

tion, giving the species or races described or eliminated, and whatever changes that have been made during that time." These changes of course greatly increase the value of a work which has proved very serviceable to sojourners in the Bahamas interested in the birds of the Islands, as well as to ornithologists. — J. A. A.

Grant's 'Our Common Birds.'* — The purpose of this little book is to furnish the beginner with useful hints in the study of the bird life about him. The work is unique in plan and execution. Ninety species are treated, selected from the more common and striking birds met with in the vicinity of New York City, the males only of which are described. The illustrations consist of photogravures from stuffed specimens. They serve to show what can be done by means of photography in illustrating from museum specimens. Where the pattern of coloration is distinctive, the birds are readily recognizable from the portraits here presented. In other cases it would be difficult for even the ornithological expert to tell them. In the case of large birds, where the figures are necessarily much less than natural size, the effect is quite satisfactory; with the smaller birds, the figures of many of which are nearly or quite natural size, all the defects of taxidermy (which unfortunately are glaring) are magnified, with most unhappy results. Although in many instances no idea of color, or even the distribution of the different tints, can be given by any known process of photography, yet with specimens mounted in the highest style of the taxidermists' art, and with some attempt at a natural effect in respect to pose and accessories, the results might be more satisfactory.

The text is well written, much care having been taken to secure accuracy of statement, while the spirit of the book is admirable. Much good advice as to where, how, and when to look for birds is given in the first fifty pages, including explanations of many technicalities, and a calendar indicating the seasons when the various species may be looked for. The author is an enthusiastic admirer of nature and strives to impart his enthusiasm to his readers. The book has thus a decidedly literary flavor. It is in the form of an oblong octavo, and in typography and arrangement is an attractive little volume. Doubtless it will touch a popular chord and be widely welcomed as a stimulating companion to many who, without aiming to be scientific, desire a speaking acquaintance with the feathered tenants of wood and field. — J. A. A.

Thompson's 'Birds of Manitoba.' † — In a paper of nearly two hundred pages Mr. Thompson gives his field notes on the birds of Manitoba made during a three years' residence in the Province, covering parts of the

* Our Common Birds | and how to know them | By | John B. Grant | With sixty-four Plates | New York | Charles Scribner's Sons | 1891. | pp. 216, 64 photogravure illustrations.

† The Birds of Manitoba. By Ernest E. Thompson, of Toronto, Canada. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XIII, 1890, pp. 457-643, pl. xxxviii. (Published June, 1891.)

years 1882 to 1887, supplemented by those of "numerous observers in various parts of the Province." In addition to this an attempt is made to include all published records bearing on the distribution of Manitoban birds which have not appeared in distinctively ornithological publications. In an introduction of eight pages the author defines the boundaries of the Province, and describes in much detail its physical features. The accompanying map shows also the distribution of both the deciduous and coniferous forests, the marshes, sand dunes, and prairies. Then follows (1) The annotated list of the birds, numbering 272 species and subspecies; (2) 'A chronological list of the principal books and articles consulted (4 pp. with 44 titles); 'A list of the manuscripts used in completing the foregoing Notes' (2 pp. 16 titles); and (4) an index to the paper.

Mr. Thompson's own copious field notes, supplemented by a large amount of inedited matter, render the paper a most welcome and important contribution to the ornithology of what was a practically unworked field when Mr. Thompson entered it. His list of 'The Birds of Western Manitoba,' published in 'The Auk' for 1888 (III, pp. 154-156, 320-329, 453), has shorn it of much of the novelty it would otherwise have presented, and prepared us for the fuller exposition of the subject his brief annotations in the former paper foreshadowed. Not only does each page add to our knowledge of the distribution of the birds over the region in question, but also of their habits and life history. Many of his own notes are given as actual transcripts from his field journal, and have thus the freshness and inspiration of direct contact with nature. The inedited manuscripts include important observations, often covering considerable periods in the field, of a dozen or more well known Canadian ornithologists, many of these documents having been originally prepared for and communicated to the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Migration. In addition to these are copious extracts from the unpublished 'Observations on Hudson's Bay' by Thomas Hutchins, who for twenty-five years, prior to 1780, was an agent of the Hudson's Bay Company. While the literary execution of the work is not above criticism, many of the biographical notes have a spirit and originality amply atoning for minor defects.—J. A. A.

Canadian Bird Notes.—A paper of 25 pages, entitled 'Proceedings of the Ornithological Sub-section of the Biological Section of the Canadian Institute,* for the months of January, February, and March, 1890, contains 110 separate notes, published over the names of the contributors, on the birds of the region about Toronto. They relate to uncommon visitants, and the nesting of the rarer kinds, and include a large number of very interesting records, which are thus conveniently brought together and made readily accessible. Mr. W. Cross records and describes a hybrid *Pipicola enucleator* × *Carpodacus purpureus*; Dr. C. K. Clarke brings forward very conclusive evidence of parasitism in the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), citing three instances of its depositing its

* Extract from Transactions of the Canadian Institute, 1890.