

not; consequently hybrids between distinct genera (even when as closely allied as *Trochilus*, *Calypte*, and *Selasphorus*) must necessarily be rare and sporadic.

Mr. Taylor's concluding observation that "Trochiline hybrids occur only between species whose ranges overlap or adjoin" necessarily applies with equal force to *all* hybrids, and therefore has no bearing on the case.—
ROBERT RIDGWAY, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Cory's 'The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin.'¹—In a portly volume of 764 pages the Curator of Zoölogy of the Field Museum has given us an illustrated manual of the Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin which for effectiveness of treatment will doubtless long remain without a rival. As stated by the author: "The present work includes, as far as known, all species and subspecies of birds which occur in Illinois and Wisconsin, the total number being 398, with descriptions of their various plumages, nests and eggs, and geographical distribution, together with more or less brief biographical notes concerning them." It is further said: "The keys to families and species are practically the same as those which first appeared in the author's *Birds of Eastern North America*, revised to meet present needs"; which means the omission of all species and higher groups not found in the area under consideration, and such other modifications as have been found necessary.

The preface is a brief statement of the scope of the work, an explanation of how to use the keys, and acknowledgments of indebtedness to the works of previous authors. Then follows the table of contents, a glossary of terms used in description (illustrated), an Introduction (pp. 13–22), describing and profusely illustrating types of structure of the wing, tail, leg and foot, and bill, and 'how to measure a bird.' Keys to the families and species occupy pages 23–274, and the systematic treatment of the species comprises pages 275–715. The work concludes with 'A Key to the Eggs of the more common birds known to breed in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin' (pp. 716–739, with two half-tone plates of eggs), a Bibliography (pp. 740–750), and an Index.

In 1899, just ten years ago, appeared Mr. Cory's 'Key to the Birds of Eastern North America,' published, like the present volume, by the Field Museum. These Keys, as already stated, constitute the basis of the elabo-

¹ *The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin.* By Charles B. Cory, Curator of Department of Zoölogy, Field Museum of Natural History. Publication 131. Zoölogical Series, Vol. IX. Chicago, U. S. A., 1909. 8vo, pp. 1–764, numerous text figures

rate key portion of the present volume, and as they have already been noticed in detail in 'The Auk'¹ it is unnecessary to comment upon them at length in the present connection. A few lines from them, however, may be here transcribed in illustration of the general character of the work here under notice: "In the present case we have a work that is not only elaborate in its pictorial details, simple in method of treatment, and comprehensive in scope, but also systematic and scientific in arrangement . . . The text is brief, the cuts occupying the greater part. . . . Besides the numerous cuts of structural parts, as bill, feet, tail, etc., each species is figured, either full length or half length, to show the most characteristic parts. . . . [The text] is limited to brief diagnoses, in which the distinctive features are emphasized by the use of special [heavy-face] type. . . . The author in his 'Key' to North American birds has certainly reduced the difficulty of identifying our birds to a minimum, and anyone so unfortunate as not to be able to identify his specimens in any stage of plumage, by Mr. Cory's 'Keys' may well give up the attempt in despair."

The nomenclature is strictly that of the A. O. U. Check-List, down to and including the Fourteenth Supplement (July, 1908), with a few rectifications in an insert facing the title-page, based on the Fifteenth Supplement (July, 1909). Each species is concisely characterized, including the immature and seasonal variations of plumage, and its general distribution is briefly stated, following which is its status as a bird of Illinois and Wisconsin, with, in the case of rare species, the citation of authorities for its occurrence. This part of the work appears to have been very carefully compiled, and rests on the solid foundation furnished by the various recent works on the birds of special localities within the general area here covered.

In general the work is exceedingly free from typographical errors, and in other respects is typographically excellent. We are hence the more surprised to meet (on p. 15) 'rectices' in place of rectrices, especially since attention was called to this error when it originally appeared in 1899, and it was corrected in a subsequent reprint of the original work.

In conciseness of statement, in fullness of detail, in profuseness of illustration, and in efficiency and utility as a local bird manual, Mr. Cory's 'Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin' is entitled to the highest praise, and we congratulate the author and the Field Museum on the addition of this valuable contribution to ornithological literature.—J. A. A.

Wrights' 'Birds of the Boston Public Garden.'²—In this little book of some 250 pages the author offers the results of his nine seasons' work (1900–1908) as an earnest, persistent and careful observer of the birds of a

¹ Vol. XVI, Oct., 1899, pp. 366, 367 (Water Birds); Vol. XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 78 (Land Birds).

² Birds of the | Boston Public Garden | A Study in Migration | By | Horace Winslow Wright | With an Introduction by | Bradford Torrey | and | Illustrations | [vignette] Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press 1909 — 12mo, pp. xx + 238, and 8 photographic illustrations. \$1.00 net.