

journey was to collect the mammals of the region, considerable attention was given to the birds, as attested by the present list of 93 species collected or observed during the trip, mainly in Grand, Routt, and Eagle counties. Among the interesting records is that of a small colony of Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) at Steamboat Springs, in the eastern part of Routt County.— J. A. A.

**Howell on Winter Birds of Northern Louisiana.**<sup>1</sup>— This is a briefly annotated list of about 70 species and subspecies, and adds 7 to the list of Louisiana birds. It is especially welcome as furnishing definite information respecting the distribution and abundance of the winter birds of a little known district.— J. A. A.

**Birds of Yellowstone Park.**— In the Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Yellowstone Park for 1907 (pp. 15-23) Dr. T. S. Palmer contributes the results of his observations on the birds of Yellowstone Park made during parts of August and September, 1907. There are formal notes on about seventy species. Suggestions are made for the increase and better protection of the birds about the hotels and permanent camps by the prohibition of cats and by providing nesting boxes and shallow pans of water where the birds can bathe and drink.— J. A. A.

**Carriker on New Birds from Costa Rica.**<sup>2</sup>— The new species are *Formicarius castaneiceps* and *Sporophila crissalis*, and seven other species are recorded for the first time from Costa Rica.— J. A. A.

**Mrs. Miller's 'The Bird Our Brother.'**— The purpose of the present work<sup>3</sup> is eminently commendable, and its selections are in the main from excellent sources, for it is mainly composed of extracts from a multitude of writers, woven together with such comment as Mrs. Miller's wide experiences with birds and her sympathies suggest. The book is a popular exposition of bird traits "intended solely for the 'general reader'.... It is simply an earnest attempt.... to present him [the bird] as an individual, a fellow pilgrim in this fair world of ours." It consists of fourteen chapters, treating of 'individuality,' 'intelligence,' 'language,' 'altruism,' 'education,' 'affection,' 'courtship,' 'home,' 'amusements,' 'means of defense and attack,' 'odd ways,' 'equipment,' 'usefulness to us,' and 'conclusion.' These headings will serve to give a general idea of the method of treatment,

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<sup>1</sup> Notes on the Winter Birds of Northern Louisiana. By Arthur H. Howell. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXI, pp. 119-124, April 11, 1908.

<sup>2</sup> Brief Descriptions of some new Species of Birds from Costa Rica and a record of some Species not hitherto recorded from that Country. By M. A. Carriker, Jr. Ann. Carnegie Museum, Vol. IV, pp. 301, 302, April 1, 1908.

<sup>3</sup> The Bird Our Brother | A Contribution | to the Study of the Bird | as He is in Life | By | Olive Thorne Miller | [Seal] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1908 — 16 mo., pp. xii + 331. \$1.25 net.

and the wide range offered for quotations on the several topics mentioned. An appendix containing 285 titles referred to by numbers in the text, gives the sources drawn upon. Naturally the same author is cited in many different connections, so that some twenty of the principal sources form the basis of nearly two hundred of the references.

It may seem unkind to say that a careful reading of this very interesting book has suggested a modification of the subtitle, to read, in place of "the bird as he is in life," the bird as the author would have him in life, since none of the bad traits of birds,—it must be admitted that all birds are not wholly angelic, but share with man some of his bad traits as well as all his good ones,— seem to be passed over in silence or with a statement to the effect that the species has been woefully slandered by "sensational writers." Very few birds are really more injurious than beneficial to man, and these are indirectly rather than directly so, through their destruction of other birds of greater use to man than they are themselves. The author's lapses, which are few, are on the side of friendship to the bird, and do not detract materially from the usefulness of her book, which, besides affording pleasant and instructive reading to a host of bird lovers, will exert a much needed influence in behalf of the birds.— J. A. A.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Membership Conditions in the A. O. U.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sirs:*— I question the wisdom of the rule or by-law of the A. O. U. which limits the number of "fellows" and the number of "members." It seems to me that this is unjust, unreasonable and un-American from every point of view; though there may be good reasons for it which I do not understand, certainly none have ever come to my notice. It seems to me that when the work of a "member" has reached a certain standard of importance he should be advanced to a "fellow" — this standard, of course, to be judged and determined by the Board of Fellows who elect. From my point of view there are several men in the class of "fellows" whose work, whose renown or whose service to ornithology is far inferior to that of several "members" who cannot be advanced to "fellows" because that class is full, and I ask if there is any justification in a limited class of "fellows" sufficient to offset so unjust and unsatisfactory a condition as this appears to be?

Limiting the class of "members" also works a like injustice. The class of "associate members" is open to anyone who has \$3.00 per annum