

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

writing Audubon's Biography. MacGillivray subsequently put forth an important work on English birds, besides many less voluminous treatises on natural history topics. He is regarded as the most eminent British ornithologist of his day. The book under notice gives the reader a clear idea of the modes of thought of scientific men of the early part of the 19th century, strange to us of the materialistic present. They were poets rather more than critical students.—J. G.

New York State Education Department | — | New York State Museum | John M. Clarke, Director | Memoir 12 | BIRDS OF NEW YORK | by ELON HOWARD EATON | Part I | Introductory Chapters; Water Birds and Game Birds | [list of contents, 8 lines, double column] | Albany University of the State of New York | 1910; 4to., pp. 1-501, +152 inserted pages of tables following page 86, 42 colored pls., many half-tone text illustrations.

This is an unusually elaborate treatise pertaining to the birds of a single state, especially so as being publicly printed. It is, moreover, of a high degree of merit in nearly every particular. It is attractive because of its large clear type, accurate information of many sorts, zonal treatment and maps, and profuse illustrations. Practically every species treated in this Part is represented in the colored plates from paintings by Fuertes. The classification and order are of the A. O. U. Check-List, except for one feature: the author has consistently disregarded the use of possessives in vernacular names. We congratulate the people of the State of New York that their ornithological exponent shows himself to be progressive even to this detail!

Eaton's *Birds of New York* will undoubtedly remain the standard authority in its field for very many years. It deserves a place, too, among the best ornithological works of general value.—J. G.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER.—The September meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club was held on Thursday evening, September 29, 1910, at Room 1, City Hall, Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by President Morcom, with the following members present: Mrs. J. E. Pleasants, Messrs. Lelande, Willett, Howard, Robertson, Howell, Antonin Jay, Alphonse Jay, Tracy of the Northern Division, Shepardson, Zahn and Law. The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved, on motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Robertson.

On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Lelande, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership Mr. E. S. Spaulding, whose application was presented at the June meeting. The application of Mr. Daniel S. Halladay, 2770 W. 8th St., Los Angeles, was presented by Mr. W. Lee Chambers.

On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Lelande, and duly carried, the action of the

Northern Division in electing to honorary membership Prof. F. E. L. Beal, was unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Willett, was duly carried instructing the Secretary to make inquiry of the Northern Division concerning reported joining of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies, same having been done without the knowledge or approval of the Southern Division, and to notify the Northern Division that the Southern Division does not propose to be bound without knowledge of what this may involve in a financial way.

The question of simplified spelling was discussed, and on motion of Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Shepardson, and duly carried, the matter was put to ballot, which resulted in 7 ayes and 6 noes.

On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Howard, the President was instructed to appoint a committee of three to act as a Museum Committee in designing cabinets, etc., for use in the new museum. The President appointed Messrs. Robertson, Willett and Law.

Mr. H. C. Tracy, who has spent a good deal of time in Syria and Asia Minor, gave a very interesting talk on the bird life of that region; after which, on motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Lelande, the Club unanimously gave Mr. Tracy a vote of thanks. Adjourned.

J. EUGENE LAW,  
*Secretary.*

OCTOBER.—The October meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club was held on Thursday evening, October 27, 1910, at Room 1, City Hall, Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by President Morcom, with the following members present: Messrs. Swarth, Lelande, Willett, Robertson, Howell, Owen, Lamb, Antonin Jay, Shepardson, Peyton, Zahn and Law, with Mr. Howard Peyton as visitor.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved, on motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Lelande.

On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Peyton, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership Mr. Daniel S. Halladay, whose application was presented at the September meeting.

Mr. A. B. Howell exhibited a series of twelve very beautiful sets of the Xantus Murrelet, and two specimens of Petrel, all collected on the Coronado Islands. The latter two specimens were notable because they were evidently not the Black Petrel. However, their identification has not yet been obtained.

Mr. Harry Swarth, who has been with the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, for some years, spending a good deal of time in the field, gave a short talk on his this summer's experience in the northern part of Vancouver Island, and exhibited a series of photos from that region.

The balance of the evening was spent in interesting chat, which always comprises a very attractive part of the evening's entertainment. Adjourned.

J. EUGENE LAW,  
*Secretary.*