

Mississippi, and it has remained for Mrs. Bailey to supply the very pressing need in the west. The book is in every way adequate and will certainly exert a very wholesome influence on bird-study in the west, no doubt stimulating to good work many who, heretofore for lack of proper literature, have felt their enthusiasm scarcely equal to the task of mastering our perplexing avifauna. I suppose there is scarcely a Cooper Club member who has not longed for a handy little volume to carry to the mountains or elsewhere during excursions afield. The "Handbook" will supply this want.

The book opens with an essay by Vernon Bailey on "Collecting and Preparing Birds, Nests and Eggs," which will prove very useful to the beginner. This is followed by sections on: "Note-taking, Note-books and Journals," "Life Zones," with chart; "Migration," "Economic Ornithology," "Bird Protection" by T. S. Palmer, and "Local Lists," giving lists of birds from Portland (A. W. Anthony); San Francisco Bay (water birds, W. H. Kobbe); Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mts. (land birds, W. K. Fisher); Pasadena (J. Grinnell); Ft. Sherman, Idaho; Cheyenne, Wyo.; Pinal, Pima and Gila Counties, Arizona. Following this comes "Books of Reference," including general works, periodicals, state lists, special subjects and popular works. For the benefit of the beginner is a note on "Use of the Keys."

The systematic portion, which treats of species west of the one-hundredth meridian is divided into Water Birds and Land Birds, very clear and concise keys being given to the orders and families of each. The line figures of feet and heads render the use of these keys especially easy. There are likewise genera and species keys in their proper places. Under each genus heading is given a short statement of general characters, and the accounts of species include a brief description of plumages, together with a note on distribution, the description of nest and eggs, food, and in most cases a sketch of the habits and personality of the bird. Many of these biographical notes have been contributed by Vernon Bailey. The text is further embellished with figures of birds, and heads, from drawings, and from photographs of skins. It is unfortunate that the requirements of space necessitated an over-reduction of some of the illustrations, and thereby impaired their usefulness. This is true of only a small portion. The task of finding a bird's name has surely been reduced to a minimum. We believe it has again been demonstrated that the easiest way to identify a bird is to begin at the bottom, and to progress by using characters of real weight in classification. Many ultra-popular books have attempted to point out a royal road with grotesque keys, founded on superficial and "catch" characters, which, besides being totally inadequate, must have left the novice in a very hazy state of mind.

In nomenclature the author has wisely conformed to the A. O. U. Check-list "except that modern scientific usage has been followed in dropping the possessive form in vernacular names of species." In the rather difficult task of fitting the Check-list to our western avifauna, she has been singularly successful, largely by the sensible course of including the many recently described forms in foot-notes, with references to the original description. With this equipment both 'splitter' and 'lumper' should feel equally at home with the "Handbook."

This short notice would be eminently incomplete if mention were not made of the thirty-six well-executed full-page plates by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. Especially worthy of praise are all of them, but we find it difficult to control our enthusiasm in the case of several, particularly the Northern Raven, which is herewith reprinted, thru the courtesy of the publishers. Mr. Fuertes work is always good, but we believe this about his best.

It is difficult to do justice to a book of this character in so brief a space, and as we have already given our candid opinion of it we would close by advising all readers of this magazine to procure a copy.—WALTER K. FISHER.

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA: A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF THE HIGHER GROUPS, [etc., 6 lines]. By ROBERT RIDGWAY. Part II. Family Tanagridæ.—The Tanagers. Family Icteridæ.—The Troupials. Family Cœrebidæ.—The Honey Creepers. Family Mniotiltidæ.—The Wood Warblers. Washington: [October] 1902. (=Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 50, Part II.) Pp. i-xx, 1-834, plates I-XXII. (Outline figures of generic characters).

Part II of Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" arrived on this coast in the latter part of October, a little less than a year after the first volume. Considering the immense amount of work involved it is still more surprising when we learn from the Preface that the remaining volumes are expected to go to press from now on "at the rate of two a year." Even granting that Mr. Ridgway has been compiling the subject-matter for many years, one cannot help wondering at the amount of work required alone in keeping the synonymies up to date, for we find references quoted well into 1902.

