

Bailey's 'Animal Life of the Carlsbad Cavern.'—The Carlsbad Cavern, in the Pecos Valley, New Mexico, the most spectacular cavern in North America, was first made known to the general public in 1924, through an article in the 'National Geographic Magazine,' and had been set aside as a National Monument by proclamation of President Coolidge on October 25, 1923. Mr. Vernon Bailey has prepared an account¹ of the animal life of the cave and the surrounding region which has just been published as one of the monographs of the American Society of Mammalogists.

He considers the life zones, the conspicuous plant life of the region and then the mammals, birds and reptiles; the mammals taking up most of the volume. The bird chapter occupies about thirty pages and consists of a popular running account of the more notable species with no attempt at a complete list. There are many illustrations, mainly of mammals.

The volume as a whole forms a valuable and interesting contribution to the natural history of the southwest and will prove instructive and interesting reading both to residents and to travelers in this entire region as well as those making a special trip to Carlsbad. Mr. Bailey's wide experience with the mammals and birds of the west makes the work thoroughly reliable while he has put on record many original observations. He is to be congratulated upon an excellent piece of work.—W. S.

Finleys' 'Wild Animal Pets.'—William L. and Irene Finley are well-known to all lovers of wild life through their remarkable success as photographers of nature, through their writings and through Mr. Finley's lectures.

They have now issued in book form, under the title 'Wild Animal Pets,'² a number of magazine articles dealing with pet animals which they have had from time to time under their care. Most of the sketches relate to mammals but three have to do with birds—"Don Q.—A California Quail"; "General—A California Condor" and "The Gullible Gulls."

The accounts are written in popular style and while they will prove intensely interesting reading to both children and adults they contain a vast amount of original observation and thus become important contributions to mammalogy and ornithology.

There are 72 illustrations from photographs by the authors which add greatly to the attractiveness of the little volume.—W. S.

Ornithology of the Princeton University Expedition to Patagonia.—During the work of field parties sent out from Princeton from 1896 to 1899 under J. B. Hatcher to search for fossils in Patagonia, there

¹ Animal Life of the Carlsbad Cavern. By Vernon Bailey, Biologist, United States Biological Survey. Monographs of the American Society of Mammalogists. Number 3. Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1928. pp. i-xiii, 1-195. Price \$3.00.

² Wild Animal Pets. By William Lovell and Irene Finley. Illustrated. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, London. 1928. pp. i-xiv, 1-311. Price \$3.00.

were made collections of birds, which were forwarded to the Princeton University Museum and form part of the collection of that institution. Study of these was undertaken by William Earle Dodge Scott with the collaboration of R. Bowdler Sharpe on an ambitious and comprehensive plan, that contemplated a complete report on the avifauna of the whole of Patagonia including both the Argentine and the Chilean sections. Final completion of this work has been delayed by a number of unavoidable circumstances. The first part (*Rheidae* to *Spheniscidae*) appeared July 26, 1904, and the second (*Procellariidae* to *Charadriidae*) March 3, 1910. As the death of Dr. Sharpe came in 1909, and that of Mr. Scott in 1910, further publication was a matter of some question as though the manuscript had been prepared for the third section and part of the fourth there still remained much to be completed.

Arrangements were made at this juncture with Dr. Witmer Stone to see the remainder of the work through the press, a labor that necessitated completion of the unfinished portion of the manuscript, as well as editorial examination of that already written. Under this agreement the third part (*Charadriidae* to *Anatidae*) came out April 1, 1912 and the fourth (*Anatidae* to *Tytonidae*) was issued July 8, 1915. In the latter we are told that the portion through the *Accipitriformes* was prepared by the original authors while the remaining sections on the *Strigidae* and *Tytonidae* were contributed by Dr. Stone. The incidence of the World War at this point caused further delay so that only on February 15, 1928 did the final section (*Psittacidae* to the end of the *Passeriformes*) appear under authorship of Stone.¹

The final portion has been written in general conformation with the plan of the earlier sections prepared by Scott and Sharpe, and includes treatment in systematic order with indications of orders, families and subfamilies, references to the first place of description of genera, species and subspecies, a detailed description of typical plumages, with measurements (in inches), a brief statement of range, and an account of habits and ecological status, which includes records made by naturalists of the Princeton parties and copious quotations from other writers from Darwin to authors of the present day. In the concluding sections Dr. Stone has wisely curtailed the citation of synonymy to the place of original description and a few pertinent synonyms, as the detailed references in the earlier parts had frequently little pertinence and were more confusing than helpful to the student of the ornithology of this region.

With regard to treatment it may be observed that the genus *Eustephanus* Reichenbach 1850 is used for the common Hummer instead of the earlier *Sephanoides* Gray 1840. The South American Flickers are listed in the

¹ Reports of the Princeton University Expeditions to Patagonia, 1896-1899, Vol. II, Ornithology, Part V, Psittacidae-Icteridae, cover dated 1927 but inside marked February 15, 1928, pp. 719-857, pls. II-XV, figs. 369-410, quarto, published by the University, Princeton, N. J.

genus *Colaptes* following Wetmore and Peters instead of in *Soroplex* as suggested by Ridgway, and *Henicornis wallisi* Scott is said to be the same as *Enicornis phoenicura* (Gould) as has been supposed. Apparently the present work was well along on the appearance of the last two volumes of Hellmayr's 'Birds of the Americas' as various nomenclatural changes indicated by Dr. Hellmayr are not used or considered.

As the colored plates were prepared and printed years ago there is frequent incongruity between the scientific name indicated on the plate and that accepted in the text, a matter that the author has corrected by giving the accepted name on a sheet that faces each illustration. The cuts in black and white that are scattered through the text are excellent and appeal in their sprightly attitudes to one who is familiar with many of the species in life. Structural details of certain genera will be helpful to the student.

The work will be highly useful to the student of geographic distribution in search of definite records of occurrence, while the ornithologist without extensive library facilities will find the brief descriptions and measurements taken from actual specimens a valuable assistance in the identification of specimens, for this information otherwise is difficult of access as it is found only in large and expensive catalogs or scattered widely through literature. The assembling of scattered life history material will also assist in determining information to be sought by collectors and students engaged locally in this field.

Too often when some extensive work is interrupted by the passing of those who instituted the original plan the scheme has necessarily to be abandoned through the difficulty of interesting others in its completion. Such tasks are frequently somewhat thankless and distasteful labor as the editor chosen does not have the thrill of initiation of the project and further may not wholly approve the method of treatment that has been outlined. In the present instance the author is to be congratulated upon the excellent manner in which he has fulfilled his duties and carried out the plan originated by his predecessors. The completed work will prove useful for years to come for students of the Patagonian fauna.—A. W.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XXX, No. 1. January-February, 1928.

A Woodcock on its Nest. By Tappan Gregory.—Exceptionally fine photographs of the bird and nest.

Mallards on the Prairie. By H. H. Pittman.

Christmas Bird Censuses.—There are 163 reports from east of the Mississippi River of which that for the Bronx Region, N. Y., with eleven observers records 73 species while the Cape May, N. J., report with five observers is second, with 71. It is interesting to note that only 44 species are identical on these two lists giving a combined total of 100 while we note