston Society of Natural History, Mr. Ridgway has recently published various papers on American birds, in the main relating to Mexican and South American species, as follows: (1) 'Remarks on *Catharus berlepschi* Lawr.*' indorsing the species and giving its synonymy. (2) 'Descriptions of some new Species and Subspecies of Birds from Middle America.' † These are *Catharus fumosus* from Costa Rica and Veragua (allied to *C. mexicanus* Bon.); *Mimus gracilis leucophæus*, from Cozumel; *Harporhynchus longirostris sennetti*, from Southern Texas, the larger, duller, more grayish Texan race being considered as subspecifically separable from the true *longirostris* of Mexico; *Campylorhynchus castaneus* from Guatemala and Honduras, hitherto referred to *C. capistratus*, which it much resembles; *Thryothorus rufalbus castanonotus* from "Nicaragua to Colombia"; *Microcerculus dauilius*, from Costa Rica, and related to *M. philomela* ScL.; *Dendroornis lawrencei*, from Panama, and a subspecies *costaricensis* of this last, from Costa Rica. (3) 'Note on the Generic name *Uropsila* ScL. & Salv.,' ‡ which

* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, p. 504. (Aug. 6, 1888.)

† Ibid., pp. 505-510. (Aug. 6, 1888.)

‡ Ibid., p. 511. (Aug. 6, 1888.)