

The several physical areas of the island with their characteristic birds are described and there is an account of the climate. To give one a practical idea of the size of Cuba the author states that if superimposed on the United States with one end at St Louis, the other would be at Jacksonville, Florida, while the complicated coast line is about 6800 miles, and the area about 44,000 square miles. Most Americans he finds have no conception of the large size of Cuba.

The main text of the work consists of an annotated list of the 273 species recorded from the island, the North American migrants being very briefly treated while the native species are more fully discussed, with observations on their habits and often a description of field characters to aid in identification. There is an index but no bibliography, while four excellent photogravure plates illustrate characteristic scenery and the conversion of virgin forest into cane fields.

A hasty analysis of the avifauna shows that exclusive of the water birds and Accipitres there are 70 indigenous species and 73 migrants from North America so that one may fully appreciate Dr. Barbour's statement that during October and April when the migrations are at their height there is to be seen in Cuba the greatest medley of northern and tropical types which can be seen anywhere in the world.

The author acknowledges assistance from Mr. Outram Bangs in matters of nomenclature, he having guided him through "the intricate maze of transitory change" that is "fashionable for the moment," and we thus find many innovations in names as compared with the older lists, although it is gratifying to find that there is a definite stand against the excessive multiplication of genera.

Dr. Barbour has produced an admirable volume which is most welcome, since thirty years have elapsed since the appearance of Gundlach's 'Ornithologia Cubana.'

While Dr. Barbour does not attempt to list all of the collections that have been made in Cuba or the ornithologists that have visited the island, we might add, for the sake of record, that Dr. Wm. L. Abbott made a good collection at Santiago in the eighties which is now in the Philadelphia Academy. The reviewer's pleasure in reading the pages of Dr. Barbour's attractive work has been no little enhanced by the fact that he, like some others mentioned by the author, obtained his first impressions of tropical bird life on a very brief visit to Cuba in 1890, and doubtless very many others who have visited the island in recent years will find a similar enjoyment in perusing this book, while to ornithologists interested in the Antillean fauna it will be indispensable.—W. S.

Horsfield's 'Sidelights on Birds.'—This English bird book,¹ we are told in the "Foreword" is intended "to discuss some of the problems

¹ *Sidelights on Birds. An Introduction to the Study of Bird Life.* By H. Knight Horsfield. With a foreword by W. Eagle Clarke. Illustrated by Plates after J. Wolf and A. Thorburn and photographs from nature. D. Appleton and Company, New York—MCMXXIII, pp. 1-224, 19 illustrations, one in colors. \$4.00

which have arisen as the result of our latter-day knowledge, especially on the philosophic rather than the technical side of ornithology. It undoubtedly contains in concise form much information which the general reader would not come across in the bird books to which he has access, while the author presents his subject in an attractive and interesting manner, with many a note and comment which indicate a life devoted to nature and in sympathy with the creatures of which he writes.

In part one we have the following chapter headings which will give one an idea of the scope of the book,—Structure of Birds; Nests; Eggs; Movement in Birds; Altitude and Speed of Flight; Migration; Occult Senses; Property in Bird-life; Language of Birds; Marriage; Childhood; the Bird and the Tree; The Artist and the Birds; Birds of the Poets; Birds of the Bible; Fabulous Birds. Part two consists of 'Some Celebrated Haunts' which the author has visited—Shetland, The Hebrides, Norway, Switzerland and Canada.

While the volume lives up to its object in presenting the conclusions reached in some of the more recent English bird books, it does not indicate any close familiarity with the recent literature of the ornithological journals; while the great mass of American ornithological literature is almost totally ignored. No mention is made of Dr. Watson's famous experiments which throw so much light on the subject of bird migration; nor of bird banding and its bearing on the subject, nor of the late Professor Cooke's numerous publications. Nor is there anything on the coloration of birds, a problem upon which there has been endless philosophic discussion of late years. While Mr. Horsfield and his publishers have prepared an attractive little volume which will interest the lay reader, it will not entirely meet the needs of the average American bird student who desires a full resumé of more recent ornithological knowledge.—W. S.

Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'—Part XVI of this excellent work covers the remainder of the shore-birds and the terns and carries two plates of the downy young, that of the shore birds being in colors.

Two races of the Redshank are admitted, the Greenland bird being *Tringa totanus robusta* (Schiöler). The genus *Capella* Frenzel is used in place of *Gallinago* having "unfortunate" priority and thus another familiar name sinks into synonymy. Similarly *Chlidonias* replaces *Hydrochelidon*.

The Caspian Tern is separated generically (*Hydroprogne*) but the Sandwich Tern is retained in *Sterna* and in the shore-birds not only are the "Solitary Sandpipers" and Yellow-legs all included in *Tringa* but also the representative of the Wandering Tattler, illustrating how difficult it is to effect any uniformity in generic subdivision, so long as the matter is left to personal opinion.

¹ A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Part XVI, March 7, 1923, (Part XII, October 5, 1921). 4s 6d per part.