

the characteristics of the avifauna of the State are pointed and the educational value of bird study in the schools commented on; 'A Twenty-three years' Record kept by Dr. A. L. Child of Plattsmouth, Neb.,' by Dr. R. H. Wolcott; 'Additional Notes and Observations on the Birds of Northern Nebraska,' by Rev. J. M. Bates, notes on 62 species; 'The Bird Fauna of the Salt Basin, near Lincoln,' by J. S. Hunter, with notes on 89 species; 'Some Bird Notes from the Upper Elkhorn,' by Merritt Cary, notes on 208 species; 'Some notes on the Nesting of the Raptures of Otoe County, Nebraska,' by M. A. Carriker, Jr., 'How to Popularize Ornithology,' by Wilson Tout, advocating the study of birds in schools; 'A Plea for the English Sparrow,' by Lawrence Skaw, a native of Denmark who, believing the English Sparrow to be harmless in his native land considers it desirable here; and 'Suggestions as to an accurate and uniform Method of Recording Observations,' by Dr. R. H. Wolcott, recommending a more exact use of terms in describing a bird's relative numbers.

The formation of State Ornithological Clubs is always a matter for congratulation and the first publication of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, assures us that this new association will exert a widespread influence in increasing our knowledge of Nebraska birds and in arousing an interest in ornithology in that State. — F. M. C.

**Chapman's 'Bird Studies with a Camera.'**<sup>1</sup> — In this neat volume the author embodies the results of several years' hard and painstaking labor in a comparatively new field — that of photographing birds in a state of nature. In his introductory remarks the author says: "Bird photography, as I would encourage it, does not mean simply photographing birds; it means the use of the camera as an aid in depicting the life histories of birds." With that end in view, Mr. Chapman has presented us with an attractive and pleasing work which cannot fail to be of the utmost interest to the bird student, because of the great number of ornithological facts recorded therein by the camera.

Chapter I which treats of the bird photographer's outfit, takes up the subject of the camera, lens, shutter, etc. The practical tests which the author has given most of the apparatus now on the market, with the additional advantage of being in a position to compare notes with a wide circle of professional and amateur photographers, and thus reap the benefit of their experience, enables him to speak authoritatively on these

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<sup>1</sup> Bird Studies | with a Camera | With Introductory Chapters | on the Outfit and Methods | of the Bird Photographer | By Frank M. Chapman | Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Zoölogy | in the American Museum of Natural History, and Author of Handbook of Birds | of Eastern North America, Bird-Life, etc. | With over one hundred photographs | from Nature by the Author | New York | D. Appleton and Company | 1900 — 12mo, pp. xvi + 218. \$1.75.

points. Chapter II describes the methods of the bird photographer. The suggestions given here are offered as hints to the bird photographer, and serve to show what an endless amount of patience and ingenuity are necessary to secure good results.

Hitherto much has been accomplished in the direction of photographing nests and eggs, and in some cases the young birds, but the author of the present volume is the pioneer in this country to attempt making a collection of actual photographs of adult birds with the object of contributing toward their biography. A knowledge of the bird's habits is necessary to successful bird photography, and many details of the daily life of the subject must necessarily be forced upon the student who attempts to portray them. Bird photography, as practised by the author of the present volume, therefore becomes a most instructive teacher of the ornithologist; and many facts will be recorded while engaged in its pursuit, the existence of which might otherwise have escaped notice.

The remaining chapters are devoted to life histories of the species treated. Mr. Chapman's field experiences are charmingly written, and the reader cannot fail to express a desire from time to time that he might have been permitted to actually witness the scenes related.

The numerous magnificent half-tones with which these pages are illustrated — showing in some instances different stages of growth from the downy young to the adult birds — have never been surpassed. Many of these pictures, while they give evidence of the greatest photographic skill, are especially noteworthy because of their scientific interest.

How invaluable would be a series of good photographs of the Great Auk, clustered as they once were in all their abundance on Funk Island? Or one of the immense flocks of Wild Pigeons passing across the sky as in years past. In place of these we must be content with humble description. But through the medium of the present volume, the species treated — the great masses of cliff-nesting water-birds on the Bird Rocks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the armies of Brown Pelicans on their native strand in their Florida home — will be seen by future generations of bird-lovers as they exist at the present time.

Aside from its popular interest to those who wish to get near to nature, this volume cannot be too highly commended for its scientific value; and the photographs of the bird colonies as here depicted, will forever remain monuments to Mr. Chapman's skill as a photographer and as an indefatigable ornithologist.— J. R.

Farr's Check List of New York Birds.<sup>1</sup>—This List was originally prepared by Dr. Farr for use in collecting data for a 'Bulletin' on the birds

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<sup>1</sup> Check List of New York Birds. By Marcus S. Farr, D. Sc. Bulletin of the New York State Museum, No. 35, Vol. VII. Albany: University of the State of New York, 1900. 8vo, pp. 193-409. Price, 25 cents.