

Green Heron than anything else I can liken it to, and would follow with a savage snapping of the bill. The next morning I placed it upon a branch outside, but it was some moments before it realized that it was free and flew away.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

American Birds¹ is a recent profusely illustrated book from photographs from life, with the accompanying text in the popular scientific style, but making no pretensions to the scientific accuracy which is characteristic of those who are engaged in scientific researches in animal behavior. The book is rather another of the accurate popular books of the best class. The illustrations are for the most part clear and selected with a view to their value in depicting the family life of the birds studied. The general account of each group studied is in large, clear type, and this is followed by a brief but comprehensive description of plumage and range in smaller type. "In this book no attempt has been made to include all the different bird families, but a series of representative birds from the hummingbird to the eagle has been selected. . . . Many of these studies were made in the West, but in the list of birds treated an effort has been made to get a selection that is national in scope." In this book no one can fail to find entertainment of the most wholesome kind, and it should occupy a place beside books which contribute to the knowledge of the life of our birds.

L. J.

The Warblers of North America² is one of the most important contributions to ornithological literature of the year. It has been prepared at great labor and expense to meet a growing demand for a book to which the bird student may go with assurance of success in properly determining which of the host of warblers he has seen. That the book meets this demand is attested by the eagerness with which its appearance was awaited and the promptness of its wide

¹ American Birds [Studied and Photographed] from Life [by William Lovell Finley,] illustrated from photographs by [Herman T. Bohlman] and the author. | Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1907. \$1.50, *net*.

² The Warblers [of] North America, [by] Frank M. Chapman, [with the coöperation of other ornithologists] with twenty-four full-page colored plates, illustrating [every species, from drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes] and Bruce Horsfall, and half-tones [of nests and eggs.] New York: [D. Appleton & Company.] 1907. Svo. Cloth. \$3.00, *net*.

use. In illustration and typography there is little left to be desired. The treatment of each species is full and clear. L. J.

The Passenger Pigeon¹ is treated in 225 pages, mainly historically, but with an effort to determine if any yet remain in the country. The book is largely one of reminiscences of persons who lived during the great abundance of these birds, supplemented by historical records of the marketing of them. In treating of the causes of extinction the author and contributors are of the opinion that killing for market and the destruction attendant upon that enterprise is sufficient to account for the disappearance of this game bird. As to the present status of the Pigeon it is stated by no less an authority than John Burroughs that there is still a small flight which pretty regularly crosses the Caskills. The hope is expressed that this remnant may presage a reappearance of the host. L. J.

The Birds of Iowa² supplies a need which has been felt since the abbreviated catalogue prepared by Keyes and Williams went out of print only three or four years after its appearance. The present list assumes the character of a compilation of published records, notes solicited from and contributed by ornithologists of the state and workers who have gone to other fields. We notice the omission of some papers from the bibliographical list, but the obscurity of the journals in which they occurred no doubt accounts for the omissions. The Catalogue is concerned with making "some contributions to our knowledge of their habits and economic relations, their migrations; to trace their local distribution and comparative abundance at the present time, and to determine, if possible, what changes the rapid growth of settlement and civilization have wrought in our avifauna during the comparatively brief period since the settlement of our state." Three hundred and fifty-four species and subspecies are treated as authentic native birds, one imported, and twenty-five are entered as hypothetical. We are glad to see this catalogue in print and congratulate the author upon its neat appearance. L. J.

Useful Birds and their Protection³ is a timely contribution to the all too scanty literature relating to the subject of which it treats. Although it is local in character and deals largely with local conditions it cannot fail of being of general use. It is profusely illus-

¹The Passenger Pigeon, by W. B. Mershon, New York: The Outing Publishing Company, 1907. \$0.00, net.

²Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, The Birds of Iowa, by Rudolph M. Anderson, Davenport, Iowa, U. S. A., Davenport Academy of Sciences, 1907.

³Useful Birds and their Protection, containing brief descriptions of

trated, each illustration selected with a view to its bearing upon the subject under discussion. The title of the book sufficiently illustrates the character of its contents. Suffice it to say in this brief review that the State of Massachusetts has set an example which can be followed by other states with profit to their citizens. The excellence of the work accomplished attests the fitness of the author for the task assigned to him.

L. J.

The *Birds of Missouri*¹ is a most welcome addition to our faunal literature, and coming, as it does, after the discouraging and distressing loss of the first prepared manuscript, is a satisfaction both to the author and to his friends who feared that his long years of careful work might be lost. This is the first catalog of the birds of the whole state of Missouri, and the designation "A Preliminary Catalog," admirably illustrates the modesty of the author, whose thirty years of field work in that state certainly gives him the right to have adopted a more pretentious title.

The Introduction, Bibliography, Explanations, Faunal Areas, The Climate, Topography, Decrease of Birds, and Bird Protection, are topics which occupy the first twenty pages. In the following 246 pages the author treats 383 species of birds, thirty of which he regards as hypothetical, but occurring in adjacent regions within reasonable distances of Missouri. Each of the hypothetical species is bracketed and placed in its proper systematic position in the list. We commend this practice.

The body of the book is given to the annotations accompanying the names of the species, its general geographical distribution, distribution in Missouri, migrations, and other pertinent notes, especially the type of locality where rare birds may be found.

The print is large and clear, and the typographical errors few. It is a valuable addition to ornithological literature, and we congratulate the author and the Academy of Science of St. Louis upon its appearance.

L. J.

the more common and useful species of Massachusetts, with accounts of their food habits, and a chapter on the means of attracting and protecting birds. By Edward Howe Forbush, Ornithologist to the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. Illustrated by the author, C. Allan Lyford, Chester A. Reed, and others. Published under the direction of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, by authority of the Legislature.

¹ A Preliminary Catalog of the Birds of Missouri, by Otto Widmann, St. Louis, Mo. 1907.

The Birds of the Chicago Area¹ strikes us as something new in faunal literature in that political boundaries are wholly ignored by the author. This is as it should be. Political boundaries mean nothing unless they chance to coincide with faunal boundaries. The area here treated comprises "all of Cook and DuPage Counties, the nine north townships of Will County and the northern portion of Lake County, Indiana." An interesting feature of the introductory part of this book is a special treatment of "Localities of Interest," with their birds. The body of the book, comprising 170 pages, treats the species systematically, the present accepted name being followed by a list of synonyms, these by the occurrence of the species in the area in question, then often interesting remarks concerning the species, closing with the general range in North America. It is a valuable addition to faunal literature.

L. J.

¹The Birds of the Chicago Area, by Frank Morely Woodruff, Bulletin No. VI, of The Natural History Survey, The Chicago Academy of Sciences, issued April 15, 1907.