

**Connecticut Notes.**—On May 6, 1893, while collecting in a small patch of woods on the outskirts of this city I shot an Audubon's Warbler from a flock of Yellow-rumps. The bird is a male in very high plumage, the yellow throat being conspicuous and the chest pure black. On May 8 I again visited the woods, and after shooting several Yellow-rumps, I procured another Audubon's, this time a female in dull plumage but with the throat very plainly yellow.

On the same day I procured an adult male Lawrence's Warbler, and on May 22 an adult male Brewster's Warbler.

May 31 I noticed a Lawrence's Warbler which I thought was breeding. On June 5 I again noticed the bird and shot it, and, after hunting some time, I finally flushed the female from her nest which, unfortunately,<sup>1</sup> contained six young birds. I had a very good chance to examine her as she was constantly within six or eight feet from me. The nest was in all respects precisely like that of the Blue-winged Warbler. The young birds were well feathered out, and several of them showed traces of black on the throat.—A. H. VERRILL, *New Haven, Conn.*

**Correction.**—A recent careful re-examination of the contour map of the U. S. Geological Survey discloses that my statement made on pages 41 and 42 or the January 'Auk' as to the elevation of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, is not wholly correct, since there is a considerable area in the central and northeastern part of the County which is under 1500 feet, and some even below 1000 feet, while the section over 2000 feet in elevation is confined to the southern portion and does not extend into Indiana County as was originally stated.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Faunal Position of Lower California.**—In the last number of 'The Auk' Dr. J. A. Allen, writing of the faunal divisions of North America, quotes me as giving the peninsula of Lower California the rank of a 'subregion'—whatever that may mean. His exact words are: "The Sonoran Subprovince consists of Dr. Merriam's restricted 'Sonoran subregion,' with the addition of Lower California, which Dr. Merriam gave the rank of a 'subregion.'" (Auk, Vol. X, April 1893, p. 138). This statement is hard to understand in view of the circumstance that I took pains to point out, a year before the appearance of Dr. Allen's article, that Lower California was not entitled to the rank usually accorded it in faunal papers,<sup>2</sup> but should stand only as "a minor subdivision of the Lower Sonoran Zone." In this paper, which is several times quoted by Dr. Allen, I summed up the faunal results of a study of the mammals, birds, reptiles, and plants of the

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<sup>1</sup> The really unfortunate part of the affair seems to have been not that the writer was disappointed in his hopes of a set of eggs, but that he failed to capture and rear the young and to secure the female, — that he threw away a rare opportunity of casting much light on the status of this doubtful species. — EDS.

<sup>2</sup> The way Lower California has been treated by writers on distribution I have summarized in Proc. Biol. Soc. of Washington, VII, April 1892, pp. 16-17.

peninsula, and stated: "The peninsula of Lower California is a subdivision of the arid Lower Sonoran Zone. Not a single genus of land mammal or bird is restricted to it, and but two peculiar species of mammals have been described. The peculiar birds are more numerous, but with few exceptions are only subspecifically separable from those of neighboring parts of the United States and Mexico . . . . Among reptiles, about 25 peculiar species of snakes and lizards are believed to be restricted to the peninsula, but no peculiar genus is known. Three of the genera are tropical, and nine are arid Lower Sonoran. In addition to the peculiar species and subspecies of the peninsula, many characteristic arid Lower Sonoran forms of mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, and plants abound. Among the latter may be mentioned the highly distinctive Sonoran desert brush, *Larrea mexicana* and *Krameria parvifolia* . . . . It is evident, however, that the peculiar fauna of the peninsula of Lower California entitles it to rank as a minor subdivision of the Lower Sonoran Zone. It is in effect an insular fauna of recent origin, bearing the same relation to that of the mainland as do several of the adjacent islands." (Presidential Address on the Geographic Distribution of Life in North America, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. VII, April 1892, pp. 29-30).

