

rhythms. To such causes are due some of the most extraordinary phenomena of nests and nest life, such as the 'cuckoo instinct,' double, compound, or superimposed nests, the desertion of the last young, etc." (p. 336).

While criticising most of the literature of nest-building Prof. Herrick also points out the difficulties with which students of the subject have to contend — especially the necessity for continuous observation for hours and even days. "In spite of such drawbacks, however, it would be difficult to name a field in the province of behavior where the right kind of study promises more interesting results the world over, and where some of the phenomena to be witnessed close to your door, may be as worthy of record as anything observed in the forests of Brazil or of Africa."—W. S.

Beebe and Crandall on The Undescribed Juvenal Plumage of the Yucatan Jay.¹—The plumages and molt of specimens of *Cissilopha yucatanica* living in the New York Zoological Park, are here described. When received they were in full juvenal plumage with the entire head and underparts white. This changed at the post-juvenal molt to the usual black, and subsequently the white tipped rectrices were replaced by those of uniform blue while the mandibles and eye ring eventually became black. The yellow bill is thus a character of immaturity and not sexual, as has sometimes been supposed. The early white breasted plumage in this species was quite unexpected.—W. S.

Henshaw's Report of the Chief of the Biological Survey for 1911.²—The important work of this branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in its efforts to protect the useful birds and game of the country and to check the depredations of noxious species, is too well known to require detailed notice in this connection, but anyone who reads Mr. Henshaw's interesting report will be astonished at the varied fields in which the activities of the Survey are carried on, and the benefits that they render to the Agricultural and other interests of the United States. Special ornithological investigations of the year have dealt with the Birds of Arkansas, the Food of Woodpeckers, the Food of Wild Waterfowl, while field work has been prosecuted in Alabama, Idaho, Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, Tennessee, Wyoming and Virginia.—W. S.

Townsend's Captain Cartwright and his Labrador Journal.³—Dr. Charles W. Townsend already well known for his writings on the

¹ The Undescribed Juvenal Plumage of the Yucatan Jay. By C. William Beebe and Lee S. Crandall, Zoologica, Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society. Vol. I, No. 7, pp. 153-156, with colored plate, December 5, 1911.

² Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey for 1911. By Henry W. Henshaw. Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture 1911, pp. 1-20.

³ Captain Cartwright | and his | Labrador Journal | edited by | Charles Wendell Townsend, M. D. | Author of "Along the Labrador Coast," "A Labrador | Spring," "The Birds of Essex County" and joint | author of "Birds of Labrador | with an Introduction by | Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell | Illustrations from Old Engravings, Photographs, | and a Map. | vignette | Boston | Dana Estes & Company | Publishers | 1911. Svo., pp. i-xxxiii + 1-385.

natural history of Labrador, has edited a reprint of the journal of Captain George Cartwright the famous explorer of this interesting but inhospitable coast. The original edition of the journal published in 1792 is a very scarce work and is inaccessible to most readers, so that Dr. Townsend's reprint is exceedingly welcome, placing at our disposal a vast amount of accurate and interesting information concerning Labrador and its natural history, one hundred and thirty years ago. The text is preserved without change except for the omission of "unimportant details and the mass of repetition," while in foot-notes the editor has given us the current technical names of the animals and plants which are referred to and as a foreword has furnished an entertaining biographical sketch of Captain Cartwright.

Most striking among the numerous allusions to birds are the references to the Great Auk or 'Penguin' the most extended of which treats of its threatened extermination on Funk Island, where in 1785 the inhabitants of Fogo went with their boats for birds and eggs. "They lay their gangboards from the gunwale of the boat to the rocks, and then drive as many penguins on board, as she will hold.... It has been customary of late years, for several crews of men to live all the summer on that island, for the sole purpose of killing birds for the sake of their feathers, the destruction which they have made is incredible. If a stop is not soon put to that practice, the whole breed will be diminished to almost nothing, particularly the penguins: for this is now the only island they have left to breed upon."

Captain Cartwright's respect for accuracy in describing the habits of birds and mammals is conspicuous, the more so because it is unusual in explorers of his time, and this trait as well as his sense of humor are well shown in his extended account of the Beaver which he begins as follows: "I tremble at seeing myself under the necessity of contradicting that celebrated natural historian Compt de Buffon; yet I must take the liberty to do it. He says, 'A beaver has a scaly tail, because he eats fish.' I wonder much that Monsieur Buffon had not one himself for the same reason; for I am sure that he has eaten a great deal more fish, than all the beavers in the world put together."

All naturalists especially ornithologists and mammalogists will find this volume exceedingly interesting reading and a valuable work of reference.—W. S.

Taylor on Birds of Northern Humboldt County, Nevada.—In an interesting report¹ Mr. Walter P. Taylor describes a field trip made by himself and Mr. Charles H. Richardson, Jr. in the Pine Forest Mountain region of Nevada May 10–August 10, 1909.

¹ Field Notes on Amphibians, Reptiles and Birds of Northern Humboldt County, Nevada; with a discussion of some of the Faunal Features of the Region. By Walter P. Taylor. University of California Publications in Zoölogy, Vol. VII, No. 10, pp. 319–436. February 14, 1912.