

if, as in the case of some of them, the principal hero is composite, the facts are as observed, and to many, with Mr. Thompson's interpretation of motive and purpose, these animals, whether bird or beast, will seem more human in their intelligence, sympathies, and means of communication than is generally believed. In detailing "the real personality of the individual" Mr. Thompson gives us an insight into the real life of a species which any amount of description of the ways of a species as a species would never convey. 'Silverspot' is a Crow, distinguishable from other Crows by an albinistic mark on the side of the face, and the history of this individual as a distinct personality is a most telling way of placing before the reader the 'inner life,' so to speak, of the Crow tribe in general. The same is true of 'Redruff,' a Partridge of distinguished size and mean. In the lives of these 'dumb creatures' there is something pathetically human, that appeals to the reader's sympathies, and shows how much there is in man and beast that is shared in common. The marginal illustrations that cluster about the small type-bed of the pages are as suggestive and appropriate as can well be imagined, while the narrative is graphic, simple, and hence effective. In every way the book is something out of the ordinary, and as pleasing as it is original. — J. A. A.

Stone on the Types of Birds in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.— Under this title¹ Mr. Stone gives us a very interesting historical sketch of the Ornithological Collection in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, — perhaps still the most noted of any in this country, — followed by a detailed descriptive account of the type specimens of the birds it contains, arranged under the names of the authors of the species. In 1857, this collection was regarded, by so eminent an authority on the subject as Dr. Sclater, as the most perfect then in existence. As Mr. Stone has already given the readers of 'The Auk' (April, 1899, pp. 166-177) the history of this collection, — how and whence it was gathered, and the elements constituting its greatness, — which is more briefly and statistically presented again here, we need not dwell upon this phase of the subject.

In 1897 this collection contained 43,460 specimens, including the types of about 350 species. Respecting the early American ornithologists, it is of interest to note that these include types of two of Alexander Wilson's species; 5 of C. L. Bonaparte's; 8 of J. K. Townsend's; 8 of Audubon's; 3 of Nuttall's; 9 of William Gambel's; 1 of Edward Harris's (the only species he described); 2 of George A. McCall's; and 3 of Dr.

¹ A study of the Type Specimens of Birds in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with a brief History of the Collection. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1899, pp. 5-62.

Heermann's. There are types of about 160 of Cassin's species, and 9 of Peale's, and types of one or more species of some twenty other American ornithologists, besides types of many species (about 110) described by foreign ornithologists of note.

Not only has Mr. Stone given a list of the types in the Museum of the Academy, but in the case of species described in the Academy's 'Proceedings,' especially if North American, also the location of the types when not in the Academy's collection, if extant, and if believed to be not extant, this fact is also stated. The paper is thus an especially valuable one, and one involving great labor, for which Mr. Stone is entitled to the gratitude of his fellow ornithologists. —J. A. A.

New North American Birds. — During the last few months Mr. Bangs and others have described several new species and subspecies of North American birds. Mr. Bangs has separated the Barred Owl of Texas, heretofore of late referred to *Syrnium nebulosum alleni* of Florida, as *S. n. helveolum*,¹ on the ground of its general lighter coloration. The Spruce Grouse of Labrador he has likewise described as *Canachites canadensis labradorius*,² basing the form on slight differences of coloration, more pronounced in the female than in the male. He has also characterized a new Rail from Southern California as *Rallus levipes*,³ allied to *R. obsoletus* and *R. beldingi*, from which it differs in being smaller, and also somewhat in coloration.

Mr. Brewster has described a new Clapper Rail from the South Atlantic coast as *Rallus crepitans waynei*; ⁴ a comparison of Georgia and East Florida birds with those from New York and New Jersey showing that the southern form is much darker, the underparts more ashy, and the under tail-coverts with fewer markings.

Mr. W. H. Osgood has given a new name, *Chamæa fasciata phæa*,⁵ to the form of Wren-Tit which has of late been regarded as true *C. fasciata*. The type of *C. fasciata* appears to have come from southern California, and hence *C. f. heushawi* is a synonym of true *fasciata*, the darker northern form being here named *C. f. phæa*. — J. A. A.

¹ A New Barred Owl from Corpus Christi, Texas. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New Engl. Zoölogical Club, Vol. I, pp. 31, 32. March 31, 1899.

² The Labrador Spruce Grouse. By Outram Bangs. *Ibid.*, pp. 47, 48. June 5, 1899.

³ A New Rail from Southern California. By Outram Bangs. *Ibid.*, pp. 45, 46. June 5, 1899.

⁴ An Undescribed Clapper Rail from Georgia and East Florida. By William Brewster. *Ibid.*, pp. 49-51. June 9, 1899.

⁵ *Chamæa fasciata* and its Subspecies. By Wilfred H. Osgood. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XIII, pp. 41, 42. May 29, 1899.