

families of the Ploceidæ, the Viduinæ and the Estrildinæ, leaving the Ploceinæ for treatment in Part II of the present volume. The species and subspecies embraced in the present part number 167, being Nos. 356 to 522 of the 'Nomenclator Avium Æthiopicarum,' as given in volume I, or about one-fifth of the Ethiopian ornithology. The seven colored plates illustrate 14 species, previously unfigured. As in former volumes (see Auk, XVIII, 1901, pp. 122, 123, and XX, 1902, p. 414, for notices), the text consists of keys to the species and higher groups, the synonymy and principal bibliographical references, and description of the external characters, followed by a summary of what is known of its geographical range and life-history of the species.—J. A. A.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

EVAN LEWIS died in Pasadena, California, October 23, 1904. He was born in Berks Co., Pa., April 3, 1856, and there acquired his fondness for bird study which clung to him through his subsequent life. In 1881 he removed to Colorado, where he has since resided, in the vicinity of Idaho Springs.

Here he was engaged in mining interests, and his opportunities for observing the birds of that locality were exceptionally good, and most of his spare time was devoted to them. Probably few persons know the birds of a given district better than Evan Lewis did in his chosen field. His fondness for them frequently led him into the higher mountain regions where the White-tailed Ptarmigans make their summer home. He found numerous nests of these interesting birds, and secured a fine series of photographs, showing the female bird on the nest; the eggs and young; as well as many interesting facts relating to their nesting habits. Eggs of this species taken by him, are in the Smithsonian collection, as well as in the private collections of J. P. Norris of Philadelphia and T. H. Jackson of West Chester, Pa.

Evan Lewis was an enthusiastic student of Nature. No climb was too difficult, no hardship too great to deter him from the pursuit of his favorite object, and his death will be felt as a distinct loss to those who knew him or of his work.—T. H. J.

IN THE January-February issue of 'The Condor' (pp. 28-30) appeared a notice, with extended extracts, of a paper entitled 'Nomenclature in Ichthyology.' While it is professedly based on the A. O. U. Code, it contains several radical departures from it and from all other modern codes, some of them almost revolutionary in character. As the new

'Ichthyological Code' is discussed at some length in the issue of 'Science' for March 17, 1905 (pp. 428-433), further notice of it in the present connection is not necessary, as those interested in nomenclatorial matters doubtless have ready access to 'Science.'

WE congratulate the editor and publisher of 'The Warbler, A Magazine of American Ornithology,' Mr. John Lewis Childs, of Floral Park, N. Y., on the greatly improved character of the first number of its 'Second Series' (Vol. I, No. 1, Jan., 1905), as regards both the matter and the illustrations. Each issue, it is promised, "will contain at least two colored plates of rare North American birds' eggs." The first number opens with a colored plate of the eggs of Kirtland's Warbler, with appropriate text, and contains also a colored plate of the eggs of the Olive Warbler, "one of the two or three sets of this species that have thus far been taken." Subscription, \$1.00 per year, single copies 30 cts.

VOLUME I, No. 1, of a new periodical called 'The Apteryx, A New England Quarterly of Natural History,' bears date, January, 1905. It is edited by C. Abbott Davis, and published "by the Roger Williams Park Museum of Providence, R. I." A journal of this character may be a desirable medium of communication for local workers, and may serve a useful function in increasing interest in the study of the local fauna and flora, but the name of the present candidate for honors seems most inaptly chosen, suggesting New Zealand rather than New England, and ornithology rather than the organ of a local museum, devoted to general natural history and only incidentally dealing with birds. The journal is octavo in form, and the first number consists of 28 pages and two half-tone plates. Subscription, \$1.00 per year, 25 cts. per copy.

THE Chief of the Biological Survey, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, in his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, gives a most interesting summary (Yearbook Depart. Agric. for 1904, pp. 291-305) of the work carried on under his direction, which comprises the four sections, (1) Geographic Distribution, (2) Economic Ornithology, (3) Bird Migration, (4) Game Protection. Field work on geographic distribution was "carried on over wide areas in California, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Alaska, and also in several Provinces of Canada and States of Mexico. In California the field operations for the purpose of securing data for a detailed map of the life and crop zones of the State have been continued under the personal direction of the Chief, along the western slope and foothills of the Sierra Nevada, in some of the interior valleys, and among the Coast Ranges south of San Francisco Bay.