The case is simply this: Dr. Allen has quoted views expressed by me several years ago, before I had made a special study of the faunal position of Lower California, instead of my later views on the same subject, Parallel instances of the quotation of earlier instead of later conclusions occur in other places. — C. HART MERRIAM, *Washington, D. C.*

[I trust it is needless for me to say that the misrepresentation implied above by Dr. Merriam was entirely unintentional and unconscious on my part. Accompanying the quotation given by Dr. Merriam is a footnote (not mentioned by him), as follows: "N. Am. Fauna, No. 3, 1890, p. 25, and map 5." This refers to a paragraph which begins as follows: "The *Sonoran Province*. . . . comes into the United States from the south and is divisible into six subregions, namely: (1) an *Arid* or *Sonoran* subregion proper, occupying the tableland of Mexico and reaching north into western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California; (2) a *Californian* subregion, occupying the greater part of the State of that name; (3) a *Lower Californian* subregion; (4) a *Great Basin* subregion . . . ."; and so on. Now as to "subregion"—whatever that may mean"—on this apparently there can be no better authority than Dr. Merriam himself. I used it, in the passage in question, as a borrowed term, and to indicate this placed it between 'single quotes.' 'Subregion', as here used, is employed of course in a very different sense from 'subregion' as used by me in a technical sense. And Dr. Merriam, as I understand it, merely employed it in a *quasi*-technical sense to designate provisionally subdivisions of a minor grade.

In his later paper ('Presidential Address') Dr. Merriam says: "The Sonoran Region may be divided by temperature into two principal trans-

continental zones, (a) *Upper Sonoran*, and (b) *Lower Sonoran*; and each of these in turn may be subdivided into *arid* and *humid* divisions" (l. c., p. 27). Nothing is said here or elsewhere, so far as I have been able to discover, about 'subregions,' nor is there any definite allusion to the divisions of the 'Sonoran' previously announced, nor any definite clue given as to what extent that classification was intended to be abrogated or modified by the later paper. In fact, the later paper does not perhaps go sufficiently into details to make this distinctly requisite. At page 29 of the 'Address,' however, it is stated that "Lower California is a subdivision of the arid Lower Sonoran Zone"; and on page 30 that Lower California is entitled "to rank as a minor subdivision of the Lower Sonoran Zone." And this is all that I supposed was implied by the classification given in the previous paper (N. Am. Fauna, No. 3, p. 25).

My purpose in referring to and making use of Dr. Merriam's 'subregions' in defining my own areas was two-fold: *first* (as they had been already mapped and defined), to save trouble and space in writing out their boundaries; *second*, in order to make a direct comparison between them and my own, which for the most part merely differed in respect to nomenclature. In connection with the statistics given by me respecting the bird fauna of Lower California, I should have given, or at least made reference to, the much fuller statistics previously published by Dr. Merriam respecting the fauna and flora in general; the omission to do this was purely an oversight (partly due, however, to the necessity for condensation), which I sincerely regret, and I am glad to have Dr. Merriam give them their merited prominence in the present connection.

As Dr. Merriam has shown in his admirable historical summary of the treatment of Lower California by previous writers (Pres. Add., pp. 16, 17), many authors who have referred to it have recognized its low ratio of peculiar forms and its close relationship to the arid interior district designated by Dr. Merriam as 'Arid Lower Sonoran.'—J. A. ALLEN.]

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. JENNESS RICHARDSON, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., died at Bryn Mawr Park, Yonkers, N. Y., June 24, 1893, at the age of 36 years and 19 days, after a long and painful illness. Although Mr. Richardson has published little, he was an excellent field naturalist and collector, but was especially distinguished as one of the leading taxidermists of the modern school. He was born at Rutland, Vt., in 1857, where he spent his younger days, early developing a strong taste for natural history pursuits, and unusual skill as a taxidermist. He was for some years an assistant of Mr. W. T. Hornaday at the National Museum in Washington. In 1886 he left Washington for New York, and took the position of Chief