

leading as to detail. For example, we note on a vegetational map, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley of California marked "tall grass"; hence, by context, a suitable habitat for certain tinamous!

Of course, all those of like mind with the present reviewer can but deplore the prospect of the many admittedly hardier, more aggressive, more adaptable Eurasian gallinaceous species dominating in America, to the probable final extinction of most if not all of our native kinds of upland game birds. Think of the hunter-naturalist climbing Mount Pinos at some future day, to seek a specimen of the local race of the native Sooty Grouse, only to reach the fir-clad upper slopes and put up some species of Oriental pheasant!—J. GRINNELL.

OUTDOOR HERITAGE* is a book which every Cooper Club member will want to read. It deals with those natural history subjects which hold the interests of all bird students, and it was written by a member of the Club whose success in picking out and presenting nature lore is acknowledged throughout the state of California.

Among the subjects treated in the 465 pages are the following: First there is a chapter treating of the more characteristic topographic and physiographic features of the state, along with some general statements as to the principles of animal and plant distribution. A rather full interpretation of former animal life of the state as it is revealed by fossil deposits will especially interest persons whose studies of animals have been limited to living types. Next, in turn, the animals and plants of California's valleys, mountains and deserts are treated and the more conspicuous and curious forms are indicated and described. Trees and features of them peculiar to California take up one chapter. Another on the fishes of the state contains much from the rich, first-hand experience of the author. Accounts of the principal kinds of game birds and mammals cover the whole state. Two chapters are devoted to the subjects of parks and recreation. The final chapter is devoted to conservation problems.

The task of writing a general natural

history of California can be considered in no sense a simple one. Such a great lot of reliable and well selected facts have been assembled in the present work that it might have been fairer to overlook such obvious slips as the statement (p. 76) that . . . "in the wren-tit, California may boast of the only bird family peculiar to America," or (p. 283) the unqualified assertion that "the cottontail is a burrowing rabbit." The implication of richness of the vertebrate life in certain sections of the state seems scarcely justified when comparison is made with more humid areas of the United States.

Fortunately, the book has a complete index so that particular species may be looked up. A bibliography, arranged by chapters, contains forty pages of references to works dealing with the out-of-doors in California.

We have the author's own statement that he has been "most at home in writing chapters which deal with vertebrates" and his admission of regret that he should "have to resort to the printed word." Even if this book does not always stir its reader to go into the field and make firsthand nature studies it will serve well as a source of reliable facts concerning the out-of-doors. No other single volume contains so much natural history matter covering so many fields in California as this one. Strangers to California who are acquainted with the plant and animal life of another region and who wish to learn quickly the peculiarities of California's fauna and flora are the persons likely to profit most by reading this book. Even those naturalists whose lives have been spent in California will find much material new to them in some chapters.

Aside from its value as a source of natural history information this book is useful as a guide to the problems and progress of conservation in the state. Its writer has had better opportunity than any other person in late years to keep in touch with such developments and he has drawn upon this experience to provide a theme for this work. This has been done so successfully that the chapters toward the end, the ones given over entirely to conservation subjects, have for us more of real interest than the early ones.—JEAN M. LINSDALE.

*Outdoor Heritage | By Harold Child Bryant ||
of the series | California | Edited by | John Russell
McCarthy | Powell Publishing Company | Los
Angeles | 1929. Octavo, pp. 14+465, 14 ills. Price,
\$5.00.

LAING AND TAVERNER ON BIRDS OF THE
MOUNT LOGAN DISTRICT, ALASKA.—This
wording is gatherable from the rather

complicated citation below* of a decidedly noteworthy article reporting upon the bird-life of a region in southeastern Alaska lying inland a short distance from the sea-coast in the vicinity of Yakutat Bay. The senior co-author, Laing, made a three-months' trip into this territory, May to August, 1925, and the paper is based upon the specimens and notes then gathered. The Mount Logan district proves to possess a mixture of interior Alaskan bird types with humid coast forms. The faunal discussions are thus of more than ordinary interest to the student of animal distribution in north-western America.

The literary style of this contribution is somewhat unusual in that it is quite consistently telegraphic. Reduction of wording is thus realized but, we fear, not infrequently at the expense of clearness of expression. We will now simulate the style used, in the balance of this review.

Critical notes in this paper supplied by Taverner. Some important, as follows: *Histrionicus histrionicus pacificus* and *Oidemia deglandi dixonii* both discredited on basis new material examined. Tenability of *Tringa solitaria "cinnamomeus"* [*sic* all through discussion!] upheld—as “strain”, then again as “distinctly good race”.

Concerning Goshawks, Taverner disagrees fundamentally with Swarth as to age diagnosis certain molting specimen. Tenability *Astur atricapillus striatulus* advocated, but on basis juvenile plumage only: specimens in hand “definitely show that marked juvenile *striatulus* [from Mount Logan] come from parents indistinguishable from typical *atricapillus*.”

[Age designations obviously wrong in several places. Example: Under *Acanthis linaria*, “presumed that they breed in juvenile plumage” evidently means, rather, that they breed in first annual plumage.]

Red-tailed Hawks given further critical discussion. Opinion reasserted that bird currently called *Buteo borealis harlani* merely “phase” of *calurus*. But, since name *harlani* has priority over *calurus*, all Western Red-tailed Hawks should be called *B. b. harlani*. [The reviewer does

not subscribe to this interpretation of the facts.]

Evidence at his command leads Taverner to support Alaskan race Northern Shrike, *Lanius borealis invictus*. But regarding tenability western race *Dendroica coronata*, *D. c. hooveri*, he thinks “geographical suggestion” main basis in favor! Mount Logan produces thrushes of *Hylonicichla ustulata* group which strongly suggest “expediency of recognizing *H. u. almae*.”

Notes on manner of occurrence, behavior and breeding, insofar as learned concerning the 85 birds listed, supplied chiefly by Laing. Important contributions along these lines furnished, in particular, for Golden Eagle, both species Three-toed Woodpecker, Raven, Bohemian Waxwing, Hermit Thrush, and Wheatear. Significant to note, incidentally, that Olive-sided Flycatcher of this Alaska-Canadian boundary neighborhood says “*Quick! Three Beers!*”—J. GRINNELL.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOVEMBER.—The November meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Tuesday evening, November 26, 1929, at the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, with President Harris presiding and seventeen members present. The minutes of the October meeting of the Southern Division were read and approved.

The following applications for membership were read: John Hopkinson Baker, 1165 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., proposed by W. Lee Chambers; Clarence H. Sandberg, 1527 Shiller St., Alameda, Calif., proposed by H. C. Bryant; C. R. Reynard, 1418 North Sixth Avenue, Tucson, Arizona, proposed by Walter P. Taylor; Mrs. Charles W. Hart, Fullerton, Calif., proposed by Helen P. Everhart.

A letter from the secretary of the Northern Division was read stating that the Northern Division has called a special meeting for Saturday evening, December 7, to consider the report of the committee appointed last spring to study the present status of protection of the non-game birds of California. Members of the Southern Division were cordially invited to attend the meeting. Mr. Willett, chairman of the corresponding committee of the Southern Division, stated that his report was not yet completely written. He was instructed by the President to

*Birds and Mammals of the Mount Logan Expedition, 1925. By Hamilton M. Laing, P. A. Taverner, and R. M. Anderson. Pages 69-107, in Annual Report for 1927 (Bulletin No. 56), National Museum of Canada, Department of Mines, Ottawa, Canada, 1929 (our copy received October 28). Notes on Birds Collected and Observed in Chitina River Region, Alaska, pp. 72-95, by H. M. Laing and P. A. Taverner.