

Burns' 'Ornithology of Chester County, Pennsylvania.'¹ — Probably no county in the United States can boast of as many bird-lists as Chester County, Pa., and in the little volume before us we now have another, more pretentious than any of its predecessors, and aiming to embody all the information which they contain as well as much original material.

Mr. Burns has been engaged in preparing this work for some years past, and his personal experience, extending over a period of thirty-five years, combined with his extensive knowledge of the work of his predecessors and the local literature well fit him for the preparation of such a volume.

The exceptional development of ornithological interest in Chester County seems to be due largely to the Quakers who settled much of the eastern and southern portions and who from the earliest times possessed a strong interest in nature study and a full appreciation of its importance. A glance at the list of former scholars of the famous Quaker boarding school at Westtown, will show the names of nearly all of the early ornithologists of the Philadelphia region, from Thomas Say down, and even today Westtown graduates constitute one of the strongest elements in the makeup of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

Part I of Mr. Burn's little work is entitled "Physical Features, Habitats, Biographical Notes and Review of Faunal Lists." All of these topics are briefly covered and illustrated by portraits of several of the more prominent ornithologists and a picture of the Westtown School in 1810.

Part II consists of an annotated list of 247 species with a hypothetical list of 16 more. Then follows a bibliography of 19 of the most important county lists, published and manuscript, and a series of notes referred to by numbers in the main text. A number of excellent half-tone reproductions of photographs of nests, eggs and young birds of various species by Thomas H. Jackson and Alfred C. Redfield illustrate this part. There are no keys or descriptions whatever and there is no call for them in a work of this kind, but the publisher in his advertising notice states that it contains "complete descriptions of the 250 bird species" of the County. With this flagrant misstatement the author of course had nothing to do.

The text under each species consists of the A. O. U. name, additional local vernacular names, a careful statement of the character of its occurrence, distribution and abundance in the county, and any important quotations or references to the published literature. Also in the case of migrants extreme dates of occurrence and averages covering the long period of Mr. Burns' observations, with the exact dates of capture or observation of rare species. The plan is excellent and but little published information seems to have escaped the author. We fail however, to find mention of the capture of the Brewster's Warbler ('Auk,' 1888, p. 115) or the observation of the Lawrence's Warbler ('Auk,' 1912, p. 247) in the county, both

¹ The Ornithology of Chester County, Pennsylvania. By Franklin Lorenzo Burns, in co-operation with local ornithologists. Boston. Richard G. Badger, The Gorham Press. 1919, 8vo. pp. 1-122. 21 half-tone illustrations. Price \$2.00 net.

of which seem worthy of mention, while the recent capture of the Red Phalarope ('Auk,' 1919, p. 419) was of course, too late for inclusion. The omission of the Gray-cheeked Thrush from the main list is surprising as it is far more common in eastern Pennsylvania than the Bicknell's and nearly or quite as abundant as the Olive-back. There are a number of Chester County specimens of the Gray-cheek in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Mr. Burns' summary of our knowledge of the ornithology of Chester County emphasizes the fact that it is still limited to the southern and eastern portions and that we have no intimate or detailed information on the bird life of the northern townships. It is regrettable that this region could not have been carefully explored and the results of the investigation included in the present volume, thus making an important addition to the historic work of the earlier writers.

The little book is well printed and attractively gotten up but we regret to say lacks the supervision of a competent editor, with the result that no less than 24 of the scientific names are misspelled, while those given for the Night Heron and Creeper are the names of the European races and not the American. The text also is often somewhat faulty in construction and occasionally ungrammatical. These faults however, do not detract from the ornithological value of the work but are regrettable as they could have been so easily eliminated and the literary character of the book been thus made fully equal to the scientific.—W. S.

Mailliard's 'Notes on the Avifauna of the Inner Coast Range of California.'¹— In this paper, Mr. Mailliard describes the results of field work carried on by himself and his assistant, Mr. Luther Little, from Mt. St. Helena, Napa County, to Mt. Sanhedrin, Mendocino County, California, during 1919. The physical features of the various localities are described and lists of the species observed are given, while the details of distribution are considered at length and much information is presented on the habits of several species.

Many of the localities being nearly upon the dividing line between the humid coast environment and the dry interior, present peculiarly interesting conditions, and Mr. Mailliard has made a valuable contribution to the zoogeography of the region. A table at the end of the paper shows at a glance the species seen and taken at each of the nine stations where stops were made.—W. S.

✓ **Bailey's 'The Raptorial Birds of Iowa.'**²— At the time of his death the late Dr. Bert Heald Bailey had nearly completed a report on the birds

¹ Notes on the Avifauna of the Inner Coast Range of California. By Joseph Mailliard Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences. Fourth Series, Vol. IX, No. 10, pp. 273-296. November 25, 1919.

² The Raptorial Birds of Iowa. Bulletin No. 6, Iowa Geological Survey. By Bert Heald Bailey, M. S., M. D. Des Moines, 1918. pp. 1-238, figs. 93. [Received November, 1919.]