

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.

August 7, 1907, and attention is called to a previous overlooked record for the California coast made by the late George N. Lawrence in Vol. IX of the Pacific R. R. Survey Reports (1858, p. 838). The specimen, formerly in the Lawrence collection, is still extant in the American Museum of Natural History. The species, however, is not recorded for the Pacific coast in any of the editions of the A. O. U. Check-List.

Larus canus is again recorded for California, but, as in previous instances, doubtless on a misidentification of *L. brachyrhynchus*, which is not given, though a common species on the California coast in winter.

It is interesting to note that a small breeding colony of the Least Tern is reported as occurring at Moss, near the mouth of the Salinas River. *Fulmarus rodgersi* is confessedly recorded as *F. glacialis*! In the A. O. U. Check-List (3d ed.) *Puffinus bulleri* is recorded as: "Range.—New Zealand; north casually to California." Mr. Beck says: "Ten specimens have been taken by me in fall off Point Pinos, double the number recorded from New Zealand seas in Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels.'" The Black Petrel (*Oceanodroma melania*) was found at frequent intervals and specimens taken from May 27 to September 14, 1907, though apparently not previously recorded north of the Santa Barbara Islands.

A species new to the North American fauna added by Mr. Beck is the Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes* Gould), a bird not previously reported from the American side of the Pacific, of which Mr. Beck has taken ten specimens near Point Pinos, the first November 23, 1903, the second November 24, 1904, and others in February, April, June, August, September, and November, 1907.

Mr. Beck states that he has "freely incorporated" observations made by Mr. Loomis in his series of well-known papers on California water-birds, and a number of the species are given on this basis, so that while the present list is mainly a summary of Mr. Beck's own work, it also includes species found by Mr. Loomis that the author of the paper failed to meet with.—J. A. A.

Townsend's 'A Labrador Spring.'—This volume¹ is of general as well as of ornithological interest, since it treats of the country in its varied aspects — of fishermen and fur traders as well as birds and plant life — and the phenomena attending the quick transition from snow banks to flowers in the rapid progress of spring in high latitudes.

The captions of the ten chapters convey some idea of its varied contents, namely: A Labrador Spring (pp. 1-35), From Seven Islands to Esquimaux Point (pp. 36-63), An Acadian Village (pp. 64-82), The Courtships of Some Labrador Ducks (pp. 83-102), The Cruise of 'La Belle Marguarite'

¹ A Labrador | Spring | By Charles W. Townsend, M. D. | Author of "Along the Labrador Coast," etc. | With illustrations from photographs [Seal] Boston Dana Estes & | Company MDCCCX — 12mo, pp. xi + 262, with numerous half-tone plates. \$1.50.