

the whole with many photographs from nature and a number of the groups themselves."

The book is divided into eight parts, as follows: Part I, 'Travels about Home,' in which are treated The ways of Jays, A morning with Meadow-larks, Bird-nesting with Burroughs, A Nighthawk incident. Part II, 'The Bird-life of two Atlantic Coast Islands' — Gardiner's Island and Cobb's Island. Part III, 'Florida Bird-life' — Pelican Island, the Florida Great Blue Heron and the Water Turkey, the American Egret, Cuthbert Rookery. Part IV, 'Bahama Bird-life' — the Flamingo, the Egg Birds, the Booby and the Man-o'-War Bird. Part V, 'The Story of Three Western Bird Groups' — the Prairie Hen, a Golden Eagle's nest, Cactus Desert Bird-life. Part VI, 'Bird Studies in California' — the Coastal Mountains at Piru, the coast at Monterey, the Farallones, the San Joaquin Valley at Los Banos, Lower Klamath Lake, the Sierras. Part VII, 'Bird-life in Western Canada' — the Prairies, the Plains, the Mountains, the White Pelican. Part VIII, 'Impressions of English Bird-life,' and indexes. An 'Introduction' of eight pages reveals to the reader some of the methods and devices by which the photographic results shown in the present volume were obtained.

The foregoing will sufficiently explain the scope, purpose, and general character of this exceptionally interesting and, in many respects, remarkable book, where a wealth of photographic illustrations so effectively supplements the text. It remains therefore only to say that the story of these varied experiences is most modestly yet effectively and pleasingly told, without resort to anything beyond simple and direct statement of events, more varied and opportune than has probably ever before fallen to the lot of an ornithologist. There were, of course, mishaps and unpleasant experiences, but they leave slight trace in the author's narrative, so full of new, first-hand information about birds whose home-life was previously, in many cases, by no means well known. The book is appropriately dedicated to Hermon C. Bumpus, Director of the American Museum of Natural History, and "to those members of the Museum whose cooperation made possible the work on which it is based." — J. A. A.

**Preble on the Birds of the Athabaska-Mackenzie Region.**<sup>1</sup> — This admirable work of nearly 600 pages and numerous illustrations is based mainly on the field work of Mr. Preble during two expeditions, the first in 1901, the second in 1903-'04. The publication of the report having been unavoidably delayed till the present year (1908), it represents the state of knowledge of the region down to the spring of 1908. It includes

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<sup>1</sup> A Biological Investigation of the Athabaska-Mackenzie Region. By Edward A. Preble, Assistant, Biological Survey. Prepared under the direction of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of Bureau of Biological Survey. = North American Fauna No. 27, October 26, 1908. 8vo, pp. 574, pll. i-xxv (including map of the region), and 16 text figures. Birds, pp. 251-500.

not only annotated faunal lists of the mammals, birds, reptiles, batrachians, and fishes, and trees and shrubs of the region, but a very full description of the physical geography and climatology of the Mackenzie Basin, a detailed account of the routes traversed by Mr. Preble and his assistants (his brother Alfred E. Preble, in 1901 and 1903, and Merritt Cary in 1903), and a summary of the previous explorations and collections made in the region. The work has been so well done that Mr. Preble's report will remain for all time a standard source of information on the biology and early explorations of this immense and hitherto much neglected area. In 1903-'04, Mr. Preble passed the winter at Fort Simpson, and thus had an opportunity to become familiar with winter conditions at this remote subarctic post.

Each of the different physical areas, from the Athabaska Valley to the Barren Grounds, is separately treated in detail. The life zones of the Athabaska-Mackenzie region — the Arctic, Hudsonian, and Canadian — are illustrated by a colored map (plate ii), based on very thorough knowledge of the subject, Mr. Preble's previous explorations in the Hudson Bay region<sup>1</sup> being of special service in mapping the country bordering Hudson Bay.

