

Fannin's 'Check List of British Columbia Birds.\*'—In this list 308 species and subspecies are enumerated as occurring in British Columbia. Most of the records are based on the author's own observations, although some are entered upon the authority of several of his friends, and others are taken from Chapman's report on the Streater Collection, from Ridgway's Manual, and from other published sources. Under each species brief notes are given upon its abundance, seasons of occurrence, and distribution in the Province, with occasionally some remark upon its habits. The List closes with a short appendix describing the character of the country in different parts of the Province, and giving some valuable tables of rain and snow fall. The work is illustrated with an uncolored lithograph of *Falco columbarius suckleyi*.

Mr. Fannin's records enable him to extend the range of a number of species, especially among the water birds, considerably beyond what has been generally supposed to be their limits. On the other hand we note that he occasionally admits to the List some name that does not at present meet with general acceptance,—*Dendroica æstiva morcomi* and *Æchmophorus clarkii* are examples,—and it seems not unlikely that his further researches may lead him to change his views as to the identity of one or two of the subspecies he has recorded. He regrets that as yet a list of the birds of British Columbia must necessarily be incomplete, and he expresses the hope that the present List may "stimulate further and more careful research." In spite of the large amount of information he has now given us, there is, of course, a great deal yet to be learned, and the Province offers attractive fields which are still virgin soil to the ornithologist.—C. F. B.

Chapman on the Birds of Corpus Christi.†—In five or six weeks of March and April spent in a field where others had been before him Mr. Chapman succeeded in finding much that was new and interesting to repay his efforts.

After a brief sketch of the character of the vegetation and of the birds frequenting the different growths, followed by some observations on the spring migration and the faunal position of "southwestern" Texas, comes the main portion of the paper, 'Remarks on certain species observed.' Under this head are given various interesting notes upon thirty-four species. These relate in great part to the habits of the birds. One new subspecies is described, *Cardinalis cardinalis canicaudus*, its habitat being stated as "southwestern Texas, south into northeastern

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†On the Birds observed near Corpus Christi, Texas, during parts of March and April, 1891. By Frank M. Chapman. Bulletin American Museum of Natural History, Vol. III, No. 2, Art. XXII, pp. 315-328.

Mexico." Its most striking character is the coloration of the tail in the female, the rectrices being "broadly margined with gray, instead of . . . narrowly edged with olivaceous brown" as in *C. cardinalis*.

The paper closes with a list of the birds observed which were not recorded\* from Corpus Christi by Mr. Beckham, and another of those recorded by Mr. Beckham but which Mr. Chapman did not find.—C. F. B.

Chapman 'On the Color Pattern of the Upper Tail-coverts in *Colaptes auratus*.'† — Mr Chapman has availed himself of a large series of skins of *Colaptes* to study the differences in color pattern of the upper tail-coverts. He finds two distinct styles of marking with many variations and intermediate forms; one of these consists of transverse barring; the other shows longitudinal or concentric markings parallel to the border of the feather. Mr. Chapman's material leads him to conclude that the former pattern prevails among young birds and that a change to the other style is accomplished through successive moults.

He further believes that sufficient material—as yet lacking—of the more southern species of the genus will show them to possess the transversely barred pattern, which, if it should prove the case, might indicate that *C. auratus* is a more recent and extreme offshoot from the main *Colaptes* stock. Sex and locality seem to have nothing to do with these differences, but apparently there is enough individual variation in the markings to make satisfactorily definite conclusions difficult.—C. F. B.

#### Minor Ornithological Publications.—Forest and Stream.

This journal was last noticed in these pages in Vol. VII, pp. 388-398 (October, 1890). In Vols. XXXV and XXXVI we note the following (Nos. 2113-2203).

2113. *Hermit Thrush (T. pallasii) in Maryland in Summer.* By Arthur Resler. 'Forest and Stream,' Vol. XXXV, No. 1, July 24, 1890, p. 11.

2114. *Chinese Pheasants in America.* Editorial, *Ibid.*, July 31, p. 28.

2115. *Pointer Dog and Mother Duck.* By A. B. H. *Ibid.*, Aug. 7, p. 48. — *Aix sponsa*.

2116. *Woodcock in Town.* By Hy. J. Growtage. *Ibid.*

2117. *Migration of Prairie Chickens.* By Levi S. Kegale. *Ibid.*, Aug. 21, p. 88.

2118. *Six Weeks with a Sparrow Family.* By Julia M. Hooper. *Ibid.*, Sept. 11, pp. 146, 147.

2119. *California Quail.* By A. *Ibid.*, Sept. 25, p. 187.

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\* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., X, 633-696.

† On the Color-Pattern of the Upper Tail-Coverts in *Colaptes auratus*. By Frank M. Chapman. Bulletin American Museum of Natural History, Vol. III, No. 2, Art. XXI, pp. 311-314.