

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.

The author wisely follows "Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds' . . . in the nomenclature of the families and smaller groups," but adopts an original system of classification. The "Scansores" head the list, which then follows the 'Manual' to *Sialia*; this genus is succeeded by the Raptores and the 'Manual' is again followed with the families in inverse order; the Podicipidæ and Alcidæ, however, are transposed and the Catalogue concludes with *Alle*. Trimomials are preceded by the abbreviation '*var.*' or are hyphenized with the specific name, while brief descriptions, based largely on Ridgway's diagnoses, are given of each species and subspecies. In quotation from Dr. Abbott's list *Passerella iliaca*, *Seiurus noveboracensis*, *Troglodytes hiemalis*, *Regulus satrapa*, *R. calendula*, etc., are given as *summer* residents, while apparently on his own authority the author gives numerous records which, if they can be substantiated, will add considerably to our knowledge of the birds they refer to. *Contopus borealis* is cited as "A northern form ranging as far south as New York, and should be looked for in our northern Counties," where also "hunters" are warned to look out for additional specimens of *Acanthis brewsteri*. *Dendroica kirilandi* is included as "Rare. Seen during the migrations."

Beyond an evident effort at intelligent work, the reviewer discovers nothing to commend, but the effort falls so far short of success and exposes such lamentable ignorance of the subject and lack of original investigation, that the result can only be regarded as a compilation made under most unfortunate circumstances and unworthy of extended criticism.—F. M. C.

Rives's 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias.*'—This catalogue of the birds of Virginia and West Virginia is so admirably proportioned, and so carefully worked out in its details, that it might well serve as a model for works of its kind. The paper begins with a review of the early accounts of Virginia birds, a dozen pages being filled with extremely interesting extracts from the writings of various travellers and colonists, from William Strachey in 1610 to Andrew Burnaby in 1775. Following this is a bibliographical list of the more important papers upon the region, that have appeared in recent years (1862-1889). Then comes an introductory chapter of fifteen pages discussing the topography, climate, flora and fauna, accompanied by a colored map showing, theoretically at least, the distribution of the usually recognized faunas occurring within the area. This is followed by the catalogue proper, in which 304 species and subspecies are treated, half a dozen lines or more being given to each. These accounts are based upon considerable "personal observation in dif-

*Proceedings | of | The Newport | Natural History Society, | [Seal] | 1889-90. | — | Document VII. | — | A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias, | by Wm. C. Rives M. A., M. D. | — | Newport, R. I.; | printed for the Society by T. T. Pitman, | October, 1890. 8vo., pp. 100, with map.