

Correction.— In mentioning the 'Preliminary List of the Birds of Tennessee' in the January 'Auk,' p. 103, Mr. W. D. Howser was credited with the compilation and editing. We now learn that this labor was performed by Mr. A. F. Ganier, Curator of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.— WITMER STONE.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Chapman's 'Distribution of Bird-Life in Colombia.'— The appearance of Dr. Chapman's report on the 'Distribution of Bird-Life in Colombia'¹ more than meets our expectations. We realize at once that it is the most important contribution ever made to the subject of which it treats but we further recognize in it the completion of a definite plan, clearly conceived and carefully carried out — an accomplishment that must be as much of a gratification to the author as it is to those who consult the volume. Too often, especially in America, important explorations have been made and extensive collections obtained which through force of circumstances remain unreported, except in so far as a series of 'preliminary descriptions' of new forms may be regarded as a report, which in their brevity, are often as much of a hindrance as they are a help to science.

Dr. Chapman assembled his collections, published his descriptions of new species with praiseworthy detail and now presents us with a comprehensive report of the entire investigation, with discussions, not only of the relationship of the birds but of the varied characters of the country they inhabit — its forests, rainfall and other environmental conditions, and finally his deductions as to the limits of the present day life zones of Colombia, their history and the probable origin of the bird-life of the country. Needless to say this is no small task especially when we read that: "so indefinitely is the physiography of the country diversified that our entire time in Colombia might have been devoted to a single mountain range and still not have given us the information needed to map its zones and faunas with a thoroughness which would begin to express all the facts and factors involved," and the author modestly adds: "we must therefore, leave to future workers the task of filling in the details. . . with a hope that they will find the zonal and faunal boundaries here proposed at least fundamentally correct." This hope we are sure will be more than realized.

¹The Distribution of Bird-Life in Colombia. A Contribution to a Biological Survey of South America. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXVI, 1917. pp. i-x, 1-729; plates I-XLI; text figures, 1-21. New York, 1917.