

The ornithologist will find many of these sketches replete with observations on bird habits and behavior.

The flight of gulls, the courtship of wild ducks, the booming of the bittern and the plumage changes of the sandpipers are all discussed. Besides, the Ipswich Sparrow, Pipit, Shore Lark and a few other land birds which one naturally expects to find along the shore, a surprising list of warblers — twenty-one species — has been observed among the dune trees in migration times.

In the make-up of Dr. Townsend's book the publishers have done their part well and the typography and binding are as attractive as is the text. — W. S.

Bailey's 'The Birds of Virginia.'¹— The wealth of excellent illustrations and the admirable typography unite in making Mr. Bailey's book one of the most attractive state lists that has yet appeared. The halftones are from photographs by the author and by many of his correspondents in different parts of the country, especially Messrs. C. F. Stone, O. E. Baynard, Thomas H. Jackson, W. Otto Emerson and Verdi Burtch, while the color plates are from paintings by Mr. E. L. Poole of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, a young artist who gives much promise as a portrayer of animal and bird life.

The text consists of a statement of the range of each species reprinted from the A. O. U. Check-List with occasional alterations by the author and about a page descriptive of nest and eggs, local distribution, abundance and economic status; acknowledgment being made to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for data on the food of a number of species.

The matter thus presented combined with the extremely attractive make-up of the book will go far to realizing one of the objects of the publication, as set forth in the preface — namely to stimulate interest in our native birds and their welfare. Such a stimulus has long been needed in Virginia and other southern states and for this purpose especially Mr. Bailey's book should be welcomed. It is to be regretted however, that the text could not have been given the benefit for a careful editorial revision, for while remarkably free from typographical errors it is carelessly and loosely thrown together evidently under pressure of time with the result of being sometimes distinctly ungrammatical.

With regard to the author's second aim, to provide a "thorough systematic work on the breeding birds of the state for the needs of the advanced ornithologists of our country," his volume is adequate so far as containing probably all the species and subspecies which breed in Virginia but it is frequently lacking in the detailed data that characterize modern ornithologi-

¹ The Birds of Virginia | By | Harold H. Bailey | with fourteen full page colored plates | one map, and one hundred and eight | half-tones taken from nature | treating one hundred and eighty-five species and subspecies: | all the birds that breed within the state | 1913 | J. P. Bell Company, Inc. | Publisher | Lynchburg, Va. | Svo. pp. i-xxiii, and 1-362.

cal work. For instance the Olive-sided Flycatcher, Crossbill, Pine Siskin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, etc. are given as breeding birds without any actual records or references to records, while so far as we can judge their nests have not been taken in the state by the author. It is the actual records that the scientific ornithologist requires or at least an indication of where they may be found and an adequate state list should furnish this information. In the case of the Brown Creeper, moreover, one might suppose that it bred throughout the state as there is no mention whatever of its local summer distribution. The author seems not to have a clear conception of the nature of subspecies as he states that the breeding ranges of the two Parulas, the two Maryland Yellow-throats, etc., overlap in Virginia. If such is the fact, from the very nature of the case, they would cease to be subspecies and must be regarded as species. The remarks about winter Juncos must we think apply largely if not entirely to *J. hyemalis hyemalis* not to *J. h. carolinensis* which is the breeding form of the mountains.

One point in which Mr. Bailey's work is especially open to criticism from the 'advanced ornithologist' is the lack of any sort of bibliography and the very meagre reference to the work of others. Prof. Smyth's recent paper in 'The Auk' is freely quoted and there is an occasional reference to Dr. Rives' 'Birds of the Virginias,' but many other important records and papers could have been quoted to advantage. We trust that these may be supplied in another edition, as well as the editorial revision already suggested, which will bring the text up to the high standard attained in the illustrations and general make-up of the volume.— W. S.

Faxon on Brewster's Warbler.¹— In January, 1911, Dr. Faxon published an interesting account of observations on some families of warblers in a swamp at Lexington, Mass. A pair of Golden-wings reared only Golden-wings, a male Golden-wing and female Brewster's Warbler produced only Brewster's Warblers while another similarly mated pair produced Brewster's Warblers and at least one Golden-wing.

Observations on the colony were continued in subsequent seasons by the author and Dr. W. M. Tyler but with no satisfactory results until 1913, when a male Golden-wing was found mated with a female Blue-wing, the combination that was particularly to be desired. The development of the young was followed with great care and all of them eventually assumed the pure plumage of Brewster's Warbler, thus proving positively the nature of this so called species. As Dr. Faxon points out this is in exact accordance with Mendel's law, *chrysoptera* (pure) × *pinus* (pure) should produce only *leucobronchialis*, a Mendelian so called dominant hybrid; *chrysoptera* (pure)

¹ Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*) a hybrid between the Golden-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*) and the Blue-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila pinus*). By Walter Faxon. Memoirs Mus. Comp. Zool. Vol. XL. No. 6, pp. 311-316. August, 1913.