

The following notice appeared in the *Portland Oregonian* for December 8, 1907:

"A consignment of European song birds was received last week by C. F. Pfluger, secretary of the Portland Songbird Club. The consignment consisted of song thrushes, chaff and goldfinches, black caps and skylarks. The birds were imported direct from the Hanover district in Germany and from England. Seventy pairs of the birds were placed in the aviary at the City Park to be sheltered until Spring, when they will be liberated. Sixty pairs of skylarks were also forwarded to bird clubs in Washington, Yamhill, Marion, Clatsop and Multnomah Counties, where they will later be set free.

"The Portland Club is also making arrangements for the importation of mocking birds, which are expected to reach this city early next Spring. Much good will result from the addition of these birds, as they are known to be effective insect exterminators, and are active, hardy and well adapted to the climate of this section."

Perhaps some such idiotic procedure as the above accounts for the record of the Chaffinch at Monterey (see *CONDOR* VIII, March, 1906, p. 58). The next thing we know we will have Chaffinches and Goldfinches to deal with along with the "English Sparrow problem." The Audubon Societies should bend their efforts against the introduction of foreign birds, if they wish to keep our native avifauna intact.

Mr. Finley suggests that the popularity of the introduction idea in Oregon is probably due to the importation of the "China Pheasant," so successful, at least from the sportsman's standpoint.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

AMERICAN BIRDS | STUDIED AND PHOTOGRAPHED FROM LIFE | By WILLIAM LOVELL FINLEY | Illustrated from Photographs by | Herman T. Bohlman | and the Author | Charles Scribner's Sons | New York | 1907 (our copy received December 10, 1907). Pp. I-XVI, 1-256, 127 halftones on book plate paper. (\$1.50.)

This is the most attractive popular bird book of the year. In fact it contains the greatest number of photographic illustrations, and illustrations of the greatest scientific value, of any book we have ever seen. The following well-stated epitome of the scope of the book constitutes part of the Prefatory Note:

"An important and sometimes difficult phase in the study of bird life is to observe accurately and report without false interpretation the habits and actions of birds. The naturalist who uses the camera in the field often has the

advantage of backing his observations with proof (not an unimportant thing in nature writing of today), and if he produces good authentic photographs, one may be quite sure they were not secured without patient waiting and a careful study of his subjects.

"In this book no attempt has been made to include all the different bird families, but a series of representative birds from the hummingbird to the eagle has been selected. Each chapter represents a close and continued study with camera and notebook at the home of some bird or group of birds,—a true life history of each species. It is the bird as a live creature, its real wild personality and character, that I have tried to portray.

"Many of these studies were made in the West, but in the list of birds treated an effort has been made to get a selection that is national in scope. In the popular mind a song sparrow is a song sparrow from ocean to ocean, yet scientifically he represents over a dozen subspecies, according to the part of the country in which he lives. To the ordinary bird lover, however, a robin is the same east and west, and the same is true of the chickadee, flicker, wren, grosbeak, vireo, warbler, hawk, and others dealt with in the following chapters."

The twenty-one chapters are titled as follows: The Hummingbird at Home; The Chickadee; Photographing Flickers; The Yellowthroat; A Family of Grosbeaks; The Red-tailed Hawk; Jack Crow; The Owl, Bird of Night; Rearing a Wren Family; The Weaver of the West; Jimmy the Butcher-bird; The Warbler and His Ways; Kingfishers; Sparrow Row; Two Studies in Blue; Basket Makers, The Vireo and Oriole; Phoebe; A Pair of Cousins—Robin and Thrush; Gull Habits; In a Heron Village; The Eagle of Mission Ridge.

We feel a sort of pride in looking over this book, for it is a product of the West. Both Mr. Finley and Mr. Bohlman are western students, and the present results of their work is in no way inferior to that of the East or that of Europe. We heartily recommend the book to everyone.—J. G.

EVOLUTION AND ANIMAL LIFE | an elementary discussion of | facts, processes, laws and theories relating | to the life and evolution of animals | by | DAVID STARR JORDAN | President of Leland Stanford Junior University | and | VERNON LYMAN KELLOGG | Professor of Entomology, and Lecturer in Bionomics | in Leland Stanford Junior University | [quotation] | [vignette] | New York | D. Appleton and Company | 1907 [our copy received Oct. 1, 1907]; pp. I-XII, 1-490, 3 colored plates (of birds), 298 text figures.

