

Mr. Fowler Nov. 5, 1892. It is said to be a tolerably common winter resident. *Passerella iliaca schistacea*. A specimen has been examined which was taken by Mr. H. Kimball Nov. 20, 1894, in the Huachuca mountains. *Progne subis hesperia*. Purple martins were seen about the Post May 4 and again May 15, 1892. *Dendroica virens*. An adult male was examined which was secured by Mr. R. D. Lusk in Ramsay canyon May 9, 1895. It may be stated that the record of the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) in Bulletin No. 1 is based on an erroneous identification and should refer to the house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*).

*Turdus guttatus auduboni* and *Regulus calendula* breed in the Chiricahua mountains where nests were found in 1894, and it is therefore probable that they will be found in some of the more inaccessible parts of the Huachucas in summer. This general area including the Huachuca mountains and the more extensive Chiricahua range to the eastward affords one of the most inviting fields in the United States for carrying on ornithological studies. The presence of many Mexican species which find congenial homes in the many numerous canyons among the heavier timber of the upper parts, furnish a strong incentive for continued search after other rareties.—A. K. FISHER.

BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA, An Introduction to More than Three Hundred Common Birds of the State and Adjacent Islands with a Supplementary List of Rare Migrants, Accidental Visitants, and Hypothetical Subspecies. By IRENE GROSVENOR WHEELOCK. With ten full page plates and seventy-eight drawings in the text by Bruce Horsfall. Chicago. A. C. McClurg & Co., 1904 (February) pp. I-XXVIII, 1-578.

In this volume of 600 pages the publishers have taken much care to provide a book of pleasing appearance. The flexible green covers and excellent quality of paper contribute to an agreeable ease in handling. The numerous illustrations are mostly quite good for their kind. But we regret that we cannot recommend so highly the accompanying text. The many misstatements and slighter inaccuracies seem to indicate a limited knowledge of our literature, as well as an inadequate personal acquaintance with many of the common species. To be frank, there are so many obvious slips, that we cannot help doubting the general trustworthiness of the book throughout. The rapid increase in our knowledge of birds and their habits requires the exercise of judicious discrimination on the part of anyone who feels called upon to compile life-histories, together with long and intimate acquaintance with the birds themselves. Perhaps an occasional resort to the gun would have resulted in a less sweeping generalization in regard to "regurgitation" than is hurled at the reader in the preface! We can agree that the "Birds of California" is much of it written in an interesting style, and is sure to be read with interest by the popular contingent. Of course an error now and then is not likely to be detected by the susceptible amateur, so that the book may be appreciated just the same. Yet it does not appear to us up to the standard of exactness demanded in the present stage of California ornithology. In view of the above remarks, detailed criticism seems hardly worth while.—J. GRINNELL.

A REVISION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN MAINLAND SPECIES OF MYIARCHUS. By E. W. NELSON. From Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XVII, March 10, 1904, pp. 21-50.

Mr. Nelson has given the North American mainland species of Myiarchus a thorough overhauling in the present paper which covers all the species and subspecies of the genus known to occur in the mainland of North America north of the Isthmus of Panama. In addition, the birds of Cozumel Island near the coast of Yucatan, and the Tres Marias Islands off the coast of Tepic, western Mexico, have been included.

"The genus Myiarchus appears to reach its greatest development in the American tropics, including the West Indies, with a limited number of forms ranging well up into temperate North America. These most northerly representatives of the genus are *cinerascens*, which reaches the northern border of the Upper Sonoran zone on the west coast in Oregon, and *crinitus* which crosses the Transition zone of eastern America to southern Canada and New Brunswick. *M. lawrencei* and its subspecies is the most widely distributed of the North American species, with a breeding range extending from the Isthmus of Panama to Southern Arizona and the Tres Marias Islands. The species of most limited distribution is probably *M. yucatanensis*, found only on the peninsula of Yucatan and on Cozumel Island."

The introduction also touches upon questions of nomenclature, the moult, and calls attention to the fact that the dusky pattern on the tail feathers of rufous-tailed species has a considerable range of variation in extent. *Myiarchus nuttingi* from Arizona thus turns out to be the female of *cinerascens*. "By the examination of several hundred specimens of the various species it has been demonstrated that the dusky pattern on the inner webs of the outer tail feathers (and to a similar degree on the inner tail feathers) of *cinerascens*, *mexicanus*, *crinitus*, and *nuttingi* with

their subspecies have a wide range of variation in extent, though usually preserving a characteristic outline, although at times this also disappears. Thus we have the dusky area practically gone on the inner web of the outer tail feather of some of the females of *cinerascens*, producing a feather exactly as in *nuttingi*."

