

devoted to illustrating the nests of birds. Part III contains plates of the nests and eggs or nests and young of the Long-tailed Tit (two plates), Black-headed Gull, Little Grebe (two plates), Golden Plover, Lapwing (two plates), Herring Gull, Greenshank. In Part IV, nests of the following species are figured: Woodcock, Oyster-catcher (two plates), Tree Pipit, Reed Bunting, Ringed Plover (two plates), Little Tern (two plates), Jackdaw.—F. M. C.

Birds of Wellesley.¹—The author states that this list “is designed especially for the use of students in Wellesley College, and others interested in the bird-life of Wellesley and surrounding towns, its chief purpose being to give an approximately correct idea of the bird-life of the district, and serve as a convenient pocket guide to observations,” and it is admirably adapted to meet this end. It is well summarized as containing “75 water-birds and 169 land-birds, in all 244 species and varieties. Of these about 23 are visitors from the coast, and about 36 are accidental wanderers from various points of the compass, chiefly from the West and South. Of the 185 species remaining, 95 land-birds and 20 water-birds are fairly common, and should be met with by an ordinary observer in the course of a year, while the remaining 70 are either scarce or irregular in distribution, and are unlikely to be seen except by special effort or good fortune.”

Each species is annotated with reference to its time and manner of occurrence, haunts, and in the case of breeding species, location of nests, and there are also cross-references to text-books treating of the birds of the same region.

While lists of this kind may not have sufficient value to deserve publication in an ornithological magazine or the proceedings of a natural history society, their value to local bird-students is undoubted, and we trust Mr. Morse's excellent list may be followed by others of similar character throughout the country.—F. M. C.

Nehrling's Birds: Vol. II.²—Previous notices³ of this interesting work have given its scope and character so fully that the reviewer in the present instance has little to do beyond attesting the fidelity with which the promise of earlier portions has been kept to the end, and congrat-

¹ Annotated List of Birds of Wellesley and Vicinity, Comprising the Land-birds and most of the Inland Water-fowl of Eastern Massachusetts. By Albert Pitts Morse, Curator of the Zoölogical Museum, Wellesley College. Published by the Author: Wellesley, Mass., 1897. 16mo, pp. 56, one plate.

² Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty, being . . . etc. By Henry Nehrling. Vol II. Milwaukee: George Brumder. 1896. Large 4to or sm. folio, title-leaf and pp. 1-452, pll. col'd xix-xxxvi. (Pub. in Parts, 1894-96.)

³ Auk, Jan. 1890, p. 70; Apr. 1894, pp. 160, 161.

ulating the genial author upon the successful issue of his undertaking. The second volume, completed this year upon the appearance of the final one of the numerous parts in which the whole has been issued, carries the Birds "of Song" through the remainder of the oscinine Passerines, while those "of Beauty" include the clamatorial Passerines, the Picarions, and the Psittacines. These are illustrated upon 18 colored plates—a few of the subjects of these compositions having been already treated in Vol. I—raising the number of plates to 36, evenly balanced between the two volumes in which the work is now finally bound. They are handsomely bound in full Russia, gilt-edged, and beautifully printed with rubricated margins and other typographical elegancies. There is no falling off in the execution of the plates, and in fact no more luxurious a work on ornithology has appeared in this country of late years. Mr. Nehrling steadily maintains to the finish the faithful and careful preparation of the text to which he addressed himself in the beginning; it is written with fine feeling, good temper, and excellent judgment, to present popular life-histories which shall "combine accuracy and reliability of biography with a minimum of technical description." The birds with which the author is familiar from personal experiences are treated in greatest detail—some of them as completely as by any previous writer; and the rest are handled with judicious eclecticism in borrowing from the writings of others, always with generous acknowledgement. The author shows great tact in this particular—it is the reverse of that scissors-and-pastepot method of compilation which pads too many popular treatises. No more attractive and presentable volumes on our birds are now before the public; and we trust that this labor of love, as it certainly has been on Mr. Nehrling's part, may meet with the full measure of recognition it so well deserves. The author has taken and will long maintain a unique position in North American ornithology; we did not prophesy aside from the mark, though we ventured to do so before the event, in recording our conviction that Nehrling would awake some day to find his writings ranked with those we are accustomed to call classic.—E. C.

Chapman's 'Bird-Life.'¹—When Mr. Chapman's excellent 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern North America'² was published it was very evident that the author had made a special study of the needs of young students of ornithology and other non-professional bird-lovers. That his task had been admirably executed is a matter of general information;

¹ Bird-Life | A Guide to the Study of | Our Common Birds | by | Frank M. Chapman | Assistant Curator of the Department of Mammalogy and | Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural | History, etc. | With seventy-five full-page plates and | numerous text drawings | by Ernest Seton Thompson | author of Art Anatomy of Animals, the Birds of Manitoba, etc. | New York : D. Appleton and Company. 1897. 12mo. pp. xii + 269.

² Cf. Auk, Vol. XII, pp. 282-284.