

interest in its deficiencies. To a certain extent, the present 'List' gives a résumé of the results of MacFarlane's long period of natural history work in northern Canada, and as such is a contribution of unusual interest. The numeration and nomenclature are those of the A. O. U Check-List, but through some inadvertence, a number of the water birds follow the Passeres, with no note of advice or warning that such is the case. Also, on p. 422, the heading "636. Black and White Warbler — *Mniotilta varia* (Linn.)" is given twice; as its second use evidently relates to that species, the preceding species is left nameless and not easily identifiable.

Mr. MacFarlane's 'Notes on the Mammals,' occupying pages 151-283, and preceded by a portrait of the author, is an especially important contribution to the mammalogy of the region, the statistical and geographical information respecting many of the fur-bearing animals being exceedingly valuable. The nomenclature of the list "has been carefully revised by the naturalists of the U. S. National Museum," and is hence fully up to date, and stamps the list as thoroughly trustworthy.

Mr. Mair's portion of the work, occupying the first 150 pages, gives a vivid picture of the topographic and climatic conditions of the country traversed by the treaty expedition of 1899, of which he was a member, and contains also much historic information of fascinating interest. Mr. MacFarlane's portion of the work contains descriptions and illustrations of a number of the old Hudson Bay Company's posts, the names of which have long been household words in natural history annals — Forts Anderson, McPherson, Chipewyan, Resolution, Good Hope, etc.— J. A. A.

Knights' 'The Birds of Maine.'— In a portly volume¹ of nearly 700 pages, Mr. Knight has given the ornithological public a useful manual of the bird fauna of the State of Maine. The analytical keys and the descriptions of the species, it is stated, are compiled and adopted from Ridgway's 'Manual' and 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Chapman's 'Handbook,' and other standard sources. The descriptions are followed by a brief summary of the distribution, including breeding and winter ranges, followed by the county records of the species, with the authorities, a list of which is given in the Introduction. The life histories are largely based on the author's own observations and experience, and vary in length, according to the species, from a half page to several pages, and relate mainly to the bird's occurrence in Maine. The nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check-List and its Supplements down to the Thirteenth, the Four-

¹ The Birds of Maine | With Key to and Descriptions of the various | species known to occur or to have occurred | in the State, an Account of their Distribu- | tion and Migration, showing their relative | abundance in the various Counties of the | State as well as other regions, and con- | tributions to their Life Histories | By | Ora Willis Knight, M. S. | Member of Maine Ornithological Society, Member American Chemical Society, | Member American Ornithologists' Union, Etc. | Bangor, Maine | 1908 — 8vo, pp. vii+693, map, and 25 half-tone plates. \$3.50, express paid. Regular edition, 200 copies; subscription edition, 300 numbered and signed copies.

teenth Supplement having appeared too late to be available. The number of species admitted is 327, including 2 introduced species, classified in the 'Summary' following the main text as: permanent residents, 26; summer residents, 115; migrants, 75; winter residents and winter visitants, 40; accidental and casual, 67; 3 are extinct and one other nearly so. In the 'Summary' these several classes are enumerated, with an indication of their distribution within the State, those chiefly or entirely confined to the Canadian fauna being designated by an asterisk. Thirty additional species are given in a 'Hypothetical List,' which includes not only "species which may be almost certainly expected to occur, though not as yet positively detected," but others that have been included in previous lists on erroneous evidence, and "never likely to occur here."

Following the 'Summary' is a section on 'Faunal Areas,' illustrated by a map, from which it appears that the southwestern part of the State is Alleghanian and most of the rest of the State Canadian, the Hudsonian being limited to the summits of the higher mountains and to a few points along the coast, from Mount Desert Island eastward. A narrow strip of Canadian extends westward along the coast, backed by the Alleghanian inland. A 'Bibliography' of about 130 titles, arranged chronologically, and an index, complete the volume.

