

mammals is by Edmund Heller. From April 17 till August 9 the entire party was occupied in collecting and exploring at various points on Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof Islands, and at Glacier Bay, at which latter date most of the members returned home. Mr. Stephens, however, remained and continued to work in the same region till August 29, and later stopped at Thomas and Helen Bays, between Juneau and Dixon Entrance. The collections included 532 birds, 22 sets of eggs and nests, and 476 mammals, and has been presented by Miss Alexander to the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy. A map shows the region traversed, and there are several half-tone scenic illustrations.

The report on the birds, by Dr. Grinnell, records 99 species, of which 81 were represented by specimens, with very full notes based on the field books of the collectors. Two species and four subspecies are described as new, namely: *Lagopus alexandrae*, from Baranof Island; *Lagopus dixonii*, from Chichagof Island; *Buteo borealis alascensis*, from Glacier Bay and Chichagof Island; *Picoides americanus fumipectus*, based on a single specimen from Chichagof Island; *Loxia curvirostris sitkensis*, from Admiralty Island; *Planesticus migratorius caurinus*, also from Admiralty Island. The author "still believes that there are two races of the Varied Thrush," in opposition to the recently expressed opinion of Mr. Ridgway. In this belief he is supported by the A. O. U. Committee, which at its last meeting declined to accept its proposed elimination, this decision being based on then recently acquired material (cf. Auk, XXV, July, 1908, p. 398).

The field notes here incorporated contain much interesting information respecting the breeding habits of a number of the species met with, and Dr. Grinnell adds important comment on variations of plumage, based in some instances on large series of specimens (38 skins of the rare Kitilitz Murrelet were obtained). The report is thus an important contribution to Alaskan ornithology.—J. A. A.

**Grinnell on Birds observed at Salton Sea.**<sup>1</sup>—This paper gives observations on about half-a-dozen of the water birds seen, but a future paper on the land birds is promised. The expedition was made in April, 1908, in the interest of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy, at the University of California, of which Dr. Grinnell is curator. On Echo Island, in Salton Sea, was found a large breeding colony of the American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), "the southernmost nesting-colony" of this species. A census of the colony gave a total of "980 occupied nests, besides others in process of construction. At the very minimum there were 2000 pelicans here assembled." A very full account is given of the character of the nests, with photographic illustrations. On the nearby Pelican Island was a breeding colony of Farallone Cormorants, of which 147 nests were

<sup>1</sup> Birds of a Voyage on Salton Sea. By J. Grinnell, Condor, Vol. X, No. 5, Sept.-Oct., 1908, pp. 185-191.

counted that contained eggs, besides many others partly built. This island was formerly — two or three years before — the favorite nesting resort of the pelicans, but at this time only three nests of this species were seen there, the colony having moved to Echo Island.— J. A. A.

**Chapman on the Life-Histories of the Booby and Man-o'-War Bird.**<sup>1</sup>—

The observations here recorded were made during April, 1907, at Cay Verde, in the Bahamas, while on a collecting trip to obtain specimens, accessories, photographs, and other data for a 'Habitat Group' of these birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Although only three days and nights were spent at the key, the visit was successful, and forms the basis of the present report on the bird life of Cay Verde. No land birds appear to be resident on the key, but it is visited by a number of migrants, of which nine species were noted, in addition to the same number of water birds. The presence of these birds, says Mr. Chapman, "indicates that Cay Verde would be an admirable station for the study of the migration of birds throughout this region. The small size of the Cay [half a mile long and a fourth of a mile wide] would permit the taking of fairly accurate daily censuses, while the distance from the nearest land makes it the only available stopping-place in a large area. It is to this isolation that the presence of large numbers of breeding birds on the cay may be attributed." The birds accustomed to nest there are three species of tern, the Tropic-Bird, and the two species that form the subject of the present paper. The number of Boobies (*Sula leucogastra*) breeding on the cay was estimated to be about 1500 pairs, with between 200 and 300 pairs of Man-o'-War Birds. At this time most of the nests contained young, ranging in age from newly hatched to half grown, while some nests still contained eggs and some of the young birds were already on the wing.

A detailed account of the habits, nest, eggs and young is given for each species, and also of the development of the plumage in the young birds. Incidentally some errors made by Audubon in his account of these species are noted. It is shown beyond reasonable doubt that the Booby found by Audubon nesting on his "Noddy Island" (Bird Key, Tortugas Islands) and supposed by him to be "*Sula fusca*" (*S. leucogastra*) was really *S. piscator*. The correction of this error gives *Sula piscator* for the first time the status of a former breeding bird in the United States, where it is now only of accidental occurrence. On the other hand, Audubon's record of the breeding of the Man-o'-War Bird in the Florida Keys is discredited. The six plates, based on photographs, illustrate the nesting habits, manner of flight, and development of the plumage in both species.— J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> A Contribution to the Life-Histories of the Booby (*Sula leucogastra*) and Man-o'-War Bird (*Fregata aquila*). By Frank M. Chapman. Papers from the Tortugas Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Vol. II, 1908 (1909), pp. 139-151, pll. i-vi. [Separates not dated, but distributed late in February, 1909.]