

## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Chapman's Handbook.**<sup>1</sup>— For many years the student of birds in America received his inspiration and was guided in his early studies by 'Coues' Key,' and those of our ornithologists who are now nearing middle age have shaped their ideas of ornithology largely upon this classic work. Today however we are forced to realize that another and much larger generation of bird students has grown up whose guiding star has been not 'Coues' Key' but 'Chapman's Handbook,' and the broadening of the whole study, the widespread interest in the living bird as contrasted with the 'skin' is we think largely traceable to the influence of the latter work.

Just as the success of 'Coues' Key' called in time for a new edition so there has arisen an emphatic demand for a more modern 'Chapman,' which the author and publisher have fully met in the volume before us.

It is still the same handy reference volume which made the first edition so popular, but with an increase of 100 pages and with more as well as better illustrations. All of which make it the leading work of reference on bird life in eastern North America, not only for the amateur but for the professional ornithologist.

The introduction has been entirely rewritten and as it stands today is a model of concise statement, nowhere can one find so much information about birds in such a small space. The chapters and their subdivisions are as follows. I. Why we should Study Birds; II. A Word to the Beginner: Finding and Naming Birds; The Equipment of the Field Student; Collecting Birds, their Nests and Eggs; American Ornithological Societies; Current Ornithological Magazines. III. The Study of Birds in Nature: The Distribution of Birds; The Migration of Birds; The Voice of Birds; The Nesting Season; The Plumage of Birds; The Food of Birds; General Activities of the Adult Bird.

The author's wide field experience has enabled him to write upon these subjects largely from personal knowledge which adds materially to the value and interest of the essays. A most important feature moreover is the addition of a series of suggestions to the student under each heading and a bibliography of reliable publications dealing with subject under discussion, which serves as a guide to anyone who desires to pursue his studies

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<sup>1</sup> Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America with Introductory Chapters on the Study of Birds in Nature | By | Frank M. Chapman | Curator of Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History | Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union | Foreign Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, etc. | With full-page Plates in colors and black and white | By Louis Agassiz Fuertes | and Text-cuts by Tappan Adney and Ernest Thompson Seton | Revised Edition | New York and London | D. Appleton and Company | 1912. 12 vo. pp. i xxix + 1—530. pll. 1—XXIV, figs. 1—136. Library Edition \$3.50 net., Pocket Edition, flexible covers, \$4.00 net.

farther along special lines. The second portion of the work, 'The Birds of North America east of the Ninetieth Meridian' follows the original edition but certain portions have been revised or rewritten, nesting dates have been added and the distribution and nomenclature have been revised according to the third edition of the A. O. U. Check-List.

The bibliographic feature is also carried through this part of the work and after many species are added the titles of important papers relating to them.

The admirable illustrations especially those by Fuertes add greatly to the usefulness of the book. The color plates of the plumages of the Orchard Oriole, Bobolink, and Scarlet Tanager make the successive changes so clear to us that a description seems scarcely necessary, while the plate of the Thrushes should solve for the bird student of the future any difficulties in their identification.

It remains only to mention the colored faunal map inside the cover, the 'Historical Review' and 'Plan of the Work,' which follow the preface, and the extended bibliography of faunal papers arranged according to states and provinces which closes the volume.

The prophesy of the reviewer of the original edition of the 'Handbook' that it was 'marked for a career of extended usefulness' has been abundantly realized and for the present volume we anticipate the same success but in even greater measure.— W. S.

**Eagle Clarke's 'Studies in Bird Migration.'**<sup>1</sup>— For nearly thirty years the name of William Eagle Clarke has been closely identified with the study of bird migration in the British Isles. As one of the members of the British Association's 'Committee on the Migration of Birds' he prepared the five reports which resulted from investigations of this body, and now in two handsome volumes, he presents the results of his life work on this subject.

With the exception of the first two chapters the work deals entirely with the author's studies and conclusions. Chapter I is entitled, Some Ancient and Antiquated Views and Chapter II, Some Modern Views. While the latter does not pretend to be a résumé of the literature of the subject, the writings of a number of important students of migration are referred to, and it is rather remarkable that no mention whatever is made of the reports of Prof. W. W. Cooke issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is likewise remarkable that Dr. J. B. Watson's experiments with the Noddy and Sooty Terns on the Dry Tortugas are quoted from a review by Mr. Chapman in 'Bird Lore' while Dr. Watson's name is not even men-

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<sup>1</sup> Studies | in | Bird Migration | By | William Eagle Clarke | Keeper of the Natural History Department, the Royal Scottish Museum | With Maps, Weather Charts, and Other | Illustrations | Vol. I | London | Gurney and Jackson | Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd | 1912 — Svo, Vol. I, pp. i-xvi + 1-323; pl. I-IX. Vol. II, pp. i-viii + 1-346, pll. X-XXV. Price 18s. net.