

the way of initial letters and tail-pieces for each chapter, and with full-page plates redundant in paint. The book is apparently intended as an ornamental gift-book for the holiday season. The text is no discredit to the eminent author whose name appears on the titlepage, and his biographies of the forty species of European birds treated form entertaining and instructive matter for the general reader, for whom they were doubtless intended, rather than for professional ornithologists. Mr. Robert's contribution of plates and tail-pieces will scarcely bear criticism from the technical standpoint, most of them having been too evidently copied from rather badly stuffed museum specimens, including their defects, with a back-ground which may be called striking rather than artistically effective. Doubtless the book will not lack admirers among the class it is intended to entertain.—J. A. A.

Birds of Nova Scotia.*—This annotated list is the latest contribution to the bird lore of the peninsular Province, by one whose name is already known in that connection. Mr. Downs has given us "as the result of sixty-six years of *practical field work*," a list of 240 species of birds, of which 4 are added on authority, 3 on the grounds of probability, and 3 without a word of comment, reducing those presumably observed by the writer to 230. The number seems very small, as it would be an easy matter to name over twenty additional species that certainly should have been found; indeed reference to the published papers of another Acadian naturalist (Dr. J. Bernard Gilpin) shows that nearly a dozen species have been omitted in the *Birds of Prey* and the *Shore-birds* alone. It is difficult to understand why Mr. Downs should leave out such species as the Wheatear, Bicknell's Thrush, Ipswich Sparrow, etc., since he was not confining himself to his own personal observations. The last-named omission is the more strange since the species is probably without exception the most peculiar and characteristic of the whole Acadian avifauna. Our author apparently not realizing that the only value of such a list must come from its explicitness and accuracy, records without qualification such remarkable occurrences as those of *Plegadis autumnalis*, *Anas penelope*, *Ardea cœrulea*, etc., omitting the usual data and references, without which the records have little, if any value. This carelessness with regard to localities and dates neutralizes the value of what might otherwise have been a most interesting series of records. A notable example is his brief reference to the finding of three "Great Auks"; doubtless the facts have been recorded elsewhere, but no careful writer would think of embodying them in his work without giving the proper references. Similar remarks will apply to his notes on the Labrador Duck, Purple Gallinule, Blue Grosbeak, and several other species.

His method of indicating the breeding species (by number in an appendix) is a great mistake; the remarks that are supposed to be thus tabu-

*Birds of Nova Scotia. By Andrew Downs, M. Z. S. Edited by Harry Piers. Proc. and Trans. Nova Scotia Inst. Nat. Sci. VII, pt. ii, 1888, pp. 142-178.

lated, should have appeared in full under the names of the species to which they refer.

The general appearance of the article is excellent, and the typography almost beyond criticism, while the reserve stores of information hinted at by the brief notes are such that we cannot but hope that in the near future we may be favored with a more carefully compiled and fully annotated list that will do yet greater credit to one who has had sixty-six years of practical field work and was the correspondent and friend of Audubon and Waterton.—E. E. T.

Publications Received. — **Barboza du Bocage, J. V.** (1) Sur quelques Oiseaux de l'île St. Thomé. (Jor. de Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. de Lisboa, XLVIII, 1888.) (2) Oiseaux nouveaux de l'île St. Thomé. (Ibid.)

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