

Belding's Land Birds of the Pacific District.*—In this book, prepared originally as a report to the Department of Agriculture upon the distribution and migrations of the birds of the Pacific Coast, Mr. Belding has brought together his own field notes and those contributed by a number of other observers, and has added to them brief extracts from the literature relating to the region. In arranging this material under the heads of the species, each contributor's quota is given by itself in a short paragraph headed by the locality and authority, and usually in the writer's own words. Of course with such a system the literary result is often fragmentary and disjointed, but in a work of reference this is sometimes better than to give—as writers are too often tempted to do—a smooth generalization beneath which it is impossible to distinguish the isolated facts supporting it from the well-concealed gaps between them.

Of course the accounts of most of the species are by no means complete. This was indeed unavoidable in treating a region one fourth as large as the United States, where observers have been so few and observations have been seldom carried on continuously for any considerable length of time. In spite of these drawbacks Mr. Belding has succeeded in gathering a large amount of valuable material which will make his book an indispensable one. It is to be regretted though that he did not have the assistance of all the observers within the limits of his district and that he did not compile all the reliable published records.

Furthermore we are occasionally inclined to deplore his liberality in admitting to the list some species of whose occurrence in the area under consideration little or no evidence is adduced.

But on the whole, although the book may not be faultless, it is one that cannot fail to be of much service to all students of Pacific Coast birds.—C. F. B.

A Catalogue of the Birds of New Jersey.†—After an interval of twenty-two years the Geological Survey of New Jersey again presents a Catalogue of the birds of the State. It might fairly be presumed that the advance made in the study of ornithology during this period would, in a measure, be apparent in the list before us, but when we find that to the numerous errors of Dr. Abbott's list, there have been added others of equally unpardonable, if not now so glaring, a nature, it becomes obvious that science will not be benefitted by this recent production.

*Occasional Papers | of the | California | Academy of Sciences. | II. | — | Land Birds | of the | Pacific District | by | Lyman Belding. | San Francisco: | California Academy of Sciences, | September, 1890. 8vo., pp. [iv,] 274.

† Geological Survey of New Jersey. | — | Final Report | of the | State Geologist. | — | Vol. II. | — | Mineralogy. | Botany. | Zoology. | — | Trenton, N. J. | Printed by the John L. Murphy Publishing Company. | — | 1890. | Descriptive Catalogue | of the Vertebrates of New Jersey, | (a revision of Dr. Abbott's Catalogue of 1868). | Prepared by Julius Nelson. Ph. D.