

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

A whole book devoted to a single species of bird is a novelty. The idea might not prove a success in very many cases; but it certainly does in the present instance. Readable thru-out is MERSHON'S THE PASSENGER PIGEON. Even of absorbing interest are the historical accounts of the vast flights and nestings of the bird. The author's own boyhood experiences are incorporated and there is some other previously unpublished material. But the book is avowedly, and of necessity, a compilation. In the one volume we find brought together practically all that has been recorded concerning the Passenger Pigeon.

It was soon after the year 1880 that the species, existing previously in millions, largely disappeared; and since 1886 has it only occasionally been noted. A few evidently still inhabit the states of Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin; and a "large flock" is said to have been seen in Greene County, New York, in April, 1906.

"Many theories have been advanced to account for the disappearance of the wild pigeons, among them that their migration may have been overwhelmed by some cyclonic disturbance of the atmosphere which destroyed their myriads at one blow. The big 'nesting' of 1878 in Michigan was undoubtedly the last large migration, but the pigeons continued to nest in Michigan and the North for several years after that * * *. Therefore the pigeons did not become extinct in a day * * *. The cutting off of the forests and food supply interfered with their plan of existence and drove them into new localities, and the ever increasing slaughter could not help but lessen their once vast numbers."

If space permitted we could quote selected pages of interesting accounts of habits, food, methods of netting, shooting and marketing; but we must only refer our readers to the book itself. An attractive feature are the colored plates of the Passenger Pigeon by Fuertes, and of the Band-tailed Pigeon by Brooks. All records of the Passenger Pigeon from the Rocky Mountains westward doubtless refer to the Band-tailed Pigeon.—J. G.

An ingenious and doubtless useful adjunct for the aid of the amateur is GERBERDING'S BIRD NOTE BOOK 2. It is of the separate-leaf style, with fillers of several sorts. One of

these, by means of what look like short-hand symbols, serves for the record of previously unidentified species. Another serves for the recording of subsequent field notes.—J. G.

THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA, by FRANK M. CHAPMAN, impresses us as a worthy undertaking well carried out. It seems to be above criticism from a technical standpoint, and indeed its author is sufficient guarantee of its accuracy. In this respect it is a refreshingly trustworthy book as compared with many other popular works by less experienced ornithologists.

There are no keys, but these are unnecessary in view of the beautiful and accurate colored plates. The chief distinguishing characters are concisely stated for each species and subspecies in their various plumages.

While the migration data and illustrations have previously appeared in *Bird-Lore*, much of the biographical matter is wholly new. A large number of observers have contributed to the fund of information set forth, and this cooperative feature has in this instance proven very successful. Many of the MS-quoted sketches of our western birds are from the pen of Dr. W. K. Fisher, and a good deal is quoted from various other authors as originally recorded in THE CONDOR.

Mr. Chapman's general discussions of the Distribution of Warblers, Migration of Warblers, and Mortality Among Warblers are well-considered and instructive. To one statement, however, we would take exception: "The death-rate among North American Warblers is doubtless higher than that which prevails in any other family of American birds." It is generally accepted as an axiom that the yearly death-rate equals the birth-rate (that is, on an average among all birds, for some species may be increasing in numbers from year to year while others are decreasing). As the Warblers lay 4 or 5 eggs per year on an average, probably nearer the first number, certainly their death-rate cannot be as great as that of the Titmouse Family (*Paridae*) in which 6 eggs are deposited, or the Wren Family (*Troglodytidae*) with 6 or 7. And how about the Kinglets, Ducks, Pheasants, Grouse and Quail!

The plan of THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA is logical, and the whole treatment satisfying. The present reviewer can heartily recommend the volume to amateur and advanced student alike.—J. G.

1 The Passenger Pigeon | By | W. B. Mershon | [Vignette] | New York | The Outing Publishing Company | 1907 (our copy received May 8)—pages i-xii, 1-225, 9 full-page plates, 3 in color.

2 Bird Note Book, for use in Identification of Wild Birds as seen in their native haunts. Devised and Published by Richard H. Gerberding, 1319 Waveland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 1906.

3 The Warblers | of | North America | by | Frank M. Chapman | with the cooperation of other ornithologists | with twenty-four full-page colored plates, illustrating every species, from drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes | and Bruce Horsfall, and half-tones | of nests and eggs | [Vignette] | New York | D. Appleton & Company | 1907 [Received April 5]—pages i-x, 1-306, plates I-XXIV (colored), 12 half-tones.