'The Birds of Maine' is well planned and evidently written with great care and pretty full knowledge of the subject. It has, however, its faults of detail, which, while they may not seriously impair its usefulness, are to be regretted. The author's style, while generally good, lapses here and there into colloquialisms and infelicities which somewhat mar the dignity of a work of such importance. As examples may be cited the reference to the Redpolls in the 'Key to the species of Fringillidæ,' the account of the feeding of young Goldfinches, the constant use of pair for pairs ("ten pair," "1000 pair," etc.), and Accentator for Accentor, etc. While the author follows the A. O. U. Check-List, as regards the status of forms, he has done so in a few instances under protest, in some cases with reason, as shown by the Fourteenth Supplement, published since his book went to press, in others through inadequate knowledge of the forms in question. There are few typographical errors in the technical names; but we regret to note that the records of local occurrences, in the case of the rarer species, particularly of some of the water birds, are incomplete, especially as regards the latest published information regarding their distribution on the Maine coast. This, however, may be due to the long time the book was in press, since the omissions relate mainly to the early part. Although the late Dr. Wyman's paper on the occurrence of remains of the Great Auk on some of the islands of Casco Bay is given in the bibliography there is no reference to it under the species; and the winter records for the Myrtle Warbler refer only to Cape Elizabeth, omitting others of equal interest relating to other localities. These are but examples of a number of omissions in respect to details of sometimes considerable importance. Unpublished records are often not clearly distinguished from those that have been

published; to have made this distinction, in the case even of only the rarer species, would of course have considerably increased the size of the book, and for this reason may have been omitted, but the omission is an inconvenience to the worker in search of the historical sequence of records. In brief, Mr. Knight has given us such a good book on the Birds of Maine that we regret to find it not an entirely up-to-date authority on Maine ornithology.— J. A. A.

Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels.'¹— Part III of this excellent Monograph¹ contains descriptions of 29 species, of which 27 are figured. Twenty-three of the species belong to the genus *Æstrelata*, of which three appear to be known only from the original types. *Priofinus gelidus* of recent authors (ex *Procelaria gelida* Gmelin) is apparently referred to *Puffinus kuhli*, the author recognizing only one species of *Priofinus*, and correcting the faulty synonymy given by Salvin.

The species treated in the present Part are many of them little known in life, so that nothing can be said of their habits and distribution. As in the previous Parts of this work, the biographies of the well-known species are given at considerable length, as is the general history.— J. A. A.

Gadow's 'Through Southern Mexico.'²— Dr. Gadow's account of his travels in southern Mexico is not to any great extent ornithological, the reptiles and general character of the country visited being the principal theme. The work is well written and thoroughly interesting from beginning to end, the author's style being terse and graphic, and the subjects treated include the physiographic features of the country and their relation to the fauna and flora, its present and former human population, with descriptions of the celebrated ruins of Tepotztlan, Milta, and Monte Alban, a discussion of the 'Toltec question,' the Aztec hieroglyphs, and the calendric system. The author made many excursions to out of the way places reached only by pack trains, his explorations including the low coastlands, the interior plateau, and the Volcanoes of Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl. Interspersed with interesting incidents of travel are discussions of the effect of environment upon animals and plants, colors and patterns, convergent development, the struggle for existence, 'warning' colors, and adaptive modifications. The information regarding the general character of the country and its varied inhabitants, human, animal and vegetable, is varied and explicit, and one can hardly turn to a better book for information regarding southern Mexico. The numerous illustrations relate to a great variety of subjects and are valuable adjuncts to the text.— J. A. A.

¹ Part III, pp. 153-232, plates l-lxxviii. September, 1908. For notices of previous Parts see Auk, XXV, 1908, pp. 244, 338.

² Through Southern | Mexico | being an account of | the travels of a Naturalist | By | Hans Gadow | M. A., Ph.D. | F. R. S. | With over one hundred and sixty full page and other | illustrations and maps | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn London | 1908 — 8vo, pp. xvi + 527, maps, numerous half-tone plates and text figures.