

and Yellow Palm Warblers; another to the Redpolls, and still another to the incursion of Evening Grosbeaks in 1890. The puzzling group of Gyrfalcons is also treated at some length, diagnoses being given of the four forms occurring in New England, with notes on their distribution and a reassignment of the New England records, based on a personal examination by Mr. Brewster of nearly all the extant specimens.

An excellent portrait of the author forms an appropriate frontispiece to the present edition, which also contains a short biographical notice of this remarkable man, who met his death in a railroad accident in Pennsylvania, November 14, 1890. (*Cf.* Auk, VIII, 1891, p. 121).—J. A. A.

Degen on the Evolution of the Bird's Wing.¹—Mr. Degen finds his text in a feather of the wing which he terms "carpal covert" and ranks with the major cubital series. It is situated at the carpal joint, its exact position varying in different groups, and is apparently not associated with a remex. A vestigial or plumaceous feather is generally found lying beneath it. The late Mr. Wray called attention to these feathers and considered the former to be a median covert while the vestigial feather he classed as the major covert of the first metacarpal remex,—errors which Mr. Degen corrects. Mr. Degen regards this condition as analogous to aquitocubitalism and predicts that a reduced cubital remex may still be found. Assuming that among archornithic birds all the digits bore remiges he reasons that a subsequent fusion of the metacarpals has resulted in a crowding and consequent decrease in number and readjustment in position of the digital remiges and finds here an explanation of both aquitocubitalism and the vestigial carpal remex.

The paper is a noteworthy contribution to pterylography and should especially appeal to those who seek to find in this branch of ornithology something more than an aid to classification.—F. M. C.

Bulletins 4 and 5 of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter.—Bulletin No. 4² contains the reports of some thirty observers, living in as many different localities, on the manner of occurrence and times of migration of about forty-five species of Warblers. The notes are largely from stations in the upper Mississippi Valley and New England, though one contributor writes from California and another from Texas. *Dendroica kirtlandi* is recorded from Winnebago County, Illinois, May 25, 1894, and there are other records of special interest, while the report as a whole

¹ On Some of the Main Features in the Evolution of the Bird's Wing. By Edward Degen. Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, II, 1894, pp. 33, pl. I, and 6 figs. in text.

² Bulletin No. 4, Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association. Record of the work for 1893 and 1894 on the Mniotiltidæ. By Lynd Jones, Chairman of the Committee. Oberlin, Ohio, January 15, 1895. 12mo. pp. 22.