In December last, appeared the concluding number of *THE WARBLER*, published and edited by MR. JOHN LEWIS CHILDS at Floral Park, New York. It had been hoped that increasing support would have warranted the continuance of this magazine indefinitely. But unfortunately, as announced by its Editor in the last issue, subscriptions had amounted to less than ten per cent of the cost of maintaining the magazine. This is, of course, deplorable. But the same has been true of most other bird periodicals, and the few that persist owe their support to other means than that afforded by subscriptions alone.

The features of *THE WARBLER*, as originally intended, were the publication of strictly original matter pertaining to the rarer North American birds, and, to accompany these, colored plates of previously unfigured nests and eggs. These features are commendably maintained thruout the two complete volumes of the magazine which appeared. In spite of its having lived so brief a time, the two volumes are sure to become in greater and greater demand wherever ornithological libraries are forming. No student can overlook the records and descriptions therein contained.

THE WARBLER ("Second Series," tho the first series seems to have been so unimportant as to have attracted little attention) ran thru 1905 and 1906, a volume to each year, and four numbers to each volume. Its appearance was somewhat irregular, tho it generally came out in March, June, September and December of each year. Volume I contained 128 pages, 8 colored plates, and 32 half-tone illustrations. Volume II contained 108 pages, 4 colored plates and 13 half-tone illustrations.

It is the purpose of the present reviewer to call attention only to the strictly Western material which found record in this periodical. In Number 1 of Volume I appears a colored plate of three eggs of the Olive Warbler (*Dendroica olivacea*) collected by O. W. Howard in the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona. The plate is accompanied by brief notes (unsigned, so probably editorial). In the same issue is a brief account by H. R. Taylor of the Alameda Song Sparrow (*Melospiza cinerea pusillula*). In Number 2 of Volume I, John Lewis Childs contributes some "California Notes," which deal with the Golden Eagle (nesting in San Diego County, California), Western Gull, Anna Hummingbird, California Partridge, Snow Goose, and English Sparrow. In Number 3 of Volume I, P. B. Peabody writes of "The Tolmie Warbler in Wyoming," illustrated with a halftone of a nest and eggs. In the same issue appears a colored plate of three eggs of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*), accompanied by a brief editorial note. This is the set taken by Bar-

low and discribed by him in *THE CONDOR*, Volume IV, pages 107-111. In Number 4 of Volume I of *THE WARBLER* is a colored illustration of an egg of the Clarke Nutcracker, taken by H. C. Johnson in Utah. Short (editorial) notes are appended. In the same number P. B. Peabody describes the habits of "The Long-tailed Chickadee" as observed by him in Wyoming. Two half-tones show a nesting site and nest. There also appears in this issue a half-tone photograph of a nest and eggs of the Western Gull, taken by O. W. Howard on Santa Barbara Island.

Number 1 of Volume II opens with a colored plate in part showing four eggs of the Dusky Warbler (*Helminthophila celata sordida*) on San Clemente Island. An account of the taking of these is given by the collector, O. W. Howard. An interesting fact discovered is that this race nests high from the ground in bushes or small trees and not, as with its relatives, on the ground. In the same issue P. B. Peabody describes at length the nesting of "The Desert Horned Lark" in Wyoming, with three half-tone illustrations; and Harry H. Dunn tells about "The California Bush-Tit." In Number 2 of Volume II the frontispiece colored plate illustrates two sets of four eggs each. One is of the "Santa Barbara Flycatcher (*Empidonax insulicola*)" taken by O. W. Howard on Santa Catalina Island, with a brief explanatory note. It will, however, be remembered that we hold that there is no form on the Islands distinct from the ordinary Western Flycatcher of the mainland. The other illustration is of the eggs of the Gray Flycatcher taken in the San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. Accompanying this is an extended article by Joseph Grinnell on the "Nesting of the Gray Flycatcher in California," accompanied by a half-tone picture of a nest. In the plate caption the scientific name of this species is given as "*Empidonax griseus canescens*," an impossible combination, introduced thru error, as later acknowledged by the Editor. The correct name, as we have lately been informed, is not even *E. canescens*, but *Empidonax griseus* Brewster. In the same number P. B. Peabody discusses at length the "Pinyon Jay" from his experiences with the bird in Wyoming; 3 half-tones lend vividness to the account. In Number 3 of Volume II, the eggs of the Salt Marsh Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*) are illustrated in color, from a set taken by H. R. Taylor. P. B. Peabody tells about the "Rocky Mountain Nuthatch" in Wyoming, presenting four half-tones of birds and nesting sites. And Harry H. Dunn gives a brief account of "The Gnatcatchers of Southern California." The only plate in Number 4 of Volume II shows in color the nest and eggs of the Blue-throated Hum-

