

A Flying Trip to the Tropics.¹—In this pleasantly written journal the author gives us an account of a trip which occupied fifty-four days. Leaving New York June 11, 1892, with his wife and brother, he visited the Island of Curaçao, journeyed by boat up the Magdalena in Colombia as far as Yeguas, travelled by train to Honda, and thence proceeded over the mountainous Bogota road as far as Guadas, returning over the same route.

We cannot expect that so hurried a reconnaissance should yield much that was new from a naturalist's point of view, but the author proves conclusively that in comparatively few weeks we can visit lands which seem permanently beyond our horizon and make the acquaintance in life of at least the more characteristic forms of tropical bird-life. Indeed, to the naturalist the peculiar value of the book lies in the fact that the writer had no time to make a special study of anything. He found an abundance of material on every side, and his daily record of commonplace sights and incidents evidently forms a well-balanced picture of town, roadside, and riverside bird-life.

From Curaçao he records 23 of the 39 species of birds known from the island, while his list of Colombian birds includes 91 species or perhaps one-sixth of those which inhabit the region passed through. In view of the limited time available for field-work he may feel proud of the 210 bird-skins which figure among the material results of his trip.

Few books of travel are more adequately or handsomely illustrated. The numerous maps, half-tone cuts, and drawings of animals admirably supplement the text. Naturalists will welcome the colored plates by Keulemans, and black and whites by Keulemans and the late Gustav Mützel; while the extended bibliographical appendix will be of value to future workers in the same field.—F. M. C.

Shufeldt on the Osteology of Cranes and Rails.²—After reviewing the recent classifications of the Paludicolæ, Dr. Shufeldt presents a synoptic table of the osteological characters of *Porzana carolina*, which are said to agree in the main with those of the genera *Crex* and *Rallus*, and also with those of the Coots (*Fulica*) and the Gallinules. In another table is given a comparative synopsis of the osteological characters of *Rallus longirostris*, *Aramus giganteus*, and *Grus americana*, from which

¹ A Flying Trip to the Tropics. A Record of an Ornithological Visit to the United States of Colombia, South America, and to the Island of Curaçao, West Indies, in the year 1892. By Wirt Robinson, Second Lieutenant, Fourth U. S. Artillery. Cambridge: Printed at the Riverside Press, 1895. Sq. 8vo., pp. i-x, 1-194, 108 illustrations.

² On the Osteology of Certain Cranes, Rails, and their Allies, with Remarks upon their Affinities. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D. Journ. Anat. and Phys., Vol. XXIX, 1894, pp. 21-34.

he concludes that "the Courlans possess a greater number of gruine characters than they do ralline ones." The Paludicolæ are divided into two superfamilies, the Gruioidea, and the Rallioidea, the first including the Cranes and Courlans, each as distinct families, and the other the Rails, Gallinules and Coots.—J. A. A.

Grundtvig on the Birds of Shiocton, Wisconsin.—Mr. Grundtvig's paper was originally published in Danish in 1888, and has recently been translated into English and republished.¹ It is a copiously annotated list of 183 species, the result of systematic daily observations carried on by the author "from October, 1881, to October, 1883," within the limits of a very small area Outagamie County, Wisconsin. The introductory pages (pp. 73-94) describe the author's method of work, the general character and extent of the region treated and the distribution of the birds therein, and also notes the influence of the spring weather upon the arrival of the migratory birds in both 1882 and 1883. During the period mentioned the author appears to have given a large part of his time to the study in the field of the birds of his immediate vicinity, and the results of such detailed work, here presented, possess unusual value and interest. Thanks are due Mr. Faxon and to the Wisconsin Academy for rendering Mr. Grundtvig's paper accessible to English readers.—J. A. A.

Bourns and Worcester on the Birds of the Philippine Islands.²—The authors of the present paper "had the honor of forming two of the 'party of five collectors from the United States' which constituted the Steere Expedition to the Philippines" in 1887-88, when thirteen of the larger islands of the group were visited in company with Dr. Steere. "Being convinced," say these authors, "that much remained to be done, both in the discovery of new species and in the working out of the exact distribution of species already known, we were extremely anxious to return and continue the work. This we were enabled to do in the summer of 1890 through the liberality of Mr. Louis F. Menage, a public spirited citizen of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a member of the Minne-

¹On the Birds of Shiocton in Bovina, Outagamie County, Wisconsin, 1881-83. By F. L. Grundtvig. Trans. Wisconsin Acad. Sciences, Arts, and Letters, Vol. X, 1894, pp. 73-158, with map. Translated by Charles E. Faxon, from the Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den naturhistoriske Forening i Kjøbenhavn for Aaret 1887, pp. 305-396 (1888). Translation "Issued July, 1894."

²Preliminary Notes on the Birds and Mammals collected by the Menage Scientific Expedition to the Philippine Islands. By Frank S. Bourns and Dean C. Worcester. Minnesota Acad. Nat. Sciences, Occasional Papers, Vol. I, No. 1, Dec., 1894. 4to., pp. 64.