The ornithological portion of the report (pp. 251-500) forms an elaborately annotated list of the (approximately) 293 species and subspecies "authoritatively recorded from the region treated in the present report. In the account of each species," says the author, "our own observations are usually given first, in chronological order, the published records following. Of the published references relating to the various species only those have been utilized which best represent the distribution, dates of migration, breeding, and other interesting features of their life history, preference usually being given to the notes earliest published." Authorities are given in footnotes, in place of the immensely inconvenient method of giving references to titles scheduled at the end of the work, now so much in vogue; notes not accompanied by references "are derived from manuscript records or verbal communications," and are duly accredited in the text. The classification and nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check-List, including the many changes of the Fourteenth Supplement. The A. O. U. Code is strictly followed in respect to the authority for specific and subspecific names, which is to be enclosed in parenthesis *only when the species or subspecies is used in combination with a generic name different from the one employed by the original describer*. This was the original intent of the use of the parenthesis for authorities, but in recent years the names of authorities have by many writers been improperly placed in parentheses to denote not only this, but any change in the status of the species or subspecies from the original designation.

An annotated bibliography of 23 pages — from Hearne, 1791, to Seton,

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<sup>1</sup> A Biological Investigation of the Hudson Bay Region, North Amer. Fauna No. 22, 1902.

1908 — is a valuable guide to the literature of the subject, and will be of great use to future investigators of this general region. The large number, of half-tone plates and text figures are an important addition to the report and include, besides maps of the general region and of the life zones, several distribution maps for the more important species of mammals, many landscape views, and views of the Hudson Bay Company's posts, including some of the old Forts of the early days — landmarks of the greatest historic interest. As already implied, Mr. Preble's report is a mine of information regarding the early exploration and present and past conditions of the vertebrate fauna of arctic and subarctic Canada. — J. A. A.

**MacFarlane on the Birds of Northwestern Canada.**<sup>1</sup> — In 1891 Mr. MacFarlane published in the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum (Vol. XIV, pp. 413-446) his 'Notes on and List of Birds and Eggs collected in Arctic America, 1861-1866.' The present 'List of Birds and Eggs' covers a subsequent period (1880-1894) of the author's explorations, and relates mainly to observations made "in the northern portions of the new Province of Alberta; in New Caledonia, in British Columbia; and Cumberland, in the Province of Saskatchewan." The observations are fragmentary, and the reader will share with the author his regrets that he did not continue "at Forts Simpson, Chipewyan, St. James and Cumberland House, where he was successively stationed from 1866 to 1894," his observations with the same interest and assiduity as at Fort Anderson in previous years. His shortcomings in this respect he holds up as a warning and a stimulus to the officers of the Hudson Bay Company and others who may visit or traverse northern Canada as surveyors and prospectors to do whatever they can "in the way of elucidating and otherwise advancing the Natural History of the great Dominion."

The list includes about 220 species, the annotations averaging rather more than a page to each; while they include much original information they are often extended by quotations from various published sources, notably from Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds.' These, however, are always pertinent, since much of MacFarlane's ornithological material was sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and passed through Major Bendire's hands, thus forming his principal source of information on the nesting habits and breeding ranges of northern birds. Incidental reference is made, under nearly every species, to the manner of its representation in the Ottawa (Dominion) Museum, with a view of inspiring

<sup>1</sup> Through the Mackenzie | Basin | a Narrative of the Athabaska and Peace River | Treaty Expedition of 1899 | By | Charles Mair | English Secretary of the Half-breed Commission; Author of | Tecumseh: a Drama, etc. | With a Map of the Country Ceded and numerous photographs of | Native Life and Scenery | Also | Notes on the Mammals and Birds of | Northern Canada | By Roderick MacFarlane | Retired Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company | — | Toronto | William Briggs | 1908 — 8vo, pp. 494, map, and 25 half-tone plates. — 'List of Birds and Eggs observed and collected in the North-West Territories of Canada, between 1880 and 1894,' by R. MacFarlane, pp. 285-447. \$2.00; by mail, \$2.25.