

of the species listed. The paper is posthumous, Mr. Ferry having died February 11, 1910, at the beginning of what seemed a promising scientific career (*cf.* Auk, XXVII, April, 1910, pp. 240, 241).— J. A. A.

'A Naturalist in the Bahamas.'— A volume with this title,¹ just published, contains a biographical sketch, by the editor, Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, and the collected papers of the late Dr. John I. Northrop, who died, full of promise for an eminent career as a scientific investigator and teacher, at the early age of 29 years, June 25, 1891, his death resulting from the accidental explosion of alcohol. Dr. Northrop was interested in a wide range of subjects, including ornithology, and at the time of his death was an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union. In 1890 he, with his wife, visited the Bahamas, where he spent six months in making collections in nearly all branches of natural history. Among the birds he obtained was a new species of *Icterus* (*I. northropi* Allen), described and figured in 'The Auk' (Vol. VII, October, 1890, pp. 344-346, pl. i, colored). He made a collection of 75 species of birds on Andros Island, an account of which was published by him, also in this journal (Vol. VIII, 1891, pp. 64-80). Besides these papers the present volume contains an account of the flora and a narrative of the Bahama trip by Mrs. Northrop, and a large number of papers by various specialists on the invertebrates collected by Dr. Northrop on the Bahama expedition, in addition to papers by Dr. Northrop and Dr. and Mrs. Northrop jointly, on a variety of scientific subjects — geological and botanical as well as zoological.

In Professor Osborn's appreciative notice of Dr. Northrop he states that the finished and unfinished work he left behind him "gave evidence of acute powers of observation, of painstaking study, and of strict regard for truth in the recording of facts"; and adds that he "had in mind the ultimate publication of a volume on the Bahamas which would embody the results of his work there and of other contemplated trips to the islands." The present memorial volume was planned to carry out this project, so far as possible, and it is hoped that through it "the memory of his labors and activities, brief as they were permitted to be, may live, and the influence of his example be handed down to future generations of the students of Columbia and of other universities."— J. A. A.

Cooke's 'Distribution and Migration of North American Shorebirds.'²— The 85 recognized forms of Shorebirds (Limicolæ) — 76 species

¹ A Naturalist in the Bahamas | John I. Northrop | October 12, 1861-June 25, 1891 | A Memorial Volume | edited with a Biographical Introduction | by Henry Fairfield Osborn | [Seal of Columbia University] New York | The Columbia University Press | 1910 — 8vo, pp. xv + 281, with 37 plates and 9 text figures. The Macmillan Company, 66 Fifth Avenue, New York. \$2.50 net.

² Distribution and Migration of North American Shorebirds. By Wells W. Cooke, Assistant, Biological Survey. Bulletin No. 35, Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. 8vo, pp. 100, with 4 half-tone plates. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1910. Issued October 6, 1910.

and 9 subspecies — represented in North America are here treated in detail in respect to their migrations and general distribution throughout the year. Of these 85 forms 7 are found only south of the United States, 5 only in Greenland (in the Western Hemisphere), and 15 others occur only as stragglers from Europe and Asia, 58 belonging properly to the avifauna of North America north of Mexico. Of these 8 are Arctic and subarctic species that never visit the United States, and the breeding range of 36 others is wholly north of the United States.

In the introductory pages of this excellent summary the species are listed in twelve categories on the basis of their areas of occurrence in North America and their breeding and migration ranges. Following these a few pages are devoted to the general subject of the migration of Shorebirds, which in most cases make migratory journeys of over a thousand miles, and in some instances breed in arctic tundras and winter from the southern border of the United States south, according to the species, to the southern extremity of South America, some of them thus making semiannual migrations of 7,000 miles. The spring route is also different, in the case of some species, from that taken in the fall. The following statement is of special interest, since it is undoubtedly founded on thorough investigation: "Though many of the shorebirds breeding in North America winter in the southern parts of South America, none of them breed in their winter home. Special attention needs to be called to this fact, because nearly a dozen species of this family — among which may be noted particularly the Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs and White-rumped Sandpiper — have been reported as breeding near the southern end of South America. In no case has it been claimed that the eggs have been found, and all the records are based on the finding of young not fully grown or in most cases simply from the presence of individuals during the usual breeding season of local species. This latter reason is not even presumptive of breeding. . . ."

The species are considered, in systematic sequence, with reference (1) to their breeding range, (2) their winter range, (3) their migration range, (4) the spring migration, (5) the fall migration. In the case of the Old World stragglers occurring in America, each is disposed of in a paragraph of ten or twelve lines, while from one to three pages are required to deal with the species of regular occurrence. The breeding range is given in considerable detail, while a few lines are sufficient to state the winter range, but both the spring and fall migrations are stated in very satisfactory detail as regards localities and dates; the more important records include the name of the authority for the record.

"The data," says the author, "on the breeding and wintering of the shorebirds has [have] been collected from all available printed sources, from the manuscript reports of the field naturalists of the Biological Survey, and from the specimens and catalogues of the United States National Museum. The dates of migration have been obtained principally from the migration schedules sent in by the several hundred observers in the

United States and Canada, who for a quarter of a century have contributed to the Biological Survey spring and fall reports of their migrations." It is needless to say that such extended resources have never before been available as the basis for such a study, and the present paper is worthy of the wide reputation Professor Cooke had already established as a specialist on the migration and distribution of North American birds. Four species are illustrated in as many half-tone plates, from drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuytes.

The "rapidly approaching extinction [of the Eskimo Curlew], if indeed any still exist," is thus accounted for: "A simple explanation is that during recent years, especially since 1880, its former winter home in Argentina has been settled and cultivated, while its spring feeding grounds in Nebraska and South Dakota have been converted into farm land." The species has been recorded, it is here stated, "only a few times" during the last fifteen years, "and apparently only three times in the ten years previous to 1909," — J. A. A.

Beck's 'Water Birds of the Vicinity of Point Pinos, California.' —

This is an annotated list¹ of 94 species, based on the author's work as chief field assistant of the California Academy of Sciences, between May 1, 1903, and July 13, 1910, during which period "considerable time was spent in collecting water birds in the general vicinage of Point Pinos — Monterey Bay and the adjacent ocean." During most of these years Mr. Beck spent each year a number of months in quest of the water-fowl which frequent this part of the California coast during the fall, winter, and spring months, with the result that the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences has by far the most extensive collection of well-prepared specimens of these birds now extant. Mr. Beck's paper is a summary of the results thus obtained, and is hence a most welcome contribution to our knowledge of the winter distribution of these birds (Grebes to Plovers, both inclusive) along the California coast. The nomenclature is that of the third edition of the A. O. U. Check-List, except that subspecies are not recognized, so that we have the California Eared Grebe recorded as *Colymbus nigricollis*, the California Murre as *Uria troille*, and so on in all like cases.

Among the more interesting records it is noted that Xantus's Murrelet, although not now breeding north of Lower California, wanders north after the breeding season to Monterey Bay, where, in some winters, it is found in considerable numbers, it having been observed on nearly every trip from November 24, 1904, to February 4, 1905. It is also more than hinted that there is complete intergradation between *Brachyramphus hypoleucus* and *B. craverii*.

The Skua (*Megalestris skua*) is recorded as taken in Monterey Bay

¹ Water Birds of the Vicinity of Point Pinos, California. By Rollo Howard Beck. Proc. California Acad. Sci., ser. 4, Vol. III, pp. 57-72. September 17, 1910.