Three pages are devoted to the nine water birds included in this list among which are several species (*e. g.*, *Sterna dougalli, Tringa minutilla, Ægialitis semipalmata*, and *Æ. meloda circumcincta*) whose presence as breeders was not to be expected, and the succeeding twenty-two pages (pp. 20–42) are given to the biography of the Ipswich Sparrow, the only breeding land bird. Its synonymy, variations in plumage, size, distribution and migration, habits, song, nest and eggs, and food are here treated in detail. Six nests and five sets of eggs, three of four and two of five eggs, are described, showing that in its nidification the bird closely resembles its near ally the Savanna Sparrow.

The Ipswich Sparrow is a permanent resident on Sable Island, occurring in reduced numbers during the winter, and the most important part of Dr. Dwight's paper is his conclusion that Sable Island constitutes the bird's entire breeding range, and that it is there " a good example of an island species, probably related at one time to the Savanna Sparrow of the main-land by ties that cannot now be traced." The Ipswich Sparrow may thus claim the distinction of being the only bird of northeastern North America which illustrates the effects of isolation in an insular home.

Dr. Dwight's memoir is characterized by such thoroughness of research, both in the field and study, as to be practically above criticism. We may, however, add to the synonymy the following records which appear to have been overlooked : *Passerculus princeps* Roosevelt, ' Notes on some Birds of Oyster Bay, Long Island,' 8vo. leaflet, published by the author, March, 1879; Editor, Forest & Stream, XIV, 1880, p. 6 (notice of a paper read before the Linnæan Society by C. H. Eagle, " reviewing our present knowledge of the pallid sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*) and mentioning the capture of two specimens at Rockaway, L. I., January, 1880)."

' Birdcraft ' is included in the bibliography on the basis of "Unimpor-tant mention in a popular work," when, in fact, it gives the breeding ground of the Ipswich Sparrow as " Sable Island, Nova Scotia " and describes its song, nest, and eggs !— F. M. C.

Loomis on California Water Birds.[1] — In pursuing his studies of the migration of birds, Mr. Loomis passed the morning of each day in a small boat at from one-third of a mile to ten miles off shore. He justly claims that the phenomena of migration may be more readily observed over the sea than on the land. Aside from other and more obvious reasons, he remarks that " migration over the ocean continues during the daytime to an extent not usually observed on land, resembling, perhaps, more the night migration of land birds." Thus while the birds which pass a given station might not be noted on shore, they do not escape the observer who can maintain a fairly thorough watch over an area enclosed by a circle six

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[1] California Water Birds. No. 1. — Monterey and Vicinity from the middle of June to the end of August. By Leverett M. Loomis. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., Ser. 2, V, pp. 177--224, 1 map, June, 1895.

or eight miles in diameter. To the incomplete and misleading records of migration on land Mr. Loomis attributes what he considers to be the false statement that young birds migrate in advance of the adults. His own experience, as given in both this and other papers, would seemingly prove that in this country the contrary was true, and he says : " The *mere* occurrence of the young in a given locality before the presence of adults has been detected proves nothing beyond the bare fact that the young were observed there earlier than the adults. It does not prove that they left the region of their birth in advance of their parents, any more than the habitual absence in a locality of a species breeding to the north-ward and wintering to the southward of it, proves that the species does not migrate." Mr. Loomis thus agrees with most American students of migration on this much discussed question of leadership, but on the other hand we have Herr Gätke asserting positively from Heligoland : " 1. That under normal conditions in the case of the three hundred and ninety-six species occurring here, with the exception of a single one, the autumn migration is initiated by the young birds, from about six to eight weeks after leaving their nests. 2. That the parents of these young individuals do not follow till one or two months later. . . ."

Beginning on June 16, Mr. Loomis gives a daily record of the move-ments of birds down the coast, showing the influence of general and local climatic conditions on the numbers of birds and direction of flight. This is followed by a summary and an annotated list of the forty-four species of which specimens were taken. *Brachyramphus hypoleucus* and *Ster-corarius longicaudus* are here recorded for the first time from California. Mr. Loomis has selected a comparatively little known field in which to prosecute his studies, and we trust that this valuable and suggestive paper may be followed by many others from his pen. — F. M. C.

Ridgway's Ornithology of Illinois.[1] — An extended review of the first volume of this work[2] sufficiently explains its object and character. The present volume is devoted to the game and water birds, and concludes the ' Descriptive Catalogue.' Some 139 species are included, which, added to the 216 given in the first volume, make the total for the State 355. The occurrence of the following species, however, lacks confirmation : *Lagopus lagopus, Ardea rufescens, Megalestris skua, Stercorarius poma-rinus, Larus argentatus, Xema sabinii, Sterna maxima,* and *Urinator arcticus.* Mr. Ridgway's faith in *Ardea wuerdmannii* of the A. O. U.

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[1] Natural History Survey of Illinois, | State Laboratory of Natural History, | S. A. Forbes, Director. | The | Ornithology | of Illinois | — | Part I, De-scriptive Catalogue, | By Robert Ridgway. | Volume II. | Part 1. | — | Pub-lished by authority of the State Legislature. | — | Springfield, Ill. | H. W. Rokker, Printer and Binder. | 1895. Roy. 8vo. pp. 282 ; pll. xxii.

[2] Auk, VII, Jan. 1890, pp. 74–77.