"The field parties in charge of Vernon Bailey, chief field naturalist, have practically completed work in western Texas, and are now in New Mexico. In Texas explorations were carried on mainly in the Pan-handle region and the southwestern corner of the State in the vicinity of El

Paso. In New Mexico field work was done in the northern, middle, and southern parts of the Territory. The work in Mexico, under the direction of E. W. Nelson, was continued, and a supplementary study of the distribution of animal and plant life was made on the southern end of the Mexican table-land, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, on the coastal lowlands near Tampico, and in the highlands of Chiapas. The biological exploration of the Mackenzie Basin, including Great Slave Lake and part of the Barren Grounds in the neighborhood of Great Bear Lake, was continued from the previous year. E. A. Preble, who has charge of this work, wintered at Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie for the double purpose of studying the conditions during an arctic winter and of being on the ground to resume field work in the early spring long before the opening of communication with the outside world. These investigations, in connection with recent work in Labrador, and the explorations already carried on by the Biological Survey in the Hudson Bay, Athabasca, and Great Slave Lake regions and Alaska, will form a most valuable chain of observations, making it possible for the first time to understand and intelligently discuss the distribution of the numerous boreal types of animals and plants that inhabit Alaska and enter some of the Northern States. Explorations in Alaska have been continued under the direction of Wilfred H. Osgood, among the northern spurs of the Rocky Mountains, about the upper and middle Yukon, and on some of the islands of southeastern Alaska. A report on the work done by Mr. Osgood about the base of Alaska Peninsula in the summer of 1902 is ready for the press, and will appear shortly." <sup>1</sup>

The investigation of the food of our native birds was continued as usual, through both laboratory work and field observations, the investigations of the past year relating in large part to the birds of California, where Professor Beal was engaged for seven months, with a view of determining not only what damage birds do to the fruit crops, but to what extent they tend to check the ravages of noxious insects.

The work on bird migration was continued as usual, migration schedules being received from the regular observers and filed for future use, and also special circulars requesting data on the arrival and departure of the Nighthawk, Catbird, Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Redstart, with a view to determining more accurately the principal routes of migration.

The section of Game Protection, under Dr. Palmer, is becoming better equipped and organized, and the report of its work holds a prominent place in the report of the division. It covers: "(1) Supervision of the importation of foreign birds and mammals; (2) coöperation in restricting interstate shipments of game contrary to law; (3) protection of game in Alaska, and (4) collection and publication of matter relating to game pro-

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<sup>1</sup> Published Nov. 23, 1904, as *North American Fauna*, No. 24, and noticed in 'The Auk' for Jan., 1905, p. 92.

tection." Permits were issued for the importation of 327 consignments, which include "1470 mammals, 205,400 canaries, and 41,630 miscellaneous birds"; besides, about 17,000 parrots were brought in, for which no permit for importation is required.

A NATIONAL organization of Audubon Societies was effected early in January of the present year through the incorporation under the laws of the State of New York of 'The National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals,' with headquarters in New York City. The particular objects of the Association are: "(a) To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions in the interest of the protection of birds and animals, and to use all lawful means for the protection of birds and animals. (b) To publish and distribute documents or other printed matter on these or other subjects, and to acquire and maintain a library. (c) To cooperate with the national and state governments and regularly organized natural history societies in disseminating knowledge relative to birds and animals." The membership consists of two classes, Active Members and Sustaining Members; the latter pay an annual fee of five dollars, have the right to vote on all business matters, including the election of the officers and the Board of Directors, and are unlimited as to numbers; the former are chosen by duly organized State Audubon Societies, which are each entitled to name three Active Members, and the American Ornithologists' Union a like number, while seven members at large may be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is not to exceed thirty in number, of whom twenty are to be chosen by the various State Audubon Societies and three by the A. O. U., and seven at large, the full term of office of whom is five years, but to be divided by lot at the first annual meeting into five equal classes, to hold office respectively for one, two, three, four, and five years. The regular meeting of the Board must be held in New York City on the last Tuesday of October; but special meetings may be called as required. The officers are a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer, and are to be chosen by the directors. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors, held in January, 1905, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, William Dutcher; First Vice-President, John E. Thayer; Second Vice-President, Theodor S. Palmer; Secretary, T. Gilbert Pearson; Treasurer, Frank M. Chapman. An Executive Committee and a Finance Committee, each of five members, including the President and Treasurer as members *ex officio*, were also chosen.

The most urgent need of the Association to enable it to successfully carry on its work is *funds*; and provision has been made that: "\$100 paid at one time will constitute a person a Life Member; \$1,000 paid at one time will constitute a person a Patron; \$5,000 paid at one time will constitute a person a Founder; \$25,000 paid at one time will constitute a person a Benefactor." It is hoped that many philanthropic people, interested in the work of the Association, will early take the opportunity to aid liberally so worthy a cause.