

Sparrow family "there is little or no difference in the colors of the male and female," the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Nonpariel being familiar examples to the contrary. Perching birds, the author tells us, have "short legs with slender toes having many joints, the better to cling to the perch," but he will find that the other groups with which he contrasts them have just as many "joints," birds being remarkably constant in this respect and the exceptions few. Again we are told that in the autumn the gay suits of the males of many species "are doffed and sober colored coats better adapted for travel are put on." Had the author paused to think he must have realized that these very birds had traveled successfully in their brilliant spring garb on the northward flight and he would have sought some other reason for the change. There is throughout, a misleading use of the word "variety" for "species." These terms have distinct meanings in natural history and such careless usage tends to bewilder the reader. The author's idea of what is meant by classification is decidedly hazy, since he states that the classification of the A. O. U. is adopted, but apart from the fact that the members of some of the larger groups like the Sparrows and Woodpeckers are arranged together there is no attempt at classification whatever.

These and other misstatements can easily be corrected in another edition but it is a great pity that the book was not placed in the hands of some competent critic before publication, as was done in the case of Mr. Moseley's little work. Mr. Pearson's foreword is well enough as an exposition of the importance of bird study but it is obvious that he was not given the opportunity of reading the manuscript. The illustrations are in part from the leaflets of the National Association of Audubon Societies while others are early efforts of Mr. Fuertes which appeared originally in 'Citizen Bird' and elsewhere.—W. S.

**Stephens on the Birds of San Diego County, California.**—This well printed list<sup>1</sup> covers 320 species and subspecies which the author has established as having occurred in the county. The annotations are brief and describe the general nature of the bird's occurrence with data for rare captures, while under the family headings are given some mention of the habits of the species. Mr. Stephens is a well known authority on the birds of the region of which he writes and his list is an important addition to the literature of California ornithology. By a slip of the compositor we notice that the Nevada Cowbird appears in the Corvidæ instead of with its allies in the Icteridæ.—W. S.

**Swarth on New Subspecies of *Passerella iliaca*.**—An exhaustive study of the Californian Fox Sparrows leads Mr. Swarth to separate<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An Annotated List of the Birds of San Diego County, California. By Frank Stephens. Transactions San Diego Society of Natural History, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 142-180. February 15, 1919.

<sup>2</sup> Three New Species of *Passerella iliaca*. By H. S. Swarth. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 31, pp. 161-164. December 30, 1918.

three more forms making sixteen in all which he now recognizes and which occur at one time of the year or another within the state. The "thick-billed Sparrow" of the Sierra Nevada proves to be different from *P. i. megarhynca* and is therefore named *mariposa* (p. 161), type from Yosemite Park. The breeding locality of the true *megarhynca* is unknown, the specimens being all winter examples from southern California. The Warner Mountain bird is named *fulva* (p. 162) and that breeding in the White Mountains, *canescens* (p. 163).— W. S.

**Annual Report of the State Ornithologist of Massachusetts.**— Mr. E. H. Forbush's last report<sup>1</sup> contains some novel features besides the usual account of activities in the interest of bird protection. There is a list of collections of mounted birds and skins in Massachusetts with the hours and conditions under which they may be consulted, a most valuable piece of information. These collections number no less than forty-eight.

A census of the Heath Hens on Martha's Vineyard showed 155 birds present, an increase of forty per cent over the year before, while a number of interesting photographs of this bird in its mating dance form a frontispiece to the report. Mr. Forbush has also issued an excellent circular on "Food, Feeding and Drinking Appliances and Nesting Materials to Attract Birds"<sup>2</sup> which contains more information in a small space and conveniently arranged than any similar publication that we recall.

**Noble on the Birds of Newfoundland.**<sup>3</sup>— Mr. Noble spent a portion of the summer of 1915 collecting specimens in Newfoundland in the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and presents notes on 61 species. Special permission is required to collect in Newfoundland and a definite limit placed on the number of specimens of each species secured.

Mr. Noble ascertained that Newfoundland was evidently a region in which a dark coloration was beginning to develop in nesting species and he endorses the various recently described races from this country, but regards Howe's *Hylocichla fuscescens fuliginosa* as indistinguishable from the western *salicicola*.

An analysis of the avifauna shows thirteen species in Newfoundland which are unknown in Labrador, and twenty which occur in Labrador but not in Newfoundland, while six others are common in Newfoundland and rare in Labrador.— W. S.

**Chubb on New South American Birds.**<sup>4</sup>— In the January number of

<sup>1</sup> Eleventh Annual Report of the State Ornithologist. By Edward Howe Forbush. For the Year 1918. From the Annual Report of the State Department of Agriculture. December 20, 1918, pp. 1-21.

<sup>2</sup> Circular 2, Mass. State Department of Agriculture, pp. 1-31, September, 1918.

<sup>3</sup> Notes on the Avifauna of Newfoundland. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. LXII, No. 14, pp. 543-568.

<sup>4</sup> Notes on Collections of Birds in the British Museum, from Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina. Part I. Tinamidæ — Rallidæ. By Charles Chubb. The Ibis, January, 1919, pp. 1-55.