The general plan of the whole work has already been referred to, in the CONDOR of January, 1902. It happens that the present installment has mostly to do with tropical groups, including

the numerous tanagers, troupials and honey creepers. Its bearing on California ornithology is not so great as that of Part I because fewer of our species are treated. These are mostly warblers, and among them a new form is named, *Wilsonia pusilla chryseola*, the golden pileolated warbler. Unfortunately neither type nor type locality is indicated, though we may judge the latter to be somewhere in southern California. The form is readily distinguishable from the Alaskan race, *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*, by smaller size and much yellower coloration.

*Dendroica townsendi* is said to breed "from mountains of southern California" northward. We were not aware that the species had ever been found nesting within the state. California is denied a record of *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*. A very good one would have been found in Belding's "Land Birds of the Pacific District," which by the way seems to us as citable in synonymy as any paper ever published on West Coast birds. But these possible lapses are not serious and no one could be expected to compile a work covering so large a region without falling into at least a small percentage of errors.

We are informed that Part III will be out before long. This will deal with the swallows, shrikes, vireos, crows, jays, titmice, nuthatches, creepers, wrens, etc., all groups well represented in our ornithology. Consequently we shall await Part III with unusual anticipation. It is not exaggerating to aver that Mr. Ridgway is accomplishing the largest and most useful piece of systematic bird work ever carried out by one man.—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

BIRDS OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. By H. W. HENSHAW. Thos. G. Thrum, Publisher, Honolulu, H. T. 12 mo. 146 pages, 1 plate. Price \$1.00.

In this admirable paper Mr. Henshaw has brought together in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, the result of his studies on Hawaiian birds. As a sympathetic and keen observer of Nature, the author is well known, and the present treatise is easily the best work we have on the 'natural history' of the island avifauna.

Part I consists of introductory matter, describing Hawaii as an Ornithological Field, Obstacles to Ornithological Studies in Hawaiian Islands, Destruction of Hawaiian Forests, Environmental Changes Disastrous to Hawaiian Birds, Faunal Zones, Diseases of Hawaiian Birds, Origin of Hawaiian Birds, Ornithological Knowledge of Hawaiian Natives, and History of Ornithological Investigations in the Islands, all of which is remarkably interesting reading. Part II is the 'Descriptive' portion. Under each species is given a biographical sketch and a short description. The author's wide field experience with the birds of Hawaii is supplemented by information from Rothschild's, and Wilson's works. It is probable that few persons in this country have any conception of the difficulties attending the observation of native land birds in the islands. Mr. Henshaw's contribution is therefore so much the more valuable, and it is fortunate that the Hawaiian avifauna is now being so carefully studied, for many forms will doubtless soon disappear.

Ten exotic species have become naturalized in the group. Our own linnet is very much at home, and the California quail once was more abundant than now. The skylark is also common on some of the islands.

A table showing the distribution of birds "by islands" concludes this valuable paper.—WALTER K. FISHER.

A BIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE HUDSON BAY REGION (N. A. Fauna, No. 12) is a valuable piece of faunal work by Edward A. Preble.

BIRDS OF A MARYLAND FARM is a very suggestive paper on "A Local Study of Economic Ornithology" by Dr. Sylvester D. Judd. The author confined his investigations to a farm on the Potomac River, and secured some interesting results. (Div. of Biological Survey, Bulletin 17.)

Messrs. Dana Estes & Co. announce that the fifth revised edition of the KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS by Dr. Elliott Coues, will be ready in the spring of 1903. The unusual delay has been caused by the difficult 'copy' which tho complete at the time of Dr. Coues' death, was rendered hard to decipher without the exercise of the most intelligent care by reason of innumerable interlineations, erasures, abbreviations, 'riders' and detached notes written in a minute and sometimes difficult handwriting. The prospectus includes many attractive features.