

The scientific value of the present paper cannot be over-emphasized. We have here collected an enormous aggregation of authenticated records, indicating with far greater precision than anything published before the breeding and winter habitats and the routes of migration of the 85 recognized species of Limicolae known to occur in North America. The author is able from this mass of data to present many generalizations of remarkable interest and wide significance.

The more important of these conclusions are that many waders pursue an annual course of migration in the path of an ellipse, returning north by an entirely different and remote route from that traversed on the southern journey; that some species lengthen their migratory travels so that they are carried 7000 or even 9000 miles from their breeding grounds, making their winter homes in extreme southern South America; that certain species make single flights without resting of at least 2000 miles.

Gunners are held responsible for a large part of the decrease in the numbers of our shorebirds; and yet other causes are operative, some of which it is probably not practicable to remove. The Eskimo Curlew altho formerly abundant in fall on the New England coast and in spring thru the Mississippi Valley is rapidly approaching extinction, if indeed any still exist. A simple explanation of this, offered by Professor Cooke, is that during recent years the former winter home of the Eskimo Curlew, in Argentina, has been settled and cultivated, while its spring feeding grounds in Nebraska and South Dakota have been converted into farm land. This same cause is doubtless the chief basis for the change in numbers of many of our birds.

Of local interest to Californians is the probably unique migration route taken by those Mountain Plover which winter in the Sacramento Valley and southward into the San Diegan district. "The farthest west and north that the species is known to breed is Montana; hence whether the California wintering birds come from Montana or from the more southern districts, they apparently form an exception to the general rule that North American birds do not winter farther west than they breed."

A bird new to California, here for the first time recorded, is the Upland Plover, a specimen of which was taken by Vernon Bailey at Tule Lake, August 8, 1896.—J. GRINNELL.

NOTES ON NEW ENGLAND BIRDS, By HENRY D. THOREAU; arranged and edited by FRANCIS H. ALLEN, with eleven illustrations from photographs of birds in nature and a map of Concord, Mass., showing localities mentioned by Thoreau in his JOURNAL. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1910, pp. ix + 452; price \$1.75 net.

"Scattered through the fourteen volumes of Thoreau's published JOURNAL are many interesting notes on the natural history of New England and a large proportion of these relate to birds. In the belief that readers and students would be glad to have these bird notes arranged systematically in a single volume, this book has been prepared. * * * *

It was, indeed, as a describer rather than as an observer that Thoreau excelled. He never acquired much skill in the diagnosis of birds seen in the field. He never became in any respect an expert ornithologist, and some of the reasons are not far to seek. He was too intent on becoming an expert analogist, for one thing. It better suited his genius to trace some analogy between the soaring hawk and his own thoughts than to make a scientific study of the bird. Moreover his field, including as it did all nature, was too wide to admit of specialization in a single branch."

These words from the editor's preface explain fully the nature and scope of this book.

These are not the complete records from the *Journal*, but only "those seeming to have some intrinsic value, whether literary or scientific—using both terms in a liberal sense."

The notes were made between the years 1845 and 1860, principally between 1853 and the latter date, and cover some 115 species, besides general and miscellaneous notes (species unidentified).

It is an interesting contribution to the literary side of ornithology and should have some value to the student also.—H. T. CLIFTON.

A | MONOGRAPH | OF THE | PETRELS | (Order Tubinares) | By | FREDERICK DU CANE GODMAN | D. C. L. F. R. S. | President of the British Ornithologists' Union | With hand-coloured Plates | by J. G. Keulemans | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn London | 1907-1910. Large 4to (10x13 inches), pp. i-lvi, 1-381, col. pl. 1-103. Price complete, bound, fifteen guineas.

Part V of this work reached us the last of May (1910), and brings to a wholly satisfactory conclusion the undertaking so elaborately begun four years ago. (See reviews in this magazine for 1908, p. 96, 1909, p. 72.) Part V comprises the remainder of the Tubinares not previously treated, namely, the albatrosses. Also: the full title page for the whole work (given above); the Preface; Introduction; chapter "On the Systematic Position of the Petrels", by W. P. Pycraft; Systematic List of Species; List of Plates; Classification; Index.—J. G.

LIFE OF | WILLIAM MACGILLIVRAY | [etc., 3 lines] | By WILLIAM MACGILLIVRAY, W. S. | Author of "Rob Lindsay and His School," etc. | With a Scientific Appreciation | By J. Arthur Thompson | [etc., 1 line] | with illustrations | [quotation] | London | John Murray, Albemarle Street, W. | 1910; 8vo., pp. i-xvi, 1-222, 12 plates. Price 10 | 6.

Those who find interest in historical biography will undoubtedly obtain much pleasure by reading the life of MacGillivray, the full title of which is given above. It was MacGillivray, a Scotchman, that Audubon secured to help him write the technical portions of his Ornithological Biography. The name is familiar to even the youngest students of American birds thru its being borne by at least two of our birds, a warbler and a sparrow. The book in hand tells among other things of the felicitous cooperation maintained between two men for nine years, the time occupied in