Nineteen species and subspecies are recognized of which three, *M. lawrencei bangsi*, *M. l. querulus*, and *M. l. tresmariae* are new. A key to the species and subspecies of the genus is also given.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO. By E. W. NELSON. From Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington XVI, Nov. 30, 1903, pp. 151-160.

Mr. Nelson gives descriptions of thirteen new species of Mexican birds from the collection of the Biological Survey. One of the most remarkable of these is the Omilteme jay, *Cyanolyca mirabilis*, from Omilteme, Guerrero. It is marked with a band of silvery white extending across forehead and back over the eyes behind the ear coverts to unite with a large white area covering the throat and under side of neck. The rest of the head is black and the body dull indigo blue.

A NEW GROUSE FROM CALIFORNIA. By FRANK M. CHAPMAN. From Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. History, XX, Art. XI, pp. 159-162, April 25, 1904.

Mr. Chapman has described the common grouse of the Sierra Nevada Mts., under the name *Dendragapus obscurus sierrae*, the type coming from Echo, El Dorado Co. It is a much paler bird than *fuliginosus*, and although probably derived from this form looks more like *obscurus*. The range is: "California in the forested portions of the Transition and Boreal zones, 'east of the humid coast belt, and south through the Sierras to Mount Pinos' (Grinnell); north to Fort Klamath, Oregon."

ADDITIONAL NOTES TO SUMMER BIRDS OF FLATHEAD LAKE, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SWAN LAKE. By PERLEY MILTON SILLOWAY, Bull. University of Montana, No. 18, Biological Series No. 6. 1903, pp. 291-308, 5 plates.

This paper includes a description of the physiographical features of Swan Lake, Montana, and under Oological Notes, additional observations on the nests and eggs of a considerable list of species. Under Notes on New Birds are listed with annotations eleven species not included in the "Summer Birds of Flathead Lake." The paper concludes with a list of all the summer birds which have been observed about Flathead Lake, numbering 137. A nest of the willow thrush was found in the swampy area near the station. "Instead of being situated near the ground, it was six and one-half feet above, in an upright crotch of an oblique thorny sapling. The nest was typical of the willow thrush in construction, but the site was so unusual in my experience that I collected the owner for complete identification." Numerous other interesting notes bear witness to Mr. Silloway's careful observation and industry.

BIRD LIFE STORIES, BOOK ONE, by CLARENCE MOORES WEED, is a collection of biographies of twenty-four common birds compiled from the writings of Audubon, Bendire, Nuttall and Wilson. These four writers, as the compiler states "are especially notable for the absorbing interest with which they pursued the study of birds. They were all original investigators, exploring the trackless wilderness in their search for knowledge." Each sketch is followed by a short paragraph defining the geographical distribution of the species. There are also twenty-four portraits from mounted specimens reproduced by the three color process. This book which is to be followed by two others, is intended for use in the higher grades, for which purpose it should prove acceptable. (Square 12 mo, 86 pages, 12 plates; Rand, McNally & Co.)

IN BIRDS FROM BENGUET PROVINCE, LUZON, AND FROM THE ISLANDS OF LUBANG, MINDORA, CUYO AND CAGAYANCILLO (Bull. Philippine Mus. 3, Jan. 30, 1904) Richard C. McGregor records all identified species of birds collected or observed on recent expeditions to the above localities. The paper includes zoographical notes, accounts of undescribed plumages and notes on the rarer species.

BIRD-LORE for March-April is an unusually attractive number, and contains three general articles, all very readable. The splendid series of warbler plates is continued, there being two in this number, the frontispiece representing the Canadian and Wilson, and the second plate the black-throated green and golden-cheeked. There are three pages of Notes from Field and Study, and the Audubon Society Section concludes with Educational Leaflet No. 8, The March Hawk, by William Dutcher, illustrated by L. A. Fuertes. For Teachers and Students contains the third instalment of The Migration of Warblers by W. W. Cooke. Under "The Warbler Book" the editor asks for cooperation of bird students in securing information regarding the habits of warblers, as noted in another column of this issue.