

find birds in the vicinity of Washington, written with a directness, simplicity and fervor that must lend inspiration and comfort to the inexperienced bird lover. This is followed by a chapter 'About Birds in General' by Mrs. Maynard, which gives in the short space of three pages a surprisingly large amount of information about the generalities of the subject. This is followed by 'A Field Key to our Common Land Birds,' taken, by permission, from Chapman's 'Bird-life.' Then follows the descriptive matter forming the body of the work, as already detailed. The numerous illustrations are from Bulletins Nos. 3 and 54, published by the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. As a local manual Mrs. Maynard's little book is in every way admirable, and must prove most welcome to the many amateur bird students of the District of Columbia. — J. A. A.

**Blanchan's 'Birds that Hunt and are Hunted.'**<sup>1</sup>—The present is a companion volume to 'Bird Neighbors', by the same author (see Auk, XV, 1898, p. 66), and is written from the same point of view, namely, "that of a bird-lover who believes that personal, friendly acquaintance with the live birds, as distinguished from the technical study of the anatomy of dead ones, must be general before the people will care enough about them to reinforce the law with unrestrained mercy. To really know the birds in their home life, how marvellously clever they are, and how positively dependent agriculture is upon their ministrations, cannot but increase our respect for them to such a point that wilful injury becomes impossible." The present volume treats of the Waterfowl, the Marsh and Shore Birds, the Gallinaceous Game Birds, and the Birds of Prey, or the leading North American forms of each in systematic sequence, with brief mention of their distinctive characters, etc., and very satisfactory biographies. The matter is very well chosen and skillfully put together, being well adapted to instruct and entertain any bird lover. The author does not forget neatly to make her points in behalf of the Herons and Terns and the Birds of Prey, and the whole animus and tendency of the book is in accord with the sentiments already quoted from the author's preface. The colored plates, originally published in the magazine 'Birds,' are an invaluable aid in the determination of the species. It is only to be regretted that better examples of taxidermy could not have been chosen in some cases. We notice very few slips on the part of the author, but we must confess that it is a new fact to us that the blade-like bill of the Skimmer is ever used as "a sort of oyster knife to open mollusks." Also

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<sup>1</sup> Birds that Hunt | and are Hunted | Life Histories of One Hun- | dred and Seventy Birds of | Prey, Game Birds and Water- | Fowls | By | Neltjie Blanchan | Author of "Bird Neighbors" | With introduction by G. O. Shields (Coquina) | And Forty-eight colored Plates | New York | Doubleday and McClure Co. | 1898.—8vo, pp. xii + 359. Price \$2.00.

it may be of interest to the author to know that the American Museum of Natural History in New York has also a mounted specimen of the Great Auk, where it has been among its prominent exhibits for the last twenty years.—J. A. A.

**Huntington's 'In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble.'**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Huntington's 'In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble' appeals alike to the sportsman, the naturalist, and the lover of art. The work is proposed as a series of "monographs on our feathered game," "written from the point of view of the sportsman, with a preference for the picturesque rather than the scientific. . . . In a word, we go out-of-doors from Montauk to San Lucas, and, listening to the whirring and whistling of wings, we observe the performance of dogs, and see America picturesque." The first two parts treat of the sage Grouse, the Sharp-tailed Grouse, and the Prairie Grouse.

The illustrations consist of half-tones from photographs of the birds described, and of hunting scenes and characteristic landscapes of the regions inhabited by the game under consideration, partly from nature and partly from sketches, principally by the author.

The illustrations are beautifully reproduced, abundant, picturesque, and exceedingly attractive. The text is very good ornithology, written, as stated by the author, from the sportsman's point of view, with more or less personal incident interspersed. All lovers of finely illustrated books relating to nature, and especially all sportsmen, will doubtless warmly welcome Mr. Huntington's 'In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble.'—J. A. A.

**Oberholser on the Wrens of the Genus *Thryomanes*.**<sup>2</sup>—The present paper of thirty pages deals with the Wrens of the *bewickii* group, of which 3 species and 12 additional subspecies are recognized, all the latter being variations, in most instances not strongly marked, of *Thryothorus (Thryomanes) bewickii* of the A. O. U. Check-List. The group ranges across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Pennsylvania, southern Minnesota, Colorado, and southern British Columbia southward to southern Mexico (Oaxaca), including the Socorro and Guadalupe Islands, off the west coast of Mexico. Of the 12 subspecies of *T. bewickii*, seven belong to the United States, the remaining five occurring in Mexico. In other words, 7 new sub-

<sup>1</sup> In | Brush, Sedge, and Stubble | A Picture Book of | the Shooting-fields and Feathered | Game of North America | By | Dwight W. Huntington | . . . [= motto, 3 lines] | M D C C C X C VIII | The Sportsman's Society | Cincinnati.—Folio, Pt. I, pp. 1-16; Pt. II, pp. 17-32; 2 pll. in half-tone and 2 in colors, and numerous half-tones in text.

<sup>2</sup> A Review of the Wrens of the Genus *Thryomanes* Sclater. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Biologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXI, No. 1153, pp. 421-450. Nov., 1898