

photograph taken at a distance of five feet. She seemed to feel that the two little pearls under her were perfectly safe in her keeping, and I am happy to add that she was not disappointed. On the 17th of April a set of two eggs of the same species was found on the point of hatching.

A nest of the Bush-Tit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) containing seven fresh eggs was noted April 12. One of the most curious changes in nesting habits has occurred this season in a colony of Brewer's Blackbirds (*Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*.) In previous years they have nested in holes of the Red-shafted Flicker high up in some dead firs, but a visit a few days ago disclosed the remarkable fact that every bird is nesting in gooseberry bushes, no more than three feet from the ground. There is no apparent reason for this change of some seventy-five feet in altitude, for the holes used in previous seasons still appear to be in as good condition as ever.

J. H. BOWLES, Tacoma, Wash.

Western Winter Wren in Santa Clara Co., Cal.—I notice that Mr. Van Denburgh's county list does not give the Western Winter Wren (*Anorthura hiemalis pacifica*) as occurring in Santa Clara County. One specimen was taken Feb. 17, 1900, at Stevens Creek by a party of Stanford students, and is now in my collection.

ROBERT E. BRUCE, Stanford University, Cal.

Book Reviews

BIRD STUDIES WITH A CAMERA.—By Frank M. Chapman, pp. 214, with numerous half-tone illustrations. D. Appleton & Co., New York. Cloth. \$1.75.

In this day of bird photography, when enthusiasts are afield by the score each summer seeking out the haunts of nesting birds, it is a pleasure to be taken into the confidence of one who speaks not authoritatively of his own work, but whose results bear eloquent testimony of his adaptability to bird photography. Unquestionably Mr. Chapman holds the position in America which the Kearton Bros. have long held in England,—that of the most successful portrayer of bird life with the camera.

In his substantially entertaining book Mr. Chapman does not stop to indulge in photographic theories and the like, but proceeds at once to illustrate his subject in a most pleasing manner. After discussing briefly and generally the apparatus necessary for successful field work, and explaining the work which may be expected of the various patterns of lenses, the author has combined his experiences into appropriate groups and takes the reader afield with him to witness, in imagination, just how the various negatives were secured.

There is not a dry paragraph in the book, nor scarcely one which does not relate Mr. Chapman's personal experiences, all of which gives the work immeasurably greater interest than would a mere treatise on the subject. The chapter delineating the home life of the Chickadee and portraying a family of nine fledglings is one of the most delightful in the book, although the chapter devoted to photography in a swamp would prove a close second.

Over 100 excellent half-tone illustrations by the author, depicting marsh, land, shore and sea birds in their homes, lend additional charm to the volume. Those who have already engaged in similar work afield will find many excellent suggestions in the work, while the beginner will be enthusiastically impressed with the field of delightful possibilities which lies before him. *Bird Studies With a Camera* is easily the most striking and valuable work on bird photography which has appeared in America.—C. B.

A MONOGRAPH OF THE FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*).—By Frank L. Burns. Wilson Bulletin No. 31. April, 1900, pp. 82. One plate.

Another substantial publication is credited to the Wilson Ornithological Chapter in the appearance of this exceedingly complete publication. Mr. Burns has collaborated his results in a more systematic and pleasing manner than even that which marked the able Crow Bulletin issued under his supervision some years ago, and the present publication is in fact what the name implies,—a monograph. The paper opens with a list of the scientific and vernacular synonyms of this species, the latter reaching the surprising number of 88, and giving the localities in which each name is current. The life history of the species is then taken up in consecutive chapters such as Geographical Distribution, Flight, Migration, Roosting, Voice, Mating, Nidification, Eggs, Incubation, Young, Molt, Food, Plumage, Hybridism, Atavism, each chapter being singularly valuable in its deductions. The entire paper is obviously the product of careful study and thought and embraces notes from a wide list of field workers. This monograph should be in the library of every working ornithologist.

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