

better than none; and we fancy that this fact, and their comparatively small cost, accounts for their presence in a book worthy of a far better accompaniment. The half-tones in the text, on the other hand, are for the most part well reproduced, well selected, and appropriate to the text, giving characteristic views of the haunts of many species, as well of many nesting sites, nests and eggs, and of living birds.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States,' Second Edition.—The "second edition, revised"¹ differs from the first mainly through a revision of the matter relating to the Horned Larks (genus *Otocoris*, pp. 266-269), which has been rewritten and brought down to date, and the addition of Addenda (pp. 486-488) giving a list of the alterations in the names of western birds made by the Nomenclature Committee of the A. O. U. since the publication of the first edition in 1902, and also correcting the few omissions and errors of the first edition that could not readily be made in the text. The generous commendation given the work in our notice of the first edition need not be here repeated. The early call for a second edition shows that the work is appreciated and meets a real need.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Wheelock's 'Birds of California.'²—In this attempt to provide a non-technical manual of three hundred of the commoner birds of California the author has attained a high degree of success, and has also produced a work of much permanent value on account of the many original field observations, which add to the sum of our knowledge of the life histories of many of the species considered. As to the plan of the work: "Keys have been avoided and a simple classification, according to habitat or color, substituted," following a plan used by a previous author, here adopted and commended. Under the head of 'Contents,' the species are enumerated under the English names of the A. O. U. Check-List, beginning with the 'Water Birds,' which are grouped into sections according to their haunts, followed by 'Land Birds,' grouped as (1) 'Upland Game Birds,' (2) 'Birds of Prey,' and (3) 'Common Land Birds in Color Groups,' which latter are divided, on the basis of color, into eight minor groups. The species are arranged in the same incongruous order in the text, but are designated by the A. O. U. Check-List numbers and names, both tech-

¹ For collation and review of the first edition see *Auk*, XX, 1903, pp. 76-78.

² *Birds of California | An Introduction | to more than Three Hundred Common | Birds of the State and Adjacent | Islands | With a Supplementary List of rare migrants, accidental | visitants, and hypothetical subspecies | By Irene Grosvenor Wheelock | author of "Nestlings of Forest and Marsh" | With ten full-page plates and seventy-eight drawings | in the text by Bruce Horsfall | [Vignette] Chicago | A. C. McClurg & Co. | 1904 — Sm. 8vo, pp. xviii + 578, 10 half-tone plates, 78 text figures.*

nical and vernacular. The descriptions are in small type and very brief, giving only the most characteristic features, the geographical distribution, breeding range and season, and nest and eggs. Then follows, in larger type, a short, well-written biography of the species. No originality, of course, is claimed for the technical descriptions, and many of the biographies of the water birds, and of some others, are compiled, and often in part quoted, with due credit, from previous authors. But a large proportion of the land birds have come within the personal experience of the writer, whose researches, begun in 1894, have extended throughout a large part of the State, and hence her biographies are based on original observations and contain much new information. The work closes with a briefly annotated 'Supplementary List' of the species and subspecies thus far recorded from California in addition to the three hundred formally treated, the list being compiled from authentic and accredited sources.

In the introduction the author makes some generalizations respecting the feeding habits of young birds that are to a large extent new and somewhat surprising; their confirmation or disproof opens up an interesting field of research. She says: "Long and careful study of the feeding habits of young birds in California and the Eastern United States has led the author to make some statements which may incur the criticism of ornithologists who have not given especial attention to the subject. For instance,—that the young of all macrochires, woodpeckers, perching birds, cuckoos, kingfishers, most birds of prey, and many seabirds *are fed by regurgitation from the time of hatching through a period varying in extent from three days to four weeks, according to the species.* . . . Out of one hundred and eighty cases recorded by the author, in every instance where the young were hatched in a naked or semi-naked condition they were fed in this manner for at least three days. In some instances the food was digested, wholly or in part; in others it was probably swallowed merely for convenience in carrying, and was regurgitated in an undigested condition." A few specific instances are cited here in illustration, and many others are given in the biographies.

Mrs. Wheelock's manual is in several ways noteworthy, and should prove most welcome to would-be bird students of the Pacific coast, and of interest to ornithologists in search of fresh information on the life histories of California birds.—J. A. A.

Torrey's 'The Clerk of the Woods.'¹—The thirty-two short essays here brought together received previous simultaneous publication in the 'Evening Transcript' of Boston and the 'Mail and Express' of New York. Those familiar with the author's previous books do not need to

¹The Clerk | of the Woods | By | Bradford Torrey | . . . | Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1903—16mo., pp. i-viii, 1-280. \$1 10 net, postage extra.