

### Statement

Through a correspondence with Prof. R. Ridgway we have found out that he did not receive many copies of the Wilson Bulletin in the past, through no fault of the editor, however, to whom no blame is attached. Hence, of course, it was impossible for him to quote the Wilson Bulletin in his work on "The Birds of Middle and North America," for you cannot quote from a magazine that you have not received. Under these circumstances the statement that Prof. R. Ridgway "persistently ignored" the Bulletin, as stated in the December, 1910 issue, is incorrect and is hereby retracted.

W. F. H.

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### Publications Reviewed

Catalogue of Canadian Birds, by John Macoun and James M. Macoun. Ottawa, 1906.

The Catalogue proper covers 761 pages exclusive of 26 pages of prefatory matter and index. It is avowedly a compilation, and as such shows a great amount of painstaking labor. Since the authors are primarily botanists rather than ornithologists, one could hardly expect to find in such a compilation anything more than a faithful reproduction, in abridged form for the most part, of published writings relating to Canadian birds. We miss some of the later publications on the region, notably the Point Pelee list by Taverner and Swales, which appeared in this magazine. Nor do we find evidence of discrimination in citing records. Rather, the reader is left to use his own knowledge and discrimination in accepting the cited records. We heartily commend the modest position taken by the authors in disclaiming perfection for their work, and earnestly calling for corrections and additional known in order that we may have a better basis for knowing the reasons for the invasions of the United States by species whose normal winter range lies within Canada.

L. J.

Birds and Mammals of the 1909 Alexander Alaska Expedition.—Harry S. Swarth.

This Bulletin has noticed briefly the work of Harry S. Swarth among the lower coast island of Alaska, during the year 1909, the published results of which expedition have lately appeared, bearing the Berkeley Press date of January 12, 1911.

It is in bulletin form, constituting No. 2 of Vol. 7 of the zoological publications of the University of California.

This expedition was organized and financed during that year by

Miss Annie M. Alexander, the report comprising a well printed document of 163 pages, including plates and maps. Eighteen pages are devoted to the introduction and descriptions of localities visited; 86 pages to a check-list and notes on the birds of that region, the remainder, for the most part consisting, of a report on the mammals seen and collected.

We will not dwell at length upon the material results of the expedition further than to say that, of the 137 species and subspecies of birds listed, specimens of 106 are represented in the collection.

Several localities visited were practically destitute of results, and animal life, generally speaking, was plentiful at comparatively few places. The work among these islands was hampered considerably by the lack of suitable camping sites, many times the almost impenetrable character of the country and bad weather conditions.

With the birds much space has been given to their distribution, relative abundance, conditions of moult and feather-coloration.

We would like to have seen a greater number of breeding records and notes pertaining thereto, but conditions confronting the author doubtless were responsible for their crowding out, or the impossibility to secure. The grouse have received considerable attention, and some pertinent suggestions are made as to the possibility of recognizing a new race of the Sharp-shinned Hawk from that region, though in this case, as with other supposed subspecies, speculations are entered into cautiously. Among the common birds of that region were the Alaska Bald Eagle, Northern Raven and the coast form of the Northwestern Crow. With the exception of the Harris, woodpeckers were uncommonly scarce. The distribution of the Song Sparrows proved an interesting study, as also the movements of the warblers.

The shyness of the smaller Thrushes and Robins was puzzling to account for.

An unlooked for and interesting sight was the number of Black Swifts met with at two places.

Several species of birds listed are considered new to the Alaskan fauna, among which may be mentioned the preceding, also the Vaux Swift, Cedar Waxwing and Mountain Bluebird. The Blackpoll Warbler is remarked on as a straggler from the interior.

The mammal portion of the report is important, covering as it does the larger part of the scientific results of the expedition, but it is outside the province of this magazine.

Methodically, technically and typographically this publication ranks high; it clearly displays the zeal of its author and should be regarded as representative of the excellent work being produced

by the Berkeley institution, of which the following is a list of its most recent publications pertaining to the study of birds, viz:—

Birds of the University Campus, by Joseph Grinnell. Significance of White Markings in Birds of the order Passeriformes, by Henry Chester Tracy. An Apparent Hybrid in the Genus *Dendroica*, by Walter P. Taylor. The Modesto Song Sparrow, by Joseph Grinnell. The Linnet of the Hawaiian Islands: A Problem in Speciation, by Joseph Grinnell.

B. T. G.

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### Election of Officers

In the recent Club election fifty-eight ballots were cast, resulting in the following choice of officers for 1911, viz.:

For President—Frank L. Burns.

For Vice-President—William E. Saunders.

For Secretary—Benj. T. Gault.

For Treasurer—Walther F. Henninger.

For Executive Council—Lynds Jones, Harry C. Oberholser,  
James H. Fleming.

C. W. G. EIFRIG,

Judge of Election.

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### Members of the Wilson Ornithological Club

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Baird, Robert L., Troy, Ohio.

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