

ject in the last issue of THE CONDOR.—H. S. S.

A. H. CLARK ON BIRDS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC AND ADJACENT SHORES.²—As indicated in the full title of the paper given below, this is a list of species observed at very many widely distant points. The North American itinerary began with San Francisco, and included Puget Sound, Vancouver Island, Unalaska and certain of the Aleutian Islands to the westward of the latter point. The annotations are of a heterogeneous nature, and many of them could very well have been briefer. For instance, on pages 47 and 48, at least the whole second paragraph, of 16 lines, consists of irrelevant incident, foreign to a purely scientific paper. And further, of what possible use is the record of the Western Gull from San Francisco Bay and the Glaucous-winged Gull from Puget Sound! So on with the bulk of the water birds and at least some of the land birds, which have been recorded over and over again from the same localities.

There are, however, a number of the North American records of interest, such as some of those from the Aleutians. The two gulls, *Larus schistisagus* and *Larus vegae*, are listed from the vicinity of Unalaska. Both are rare in Alaska, and in each case we would like to have known more about the specimens, if any were taken in American waters. *Larus vegae*, even, has been seriously doubted, as a species distinct from *L. argentatus* (see *Auk*, 1902, p. 20), at least as occurring in American waters. *Thalassaeetus pelagicus*, the Kamchatkan Sea Eagle, is recorded from Unalaska on the basis of one seen overhead in flight—not altogether satisfactory as the sole basis for the inclusion of the species as a bird of North America.

The willow ptarmigan of North America are subjected to a revision (pp. 51-54) the main points in which are the separation of the American continental form from the Scandinavian under the name *Lagopus lagopus albus* (Gmelin), and the inclusion of all the willow ptarmigan of the southern coast region of Alaska, from Norton Sound to extreme southeastern Alaska, under the name *Lagopus lagopus alexandrae* Grinnell. The use of the name *albus* for the Hudson Bay ptarmigan, seems to be a point well taken; but the relative ranges and races of the willow ptarmigan of Northwest America will not probably rest with the status suggested by Clark.

In this connection, the author exhibits an attitude altogether unbecoming in the treatment of one worker by another. On page 54, it is implied that Grinnell was decided in his

course to name the ptarmigan, *L. l. alexandrae*, because of coaching received from Clark, who freely vouchsafed his own conclusions in regard to the forms in North America. If Grinnell had felt any gratitude towards Clark for the information advanced, and especially if he had made use of even an iota of such information in his published report, then it would have been incumbent upon him (Grinnell) to have made full acknowledgment in print. But this, Grinnell did not feel and did not do. Hence we opine that the patronizing comment in the paper under consideration is not relished by that author; and it certainly will not fasten any added credit upon Clark.—J. G.

THREE CASES OF SUPERNUMERARY TOE IN THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK BY C. WILLIAM BEEBE (=Zoologica, vol. 1, no. 6, January, 1910; pp. 150-152, figs. 48-50). Three individuals possessing the same malformation are figured and described. Considering the rarity of such deformity among birds, it is curious to find it occurring with such comparative frequency in one species. One of these examples was originally reported by H. K. Coale (*Auk* IV, 1887, pp. 331-333); the other two are here figured for the first time.—H. S. S.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SOME CURRENT LITERATURE RELATING TO WEST COAST BIRDS.—*The Auk*, vol. XXVII, no. 1, January, 1910; pp. 33-35, plates IV and V: *The Palm-leaf Oriole*. By Florence Merriam Bailey. Contains notes on the choice of palm trees as nesting sites of the Arizona Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*). "In eight towns and three country places in the general region between Redlands and San Diego in the summer of 1907 I counted forty nests made of palm fiber and hung in fan palms, and twelve made of palm fiber and hung in other trees."

Ibid., p. 91: *Destruction of Young Water Birds by a Storm*. By Albert B. Reagan, Supervising Warden of the Olympic Bird Reserves. He states that a storm on August 28 and succeeding days destroyed many young birds. The locality is not stated but by implication it must have been some of the rocky islands along the west coast of Washington. "Many Cormorants perished, nearly all the Puffins and all of the California Murres. A half a hundred thousand birds must have perished."

The Auk, no. 2, April, 1910: *New Records for the State of Washington*. By Lee R. Dice. Richardson Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus richardsoni*), lateral canyons of Snake River; Western Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus*), Touchet Valley near Prescott, Walla Walla County; Mountain Junco (*Junco montanus*), Pullman, Whitman County; Rocky Mountain Creeper (*Certhia familiaris montana*), Prescott, Walla Walla County; Long-tailed Chickadee (*Pen-*

² The Birds Collected and Observed during the Cruise of the United States Fisheries Steamer "Albatross" in the North Pacific Ocean, and in the Bering, Okhotsk, Japan, and Eastern Seas, from April to December, 1906 | By Austin Hobart Clark (=Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 38, pp. 25-74. Published April 30, 1910.)