

summer, or permanent), conspicuous colors or markings, principal food, kind and location of nest. There then follows a larger space in which to enter any notes of special interest in regard to habits, song, nesting, economic value, etc., of the bird observed. The first page of the book contains a brief preface stating its aim and giving a short bibliography on birds of particular value in school work, while the last page contains pertinent suggestions for bird study in schools.

By adhering to these few most important topics, the author has been able to produce a book which is concise and simple, yet of sufficient size to hold at least two years' records, so that interesting and useful comparisons may be made.

The Bird Study Note Book is the outcome of several years' experience on the part of the author, and we are glad to learn that it has been successfully used in one of the Kansas schools for the past four years. We believe, with the author, that the school room is, perhaps, the most important place to disseminate knowledge of the value of bird life, and to arouse interest for the protection necessary to preserve our native birds.

Although this note book is particularly adapted and prepared for the use of pupils of intermediate and grammar grades, it is well worthy of recommendation to any bird student who realizes the value of keeping actual records from day to day.—MARGARET W. WYTHE.

THE BIRDS OF VIRGINIA | by | HAROLD H. BAILEY | [vignette] | with fourteen full page colored plates, | one map, and one hundred and eight | half-tones taken from nature | treating one hundred and eighty-five species and subspecies: | all the birds that breed within the state. | 1913 [our copy received September 1] | J. P. Bell Company, Inc. | Publishers | Lynchburg, Va. | 8vo, pages xxiii + 362; illustrations as above.

Our fellow Cooper Club member, and former Californian, Harold H. Bailey, has "done us proud" in putting out one of the most attractive bird books of the year. The above transcript of the title gives a good idea of the nature of the work as regards illustrations. The text deals in a concise way with those birds which have been found nesting within the borders of Virginia.

Naturally, as being an enthusiastic oologist of the old school, Bailey's chief effort is to present his readers with important facts in regard to the nesting habits and eggs of the birds dealt with. Still, there is much useful information of a more general nature, especially as regards economic status, all of which is selected with a view to securing popular interest in bird study in a state in which field

naturalists are apparently few in number.

Of course the reviewer is able to find points to criticize. Has there ever appeared a bird book entirely above *someone's* criticism? The most serious fault to be found with the book in our minds concerns not its ornithology, but its grammar — which, frankly, is in places atrocious! This fault could have been obviated by recourse to editorial supervision, and it is to be hoped that this will be attended to in future editions.

One other possible criticism is the inclusion of photographs of western subspecies or even species (as the burrowing owls on page 138), with nothing to indicate to the uninitiated that they are not from Virginian subjects.

This western tang is more pleasingly evidenced on page 86, where is presented the reproduction of a photograph by W. Otto Emerson showing a typical collector's camp, with that now long lamented ornithologist, Walter E. Bryant, in characteristic attitude. Many of us "middle-aged" bird people share with Mr. Bailey the fondest of recollections of the days when we gained knowledge and inspiration from W. E. Bryant.

As to the facts set forth in the work under review, Harold H. Bailey is absolute authority in his field. And it is needless to say that no well conducted library of ornithology will long remain without a copy of his "Birds of Virginia".—J. GRINNELL.

CATALOGUE OF A COLLECTION OF BOOKS ON ORNITHOLOGY IN THE LIBRARY OF JOHN E. THAYER; compiled by Evelyn Thayer and Virginia Keyes (Boston, privately printed, 1913; 8vo, 188 pages. Copy received September 8).

Approximately 1200 titles appear in this catalog, this large number suggesting the probability that Mr. Thayer's is the most complete private ornithological library in America today. *Auduboniana* are excellently represented; and there are many other fine things, such as Wilson's *Aves Hawaiiensis*, the almost complete works of Gould, etc., etc.

Bibliographically the Thayer Catalogue is not above criticism. There is lack of uniformity in treatment, and not a few errors are in evidence. In a number of cases the titles of separates are entered as if they were individual works, without indication of their true connection. However, the Catalogue is evidently not at all intended as a technical exposition of its subject.

There is a growing present-day tendency towards the adoption of book-collecting as a mind recreation on the part of men of means who have also a scientific trend of thought. In some cases the attention of the collector is absorbed wholly by books as objects of ac-

quisition; that is, animal "specimens" are not included. This tendency is to be looked upon with favor, and should be encouraged in every practicable way.

