

years 1882 to 1887, supplemented by those of "numerous observers in various parts of the Province." In addition to this an attempt is made to include all published records bearing on the distribution of Manitoban birds which have not appeared in distinctively ornithological publications. In an introduction of eight pages the author defines the boundaries of the Province, and describes in much detail its physical features. The accompanying map shows also the distribution of both the deciduous and coniferous forests, the marshes, sand dunes, and prairies. Then follows (1) The annotated list of the birds, numbering 272 species and subspecies; (2) 'A chronological list of the principal books and articles consulted (4 pp. with 44 titles); 'A list of the manuscripts used in completing the foregoing Notes' (2 pp. 16 titles); and (4) an index to the paper.

Mr. Thompson's own copious field notes, supplemented by a large amount of inedited matter, render the paper a most welcome and important contribution to the ornithology of what was a practically unworked field when Mr. Thompson entered it. His list of 'The Birds of Western Manitoba,' published in 'The Auk' for 1888 (III, pp. 154-156, 320-329, 453), has shorn it of much of the novelty it would otherwise have presented, and prepared us for the fuller exposition of the subject his brief annotations in the former paper foreshadowed. Not only does each page add to our knowledge of the distribution of the birds over the region in question, but also of their habits and life history. Many of his own notes are given as actual transcripts from his field journal, and have thus the freshness and inspiration of direct contact with nature. The inedited manuscripts include important observations, often covering considerable periods in the field, of a dozen or more well known Canadian ornithologists, many of these documents having been originally prepared for and communicated to the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Migration. In addition to these are copious extracts from the unpublished 'Observations on Hudson's Bay' by Thomas Hutchins, who for twenty-five years, prior to 1780, was an agent of the Hudson's Bay Company. While the literary execution of the work is not above criticism, many of the biographical notes have a spirit and originality amply atoning for minor defects.—J. A. A.

**Canadian Bird Notes.**—A paper of 25 pages, entitled 'Proceedings of the Ornithological Sub-section of the Biological Section of the Canadian Institute,\* for the months of January, February, and March, 1890, contains 110 separate notes, published over the names of the contributors, on the birds of the region about Toronto. They relate to uncommon visitants, and the nesting of the rarer kinds, and include a large number of very interesting records, which are thus conveniently brought together and made readily accessible. Mr. W. Cross records and describes a hybrid *Pipicola enucleator* × *Carpodacus purpureus*; Dr. C. K. Clarke brings forward very conclusive evidence of parasitism in the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), citing three instances of its depositing its

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\* Extract from Transactions of the Canadian Institute, 1890.

eggs in the nests of other birds, leaving them to be hatched and the young reared, in one case by a pair of Yellow Warblers, in two cases by Chipping Sparrows; Mr. E. E. Thompson records the capture of a male English Linnet (*Linota cannabina*) at Toronto. There are many interesting winter records of visitors from the far North, and various instances of rather southern species wintering. The article concludes with a list of the ornithological papers published in the 'Canadian Journal' (1853 to 1889, inclusive).

A second paper, entitled, 'The Birds of Ottawa,' gives a list of birds found in the neighborhood of Ottawa, compiled from the records of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, embodying the work of the 'Ornithological Branch' of the Club from the beginning of the year 1881 to the end of the year 1890. This list is a revision of the list published in 1882, from which a number of species are eliminated and others added, including two here given for the first time, the total number now recorded being 224. The district covered is an area of thirty miles radius from the city of Ottawa. The annotations consist generally of abbreviations signifying the season of occurrence and relative abundance, though many of the rarer species are followed by more or less extended remarks.—J. A. A.

**Stone's List of 'Birds collected in Yucatan and Southern Mexico.'** † — Mr. Witmer Stone, Curator of Birds in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, accompanied Prof. Angelo Heilprin on his recent expedition to Yucatan and the Highlands of Southern Mexico, of which the present paper gives the ornithological results. An annotated list is given of 96 species collected in Yucatan during about five weeks, from Feb. 22 to March 26, 1890. A list of the 18 species taken during a few days' stay at Orizaba, and a third list of 33 species taken near Chalchicomula and on the Peak of Orizaba, completes the paper. Interesting comparisons are made between the bird life of the several localities visited in Southern Mexico. A few species collected by Mr. F. C. Baker at different points in Western Mexico are also mentioned.—J. A. A.

**The Owls in the Collection of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.** — Mr. Witmer Stone has recently published ‡ a 'Catalogue of the Owls in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,' which numbers 113 species, represented by 525 specimens, including the types of 14 species. Among the types are those of several of Cassin's species, of several of Gould's Australian species, and of *Bubo subarcticus* Hoy. — J. A. A.

\* Ottawa Naturalist, Vol. V, No. 2, May, 1891.

† Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1890, pp. 201-218.

‡ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1890, pp. 124-131.