

excellent, and the narrative is full of interest and instruction for the amateur bird student and the devotee of the camera a-field. The book is divided into fifteen chapters, illustrated with sixty half-tone plates, representing about twice that number of successful 'exposures.' The subjects range from the upland gamebirds, hawks, and owls, and on through the families of birds to the end of the list. The work concludes with a simplified list of the orders and families of birds, only "popular English names" being used for the designation of the groups, and a bird calendar for the year, by seasons and months. Those familiar with Mr. Job's previous works need not to be assured that the present volume is well worth their attention, and that they will find in it much new bird-lore freshly gathered from the fields and woods and entertainingly imparted.— J. A. A.

Verrill on the Birds of San Domingo.¹— In this paper are recorded 112 species, collected by Mr. A. H. Verrill between December 21, 1906, and April 13, 1907. Included in this number are the introduced Guinea Fowl, and a form of Grackle thought by Mr. Verrill to be a distinct species but which appears to be merely the female of *Holoquiscalus niger*.

Two species in the collection were found to be undescribed, one of which, the resident form of the Grasshopper Sparrow, has already been named by Mr. Hartert. The other is here described for the first time under the name of *Buteo tropicalis*. This supposed species, of which the type is said to be an adult male, appears to be closely related to *B. borealis calurus* and *B. b. umbrinus* but no comparisons are made with either form. The upper surface of the tail is described as rusty-ferruginous, crossed by about eight dusky bands and if this character is constant the species is probably valid.

The Cape May Warbler was found to be abundant and apparently represented by two forms differing somewhat in coloration. The authors state that "as young birds in nestling plumage, as well as females containing eggs ready for the nest were obtained" they "consider it possible to separate the resident bird from the northern form as a local variety or subspecies." The writer has seen the majority of the specimens collected by Mr. Verrill and considers them all typical *Dendroica tigrina*, the highly colored form supposed to represent a resident race being undoubtedly the adult male, while the duller one is the immature male. The "young birds in nestling plumage" are doubtless the females in their first winter plumage. It may be recalled that this species as well as the Myrtle Warbler was long ago recorded as breeding in Jamaica but the record lacks confirmation. It is not probable that an Antillean race of the Cape May Warbler would begin to nest before the middle of March, and the conclusion is inevitable that the evidence as to the existence of such a race is not satisfactory.

In regard to the local distribution of the resident birds the authors write: "The avifauna of San Domingo is remarkable for the number of species

¹ Notes on the Birds of San Domingo, with a List of the Species, including a New Hawk. By A. E. Verrill and A. Hyatt Verrill. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia, 1909, pp. 352-366. "Issued, September 21, 1909."

peculiar to the island, many of which are confined to special isolated localities. Many species are met with only at certain seasons, while others, usually very rare, are abundant in places where their food plants occur, during the season when these plants are in fruit."

There are interesting notes on the habits of many of the species peculiar to the island, which includes such isolated forms as *Dulus* and *Calyptophilus*. The occurrence of fifteen species of North American warblers is worthy of remark.— W. DE W. M.

G. B. Grinnell on the Wild Turkey.— In two recent numbers of 'Forest and Stream' Dr. George Bird Grinnell has given a very full account of "America's Greatest Game Bird," the Wild Turkey,¹ including its names, geographical races, former and present range, and habits. Dr. Grinnell quotes Mr. Brewster² respecting its former range in the New England States, and presents much (in part previously unpublished) information concerning its former presence in southern South Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado. It appears to have never quite reached the Black Hills, and that it "seldom or never crossed the divide between the north and south forks of the Platte," but appears to have extended up the Missouri River as far as the mouth of the Cheyenne River.

As is well known, the Wild Turkey has been exterminated over much of its former range. Says Dr. Grinnell: "In the Southern States turkeys have always been abundant and their stronghold is still there — parts of Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Texas. Merriam's turkey is said to be almost extinct in Colorado, but is still abundant in Arizona and New Mexico. That there should be occasional outlying colonies of a few birds in Iowa and Nebraska . . . seems very surprising, but such colonies cannot last long unless protected by the owners of the land on which they live. . . . Throughout the farming country of the North and West the turkey is gone and gone forever."— J. A. A.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, 1909.³— This Report, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, treats, as usual, of the varied activities and the interests subserved by this important Government Bureau, the functions of which are primarily economic and incidentally scientific. The work, as defined by Congress, comprises: (1) Investigations of the economic relations of birds and mammals; (2) investigations concerning the geographic distribution of animals and plants with reference to the determination of the life and crop belts of the country; (3) supervision of

¹ The Wild Turkey. America's Greatest Game Bird. By George Bird Grinnell. Forest and Stream, Vol. LXXIII, Nos. 22 and 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, 1909, pp. 852-854, 891, 892. with 2 half-tone illustrations.

² Birds of the Cambridge Region.

³ From Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture. 8vo, pp. 24.