No person can be a thoroughly successful special-

ist in any one field of natural history without at the same time knowing something of the general problems, laws and theories of biology. No student of birds should pursue his narrow line of study, oblivious of the main results of work with the other classes of animals. The all-important facts and processes of organic evolution are as essential a feature of ornithological knowledge, as of a knowledge of insects, or fishes, or of plants.

In their new book, titled as above, Jordan and Kellogg present a well-selected series of facts bearing on the subject of evolution, derived from the latest work in both Europe and America. The early theories and arguments of Darwin, Lamarck and others, and the recent laws and theories of Mendel, Galton, DeVries, and Burbank, are succinctly presented. And the views of the authors themselves appear to us to reflect the very sanest of recent opinions on the many disputed points discussed. The treatment is popular, in the sense of being clear and easily understandable by the lay reader. The abundant illustrations are lessons in themselves.

In fine, we would recommend the book as the very best and most up-to-date on the subject of evolution, a book that every bird student should read and study, in order to have a broad foundation-knowledge upon which to build his ornithology.

We regret to note not a few typographical or perhaps chirographical slips, such as doubtless resulted from hurried proof-reading. A few minor errors are noticeable; such as the nest of "Rufous hummingbird" photographed at Stanford University, (Fig. 274) very improbably that species, but the Allen hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*). Nor have we ever seen any species of "Aythya" marked like those in Fig. 276. The composition in places could have been smoothed over a bit.

But the subject-matter and mode of presentation of the book cannot be criticized, as far as we are concerned. We urge those of our readers who wish to acquire a familiarity with the latest evolutionary views, to make use of this, the best exposition of the entire subject as it now stands to be obtained.—J. G.

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA: | A Descriptive Catalogue | [etc. 7 lines]. | By | ROBERT RIDGWAY | Curator, Division of Birds | ——— | PART IV. | Family *Turdidae*—Thrushes. Family *Zeledoniidae* | Wren-Thrushes. Family *Mimidae*—Mockingbirds. Family *Sturnidae*—Starlings. Family *Ploceidae* | Weaver Birds. Family *Alaudidae*—Larks. Family *Oxyruncidae*—Sharp-bills. Family *Tyrannidae*—Tyrant Flycatchers. Family *Pipridae*—Manakins. Family *Cotingidae*—Chatterers. | ——— | Washington: | Government Printing Office. | 1907. (our copy re-

ceived August 24) = Bulletin U. S. N. M. No. 50, Part IV, | pp 1-XXXII, 1-974, pl. I-XXXIV.

In the four volumes of this great work now published there have been described 1,675 species and subspecies, or somewhat more than half the total number of North and Middle American Birds." The amount of work represented in the 4000 closely printed pages already issued is marvelous, when we bear in mind that it means the labor of one man. The synonyms alone constitute an undertaking of great magnitude. There is not the least doubt in our minds but that Mr. Ridgway's work is not only the greatest in point of size, but the most thoro, of all the systematic treatises on American birds ever issued.

The title, above quoted, indicates the scope of Part IV. We will simply call attention to a few of the points of interest in regard to Western species.

Mr. Ridgway enters in full standing both the Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata slevini*) and the Sierra Hermit Thrush (*H. g. sequoiensis*) while the alleged *Hylocichla ustulata oedea* is included under *H. ustulata ustulata*. *Ixoreus naevius meruloides*, a supposed northern form of the Varied Thrush, is considered inseparable from *Ixoreus naevius* proper. *Planesticus* is introduced as the genus name for the Robin. The range of the San Pedro Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana anabela*) is extended to include the "mountains of San Diego and southern Los Angeles counties, California, and along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada as far as Mount Lassen." The Pasadena Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum pasadenense*) is not considered separable from the California Thrasher (*T. r. redivivum*). The Horned Larks are entered practically as worked out by Oberholser. A sort of dichromatism is ascribed to certain Empidonaces, as *hammondi*, *wrightii* and *griseus*. This discovery is of extreme interest; yet it still more complicates the differential characterization of these difficult species. The genus *Contopus*, for the Wood Pewees, becomes *Myiochanes*.

In lack of the long-delaying new A. O. U. check-list, it seems to us that students can do no better than follow Ridgway's lead implicitly in matters of nomenclature. In fact we do not know but what the check-list had better give way for the present to the "Birds of North and Middle America," leaving the latter as the only recognized authority.—J. G.

RESEARCH IN CHINA | Expedition of 1903-04, under the direction of Bailey Willis | ——— | REPORT ON ZOOLOGY | by | ELIOT BLACKWELDER | [extracted from Carnegie Institution of Washington Publication No. 54, | Research in China, Volume I, Part II, pages 481-508, 6 plates, [vignette] | Washington, D. C.: | Pu