

Besides, all this has a bad look, prejudicial to the author, who is thus open to the suspicion of lacking literary experience or of being careless and slipshod in his work, either of which suspicions may do him injustice. If an author adds a bibliography to his paper, it is presumably to place his sources of information at the service of others, and not for the purpose of tantalizing or annoying subsequent investigators. The least one has a right to expect is a full and correct citation, giving both the opening and closing pages, if exceeding a page of two in length; while a line or two of pertinent annotation, where required to make clear the bearing of the paper cited, is a boon future investigators along the same lines will recognize with gratitude.

In closing we wish to say again, that Mr. Beebe's present paper is not the cause, but merely the occasion, for this bit of criticism of indolent or slovenly bibliographers, whose number is unfortunately *legion*.— J. A. A.

Braislin's Birds of Long Island, New York.¹ — Probably no portion of North America of similar area has been the scene of more careful field work in ornithology than Long Island, New York, — a strip of land about 120 miles long by 8 to 18 in breadth, mostly low and little diversified, rarely rising into hills of a 100 feet in altitude along its northern shore. It is separated from the main land on the north by Long Island Sound, and is exposed on its southern front to the broad Atlantic. From the days of Giraud and the elder Lawrence, it has been the favorite resort, not only of gunners in quest of its abundant water-fowl, but of ornithological observers and collectors. A list of some 250 titles appended to Dr. Braislin's paper attests the harvest reaped from this fertile field, exploited so energetically by William Dutcher from 1879 to 1904, and by the author of the present paper during the last decade, and by Dwight, Foster, Chapman, Helm, Howell, the Lawrences, and others at different periods. Dr. Braislin has done well to gather these scattered records into one condensed and consistent whole, citing the dates and authorities for the rarer species, and giving concise statements of the manner of occurrence of the more common ones. The total number of species now recorded is 364; including three introduced species, and various waifs and strays from remote regions, including several from Europe. The list has been most carefully prepared, and its completeness is beyond question. The bibliography is exceptionally well done, the titles and references being fully given, and its value further increased by brief annotations to many of the titles.— J. A. A.

Finley's 'American Birds.'² — Notwithstanding its broad title, Mr.

¹ A List of the Birds of Long Island, New York. By William C. Braislin. Abstr. Proc. Linnæan Society of New York, for the year ending March, 1907, pp. 31–123. Also separate.

² American Birds [studied and photographed] from Life | By | William Lovell Finley | Illustrated from photographs by | Herman T. Bohlman | and the Author | Charles Scribner's Sons | New York 1907 — 8vo, pp. xvi + 256. October, 1907.

Finley's interesting book is limited to about two dozen species of American birds, practically all of them western, with sometimes eastern names. Its scope and character is thus stated by the author: "In this book no attempt has been made to include all the different bird families, but a series of representative birds from the hummingbird to the eagle has been selected. Each chapter represents a close and continued study with camera and notebook at the home of some bird or group of birds,— a true life history of each species. It is the bird as a live creature, its real wild personality and character, that I have tried to portray." The twenty chapters treat of about twenty-five species, each of which is illustrated by a series of excellent photographs of the living bird, its nest, eggs and young, the latter often at several different stages of growth. Although localities and dates are usually omitted, the stories are detailed and pleasantly written, and give a vast amount of information about the ways of life and individualities of the species here so faithfully and sympathetically portrayed and described. There is also entire absence of technicalities in the treatment, which lapses at times into loose statements hardly to be looked for in a book naturally expected to be scientifically accurate as well as popular, in the sense of being non-technical, as where the author tells his readers: "But a list of birds that every one should know could not be complete without our two commonest studies in blue, the Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) and the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). In all our woods, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, one may find these two, one gentle and friendly, the other bold, boisterous, and untrustful." And this despite the fact that neither of these species is found nearer the Pacific coast than the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains! The "young Blue Jays" shown in the accompanying illustrations are *Aphelocoma californica*, the California Jay, and the Bluebirds are evidently the Western Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Such lapses from the truth, whether intentional or otherwise, are apt to leave with the reader who knows better, a rather unpleasant impression.— J. A. A.

Ihering's Birds of Brazil.¹ — This is the first of a series of volumes on the Fauna of Brazil, in which will be given a synopsis of the present knowledge of the animals of this great country, to be published by the Museu Paulista. The present volume is an annotated Check-List of the birds, so far as known to the authors, and follows the classification and nomenclature of the British Museum 'Hand-list' and 'Catalogue of Birds.' Although the rule of priority is recognized as mandatory, and the tenth edition of the 'Systema Nat ræ' of Linnæus (1758) is regarded as the

¹ Catalogos | da | Fauna Brasileira | Editados pelo | Museu Paulista | S. Paulo — Brazil | — | Vol. I | As Aves do Brazil. | Pelo Prof. Dr. Hermann von Ihering | Director do Museu Paulista | e | Rodolpho von Ihering | Custos do Museu Paulista | [vignette] Sao Paulo | Typographia do Diario Official | 1907 — Svo, pp. xxxviii + 485, and 2 maps, + 3 leaves = 2 title pages and contents.