

Mr. Wolley's lifetime and for long after his death. . . . Lastly, I have to state that the Collection of which this is the Catalogue has been given to the University of Cambridge, in whose Museum of Zoölogy I trust it may long continue."

The frontispiece gives a view of Muoniovara, Mr. Wolley's headquarters in Lapland, from a pencil drawing by Mr. Wolley made in the autumn of 1853. A map of part of Lapland illustrates the ornithological journeys of Mr. Wolley in 1853-1857. The 'Catalogue,' it is almost needless to say, is a mine of previously unpublished first-hand information respecting the breeding haunts and habits of many northern-breeding water-fowl and other species; while the extended editorial additions and comment greatly increase the interest and value of the work.<sup>1</sup> — J. A. A.

**Mershon's 'The Passenger Pigeon.'**<sup>2</sup>— In compiling his book on the Passenger Pigeon Mr. Mershon has done good service. Its contents is varied and of unequal value, but as a whole it is a convenient and valuable record of the former almost incredible abundance of a now nearly extinct species. Much of the material here brought together has never before been published, and much of the remainder is from such scattered sources that it is a great convenience to have it thus brought together in a single handy volume. The author modestly disclaims any previous literary training, and says: "I am merely a business man who is interested in the Passenger Pigeon because he loves the outdoors and its wild things, and sincerely regrets the cruel extinction of one of the most interesting natural phenomena of his own country. If I have been able to make a compilation that otherwise would not have been available for the interested reader, I need make no further apologies for the imperfect manner of my treatment of this subject." The treatment is, naturally, far from exhaustive, the details relating mainly to southern Michigan, but a wide circle of readers will be grateful for the large amount of new and first-hand information here brought together. The matter follows in logical sequence, and a few errors in personal names, and a little indistinctness here and there in setting off the parts of the narrative derived from different sources, can be easily pardoned. An index, however, would have been of great service.

The work is divided into nineteen chapters, with captions indicative of their contents. The first, entitled 'My Boyhood among the Pigeons,' is delightfully reminiscent of the author's own early experiences with pigeons in southern Michigan. The second and third chapters are reprints

<sup>1</sup> Since these lines were written the sad news has been received of Professor Newton's death. See below, under 'Notes and News.'

<sup>2</sup> The [Passenger Pigeon] By [W. B. Mershon] [Seal] New York [The Outing Publishing Company] 1907 — 8vo, pp. xii + 225, 3 colored and 6 half-tone plates. (Price, \$3.00 net.)

of Alexander Wilson's and Audubon's accounts of the Passenger Pigeon, with a colored reproduction of Audubon's plate. These form so important a part of the early history of the subject that their entire republication is far more satisfactory than could have been any attempt at excerpting or paraphrasing. Then follows, as Chapter IV, 'As James Fenimore Cooper Saw It,' consisting of pertinent and graphic extracts from 'The Pioneers' and 'The Chainbearer,' relating to the pigeon as seen in early days in central New York. Chapter V is Chief Pokagon's account, published in 'The Chautauquan' in November, 1895 (Vol. XXII, No. 20), and relates to pigeons as seen by him in Ohio and Indiana as well as in Michigan. This is followed by a transcript of the late Major Bendire's account of this species given in his 'Life Histories of North American Birds' (1892). This includes the greater of Mr. Brewster's article on the pigeon published in 'The Auk' (VI, Oct. 1889, pp. 285-291), and the omitted parts are given in Mr. Mershon's Chapter VII, 'Netting Pigeons.' Thus is copied entire, in Chapters II-VII (pp. 9-76) the greater part of the standard literature relating to the natural history of the Passenger Pigeon. Chapters VIII-XI (pp. 77-140) chronicle its slaughter, beginning with Prof. H. B. Roney's paper in the 'American Field' (of Jan. 11, 1879), and the counter-statement by E. T. Martin in a circular issued later in the same year, followed by statements from correspondents who, as former shippers of pigeons, and thus conversant with the statistics and methods of pigeon slaughter, give valuable data here for the first time published.