mingbird (*Cæligena clemenciae*) taken by the late George F. Breninger in the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona. The Number and the Volume close with a complete catalog of the Ornithological Collection of Mr. John Lewis Childs, in which Western birds and eggs are especially well represented. In fact there are extremely few species lacking.—J. G.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

MAY.—An open meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held in Linderman Hall, in Alameda, Cal., on May 11, 1907, and a very interesting program was presented to a large assemblage of members and visitors.

Mayor E. K. Taylor of Alameda gave a short address, welcoming the Club to Alameda and encouraging them in their work. He emphasized the need of educating the people to understand the economic importance of birds and cited the case of the recent bird-bill, which was defeated several times and then passed with a large majority, due not only to the efforts of those interested, but also to the growing intelligence of the people.

Mr. C. A. Vogelsang of the State Fish and Game Commission then addressed the meeting and related some of the difficulties attending his work. He further said, that if the Cooper Club, the Audubon Society, and the Game Commission would get together, he believed that any good bird-law could be gotten thru the legislature.

J. S. Hunter then gave a very interesting talk concerning the recent explorations of the California Academy of Sciences Expedition to the Galapagos, of which he was a member. He spoke of the peoples and their customs, the physical features of the islands, and of the birds. He believes that many of the land birds of the Galapagos group of islands, represent species in process of formation, because of the many intermediates still remaining between the widely different types. This expedition was very successful and Mr. Hunter was able to relate but few of the interesting facts discovered by it, in the short time allotted to him.

After the program there was a short business session. B. R. Bales of Circleville, Ohio, and Jesse C. A. Meeker of Danbury, Conn., were proposed for membership. The following were elected to active membership: W. F. McAtee, Biol. Surv., Wash. D. C.; John F. Ferry, Field Museum, Chicago, Ill.; A. O. Treganza, 62 Hooper Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah; Dr. and Mrs. Clark Burnham, 2335 War-

ring Street, Berkeley, Cal. The resignation of R. E. Snodgrass was held over until the next meeting. H. O. Jenkins then resigned from the office of Secretary owing to his expected absence from the center of Club meetings, and R. S. Wheeler of 1417 Grand Street, Alameda, Cal., was appointed by the President to act as Secretary until the annual election of officers in January. Meeting adjourned.

H. O. JENKINS, *Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCH.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order by Vice-President Willett, in the office of H. J. Lelande in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Cal., March 28, 1907, with members Lelande, Robertson, Wicks, Dixon, Antonin and Alphonse Jay, Linton and Law present, and Mr. Howard S. Reed, of Santa Fe, N. M., as visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting, Feb. 28, 1907, were read and approved. On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Lelande, and duly carried, Mr. W. L. McAtee of Washington, D. C. was elected to active membership in the Club, subject to the approval of the Club-at-Large.

On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Dixon, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to take up the matter of Club land with Mr. Will Judson, and get a definite report and proposition in writing in regard to terms of acquiring a Club reserve.

A paper on the Pallid Wren-Tit, by Wright M. Pierce was read. It described the experiences of the writer in and about Claremont, Cal., with this little bird and its nesting.

Mr. Reed brought up the subject of a Public Museum in Los Angeles, and a long discussion of ways, etc. was indulged in. Mr. Reed urges strongly active efforts to establish one. Adjourned. J. EUGENE LAW, *Secretary*.

APRIL.—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was called to order by President Morcom, at 4 o'clock P. M., April 28, 1907, on the west veranda of his suburban home, 1875 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, Cal. This proved a most appropriate spot for a club meeting, surrounded as this home is by every kind of shrub and tree that make a southern California home attractive, with bird life never more abundant. The members fortunate enough to be a part of this glorious afternoon were Miss Tarbell, Messrs. Grinnell, Clifton, Robertson, Rising, Miller, Chambers, Antonin and Alphonse Jay, Cosper, Watson, Taylor, Chamberlain and Law, and Miss Parker visiting.

Quite as important as the meeting itself, however, at least in the eyes of those present,