Books, as records of facts, are doubtless far more lasting than "specimens." The latter rapidly deteriorate with time and at best are only partial records, even though originally essential for the accuracy of much of the printed record.

Incidentally a distinct service is rendered the cause of science by private book collectors, in that rare volumes are gathered from obscure and unappreciative sources, and usually renovated by re-binding as well as being housed under the safest of conditions. The lives of these volumes thus become insured for much longer time than would likely otherwise be the case. Sooner or later, too, private collections find their way into public repositories where the field of their usefulness widens.

Another factor worth considering is that collectors of books on ornithology nowadays have the satisfaction of knowing that what money they put into their hobby, if discriminatingly spent, has been well invested; the market value of even some quite recent publications has doubled or even trebled within a very few years.

Mr. Thayer's catalog is an incentive to interest on the part of others along this line, and we welcome it. The reviewer, for instance, has taken great pleasure in running over the titles in comparison with the contents of his own modest collection.—J. GRINNELL.

THE AUK.—The July number of *The Auk* sustains the usually high character of that magazine as a record of ornithological discovery and scholarship. The latter element predominates in Stone's review of William Bartram's bird migration records. The writer comes to the conclusion, based on an exhaustive study of Bartram's journals, that in the case of 26 species of the commoner birds of Philadelphia no appreciable change in the time of their arrival has taken place in the past century. This conclusion, necessitated no doubt by the data at hand, is a little surprising, not to say disappointing, for we had supposed that the unquestioned "northward trend of species" would have shown itself in noticeably earlier spring arrival as it has in extended breeding ranges.

Forbes' review of Brewster's observations on the flight of gulls (recorded in *The Auk*, for January, 1912) is little more than a dogmatic reassertion of the mathematical *impasse* which has always ended the discussion of this subject. As the author himself admits, his general denial of the possibility of the advantageous 'resolution of forces' by a bird glid-

ing against a horizontal wind does not account for all the factors in Mr. Brewster's record. It does not account, namely, for the behavior of birds so far removed from the ship that ascending currents caused by the passing ship could not have been a factor. This difficult subject is not yet susceptible of explanation, but we do need further and exhaustive records of fact.

Careful, scholarly work appears in Cameron's continuation of "Notes on Swainson's Hawk in Montana" and in Tyler's account of "A Successful Pair of Robins". By the way, what an inordinate amount of attention is being paid these days to excrementation and the parental disposal of faecal sacs! The magazines are full of it. It is all very necessary, we suppose, but one cannot help hoping that the values of this particular phase of paedolatry may be settled presently so that we can pass to pleasanter topics.

Miss Sherman's painstaking study of "The Nest Life of the Sparrow Hawk" again caps the climax of scholarly research. We have in Miss Sherman a shining example of how purposeful leisure may be profitably employed in the further consideration of some of the most familiar ornithological subjects. We hope to see one day from her pen a collected series of these stimulating bird studies.

Scholarship again is the note of Swarth's review of "The Status of Lloyd's Bush-tit as a Bird of Arizona," and his studies seem to establish the fact that *Psaltriparus melanotis lloydi* is not a bird of Arizona, and that the bird once described as *P. santaritae* was a juvenal phase of *P. plumbeus*.

Three faunal lists and a brief anatomical article conspire with "General Notes" and extended book reviews to make this a most creditable number, while Abbott H. Thayer's "periodical warning" that both he and the theory are alive and cheerfully defiant gives that touch of piquancy which we relish in the staidest of journals.—W. L. DAWSON.

BIRD-LORE has come to be a magazine of which its sponsors may well be proud, and its bi-monthly visits, indispensable now as always to conservationists, are an honest joy to all bird students whether veteran or amateur. Florence Merriam Bailey contributes the leading article to the September-October (1913) number and it is as chock full of interest as it is of information concerning the Long-eared Owl. In our opinion Mrs. Bailey is one of the most gifted and refreshing interpreters of bird-life now before the public. She has in addition to keen and disciplined powers of observation a vivacious style and that sprightly quality of imagination which makes it really worth while for us to view life through her eyes. This owl