Chapter XII, 'The last of the Pigeons,' consists of a series of notes from 'The Auk' (1895-1898), contributed by Ruthven Deane, and of various communications to the author not before published. Chapter XIII, 'What Became of the Wild Pigeon,' is an article contributed by Sullivan Cook to 'Forest and Stream' in 1903, who states, among other things, that for forty days, during one season, three car loads of pigeons a day were sent to eastern cities from a single shipping point in Michigan, or a daily shipment of nearly 25,000 dozen, or a total of 1,000,000 birds; and that in three years 990,000 dozen, or about 11,000,000, were caught and shipped east from the northern part of the southern peninsula of Michigan. He says: "And when you are asked what has become of the wild pigeons, figure up the shipping bills, and they will show what has become of this, the grandest game bird that ever cleft the air of any continent."

Various theories of the disappearance of the wild pigeons having been put forth, these are recited, Chapter XIV being a communication from C. H. Ames, who advocates the hypothesis that they must have been destroyed by natural agencies, perhaps by being drowned in the Gulf of Mexico while migrating across it, or by other similar catastrophies elsewhere. Comment on this theory was secured by the author from Mr. Ridgway, who says: "Nothing in the history of the Passenger Pigeon is more certainly known than the fact that its range to the southward did not extend beyond the United States.... The range of the Passenger

Pigeon was limited to the mixed hardwood forest region of the eastern United States and Canada, and any that occurred beyond were stragglers, pure and simple."

Subsequent chapters bring down the record to date of stragglers seen, or supposed to have been seen, in various parts of the country, east as well as west; and Mr. Deane's paper on the Passenger Pigeon in confinement is republished from 'The Auk' (XIII, 1896, pp. 234-237, together with letters from Professor C. O. Whitman on the same subject.

The work has as a frontispiece a colored plate of the Passenger Pigeon, drawn by L. A. Fuertes; a reproduction in color of Audubon's plate of this bird; two half-tone plates of the Passenger Pigeon and Mourning Dove, showing both species side by side photographed to the same scale; a colored plate of the Band-tailed Pigeon, by Allan Brooks, for comparison with the Passenger Pigeon; and other pertinent illustrations of interest.

Although Mr. Mershon nowhere gives a summary of the evidence respecting the practical disappearance of the Wild Pigeon, he expresses himself as "satisfied that the destruction of the pigeons was wrought to gratify the avarice and love of gain of a few men who slaughtered them until they were virtually exterminated" (p. 163, footnote).— J. A. A.

**Fleming on the Disappearance of the Passenger Pigeon.**<sup>1</sup>— The capture of single birds from 1887 to 1893 is mentioned, as also the shipment in 1892 and 1893 of several hundred dozen each year from the Indian Territory to New York and Boston, these being "the last records we have of the Passenger Pigeon as anything more than a casual migrant. The records ceased after this till 1898 when three were taken at points widely apart. . . . For all practical purposes the close of the nineteenth century saw the final extinction of the Passenger Pigeon in a wild state." He states that none of the "persistent rumours of the return of pigeons. . . . has borne investigation."— J. A. A.

**Report on the Immigration of Birds in England and Wales in the Spring of 1906.**— The second Report of the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club on the spring migration of birds into England and Wales<sup>2</sup> conforms in plan and general character with the Report for 1905, fully described in a previous number of this Journal.<sup>3</sup> Thirty-four species — five additional to those reported upon for the spring of 1905 — are specially treated, a résumé of the dates and manner of arrival for each

<sup>1</sup> The Disappearance of the Passenger Pigeon. By James H. Fleming. *Ottawa Naturalist*, Vol. XX, pp. 236, 237, March 22, 1907.

<sup>2</sup> Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1906. By the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club. 8vo, pp. 189, April, 1907. = *Bulletin British Orn. Club*, Vol. XX.

<sup>3</sup> *Auk*, XXIII, Oct. 1906, p. 472.