

Migration,' and an annotated list of the 36 species observed (pp. 355-363). He says, "Subspecific names are omitted; otherwise the nomenclature conforms to the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' second edition and eighth and ninth supplements." So when we read (p. 357): "I have examined the specimen upon which Dr. Cooper based his California record of *Uria lomvia* (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., Vol. V, p. 414; Auk, III, p. 126) and find it is an immature *Uria troile*," we must understand the reference to *U. troile* to mean *U. troile californica*! There is more or less comment on the transition stages of plumage of various species observed, but no reference to the condition of the specimens as regards moulting, which, in some of the species at least, must have been in progress. The paper is a valuable contribution to a better knowledge of the local movements and spring migration of Pacific Coast water birds.—J. A. A.

Grinnell on Alaskan Birds.¹—This paper records 21 species from the Pribilof Islands, based on specimens in the collection of the Leland Stanford University, adding two species, namely, *Totanus melanoleucus* and *Saxicola ananthe*, to the list of previously recorded species, which now number 72. Four are recorded from Amagnak Island, 4 from Belkovski Bay, 3 from Unga Island, 19 from Kadiak Island, and 18 from Prince William Sound. A new subspecies of Savanna Sparrow is described from Kadiak Island, under the name *Ammodramus sandwichensis xanthophrys*. The *Leucosticte kadiaka* McGregor is considered to be a subspecies of *L. tephrocotis*, and *griseonucha* is believed to be also merely a subspecies of *tephrocotis*, he having specimens in hand which "indicate an almost complete gradation" between them. Of the Barn Swallow he says: "The Alaska skins I have examined (Kotzebue Sound and Sitka) do not seem to differ on an average in wing measurements and extent of white markings on the tail, from United States specimens," and the specimen recorded from Nutchuk, Prince William Sound, "does not appear to answer to the characters assigned by Palmer (*cf. antea*, p. 176) to *unalaschensis*.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Eckstorm's 'The Bird Book.'²—This is one of D. C. Heath and Company's 'supplementary reading' books for schools. To quote from the preface: "The arrangement of the book has two ends in view: to adapt the study to the school year, and to present it so that when the pupil begins field work he shall be able to do it with some general idea of what is

¹ Record of Alaskan Birds in the Collection of the Leland Stanford Junior University. By Joseph Grinnell. The Condor, Vol. III, No. 1, Jan. 15, 1901, pp. 19-23.

² The Bird Book | By | Fannie Hardy Eckstorm | — | Boston, U. S. A. | D. C. Heath & Co., Publishers. | 1901. — Sm. 8vo., pp. xii + 276, with 26 pll. and 30 text figures. Price, 60 cents.

worth observing." The work is divided into four parts, entitled: Part I, 'Water-birds in their Homes: Little Studies in Environment' (pp. 3-64); Part II, 'Structure and Comparison: Little Stories in Differentiation' (p. 67-118); Part III, 'Problems in Bird Life: Little Studies in Zoölogical Theory' (pp. 121-172); Part IV, 'Some Common Land-Birds; Little Studies in the Art of Observation' (pp. 175-259); and an Appendix (pp. 263-276). Each part consists of a number of topics, to mention a few of which under each will suffice to give an idea of the scope and mode of treatment. Thus, in Part I, we have 'Among the Reeds and Rushes,' treating of the Grebe and Loon; 'An Alaskan Island—The Ancient Murrelet,' and eight or ten other sketches. In Part II, such matters as 'Comparing Bones,' 'The foot of a Swimming Bird,' 'A Feather,' 'Comparing Feet,' 'Comparing Bills,' etc.; in Part III, 'The Basis of Classification,' 'How Birds are named,' 'A Subspecies,' 'Protection by Color,' 'Distribution,' 'Migration,' etc.; in Part IV, 'About Birds' Drinking,' 'How a Hawk eats his Food,' 'How the Shrike hunts,' 'A Dead Beat—the Cowbird,' etc. The Appendix gives 'Zoögeographical Divisions of the World' (with a map of those of North America), 'Hints on observing Birds,' etc., including, finally, a list of books on North American ornithology, consisting of about 70 well selected titles. While there is a very full table of contents, there is unfortunately no index, which, in such a work, is an important and surprising omission.

The book as a whole is well planned for its purpose, and fills a new rôle in the list of popular bird books; the topics are well chosen and the whys and wherefores of many points in bird philosophy are attractively and intelligently presented. A lapsus here and there will not escape the critical reader, as on p. 134, where there seems to be a little confusion as to east and west in reference to the races of Crow Blackbirds; but the few slips of a semi-technical character really detract little from the usefulness of this very excellent little book.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Eckstorm's 'The Woodpeckers.'¹—This little book treats of the family of Woodpeckers as represented in North America, dealing with their habits and structure in an intelligent and orderly way, in a series of sixteen short chapters, the character of which may be gathered from such headings as 'How to know a Woodpecker,' 'How the Woodpecker catches a Grub,' how he 'courts his mate,' 'makes a house,' etc., with four chapters on his 'tools'—his bill, foot, tail, and tongue, etc. A special chapter is also devoted to each of several leading species, as the Flicker, the Downy Woodpecker, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the Red-headed Woodpecker, and the Californian Woodpecker. Then there is a

¹The Woodpeckers | By | Fannie Hardy Eckstorm | With Illustrations | [Vignette] Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1901—Square 12mo. pp. viii + 132, 5 col. pl. and 22 text cuts. Price, \$1.00.