

and lithographic plates have been reproduced. This paper, though the facts it presents, after the lapse of twenty years, have ceased to be novel, has lost little of its interest and importance, and is well worthy of a new lease of life in an English dress. Dr. Shufeldt has therefore done a distinct service to ornithology in thus placing the paper so conveniently before English readers. He has also added a few footnotes, and given, at the close, a résumé of recent views of taxonomers on the systematic position and relationships of the Owls.—J. A. A.

Merriam and Preble on the Summer Birds of Western Maryland.—This brochure from the Reports of the Maryland Geological Survey¹ consists of two papers; the first, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam (*l. c.*, pp. 291-293), treats of 'The Life Zones and Areas of Allegany County,' and deals with the general floral and faunal features of the region; the second, by Mr. E. A. Preble (pp. 294-307), gives an annotated list of 'The Summer Birds of Western Maryland,' numbering 100 species, and all are believed to breed in the region. According to Dr. Merriam, "The fauna of Allegany County is a mixture of Carolinian and Alleghanian species and comprises, so far as known, no boreal islands. The Potomac Valley, and valleys of the principal streams, are Carolinian; the upland, Alleghanian." In Garret County, above 2600 feet, "cold sphagnum and alder swamps abound," which "contain a strong admixture of high Transition and even Boreal species. . . . The cutting off of the spruce and hemlock from these small boreal islands lets in the hot sun and results, in numerous instances, in changing the fauna and flora from Canadian to Alleghanian."

We are surprised to notice a number of typographical errors in the technical names, for which doubtless the authors are not responsible. The paper is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the faunal character and summer range of the birds of western Maryland.—J. A. A.

Loomis on California Water Birds.²—This is No. V of Mr. Loomis's series of papers on 'California Water Birds,' and gives the results of his observations made in the vicinity of Monterey from May 1 to June 12, 1897. A 'Summary of Movements' for this period of observation is given, followed by some further discussion of the 'Cause of Return

¹ The Fauna and Flora. The Life Zones and areas of Allegany County. The Summer Birds of Western Maryland. By C. Hart Merriam and Edward A. Preble, Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. Agriculture. Maryland Geological Survey, Allegany County Report, pp. 291-307. Nov., 1900.

² California Water Birds. No. V. Vicinity of Monterey in May and early June. By Leverett M. Loomis, Curator of the Department of Ornithology. Proc. California Acad. of Sciences, 3d Ser., Zoöl., Vol. II, No. 5, pp. 349-363. Issued Nov. 24, 1900.

Migration,' and an annotated list of the 36 species observed (pp. 355-363). He says, "Subspecific names are omitted; otherwise the nomenclature conforms to the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' second edition and eighth and ninth supplements." So when we read (p. 357): "I have examined the specimen upon which Dr. Cooper based his California record of *Uria lomvia* (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., Vol. V, p. 414; Auk, III, p. 126) and find it is an immature *Uria troile*," we must understand the reference to *U. troile* to mean *U. troile californica*! There is more or less comment on the transition stages of plumage of various species observed, but no reference to the condition of the specimens as regards moulting, which, in some of the species at least, must have been in progress. The paper is a valuable contribution to a better knowledge of the local movements and spring migration of Pacific Coast water birds.—J. A. A.

Grinnell on Alaskan Birds.¹—This paper records 21 species from the Pribilof Islands, based on specimens in the collection of the Leland Stanford University, adding two species, namely, *Totanus melanoleucus* and *Saxicola anantha*, to the list of previously recorded species, which now number 72. Four are recorded from Amagnak Island, 4 from Belkovski Bay, 3 from Unga Island, 19 from Kadiak Island, and 18 from Prince William Sound. A new subspecies of Savanna Sparrow is described from Kadiak Island, under the name *Ammodramus sandwichensis xanthophrys*. The *Leucosticte kadiaka* McGregor is considered to be a subspecies of *L. tephrocotis*, and *griseonucha* is believed to be also merely a subspecies of *tephrocotis*, he having specimens in hand which "indicate an almost complete gradation" between them. Of the Barn Swallow he says: "The Alaska skins I have examined (Kotzebue Sound and Sitka) do not seem to differ on an average in wing measurements and extent of white markings on the tail, from United States specimens," and the specimen recorded from Nutchuk, Prince William Sound, "does not appear to answer to the characters assigned by Palmer (*cf. antea*, p. 176) to *unalaschensis*.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Eckstorm's 'The Bird Book.'²—This is one of D. C. Heath and Company's 'supplementary reading' books for schools. To quote from the preface: "The arrangement of the book has two ends in view: to adapt the study to the school year, and to present it so that when the pupil begins field work he shall be able to do it with some general idea of what is

¹ Record of Alaskan Birds in the Collection of the Leland Stanford Junior University. By Joseph Grinnell. The Condor, Vol. III, No. 1, Jan. 15, 1901, pp. 19-23.

² The Bird Book | By | Fannie Hardy Eckstorm | — | Boston, U. S. A. | D. C. Heath & Co., Publishers. | 1901. — Sm. 8vo., pp. xii + 276, with 26 pll. and 30 text figures. Price, 60 cents.