

developed led Mr. Wetmore to a careful study of the available specimens which demonstrated beyond question that this is the normal condition in the species. One of these long feathers develops and is retained for more than a year, probably for two. The other one does not appear until the first has attained its full growth. Upon the molt of the first feather the other takes its place, so that there is always one long feather — the right and left alternately — while the other one is always very much shorter and only partly developed.— W. S.

**Chapman on New Colombian Birds.**<sup>1</sup>— In the present paper Dr. Chapman describes twenty-six additional new forms from the rich collections obtained by the several expeditions sent out, under his direction, by the American Museum of Natural History. The problems of distribution presented by a study of these collections demand for their solution additional material from Antioquia and eastern Panama and to secure this the Museum has sent out two additional collecting parties under Messrs. L. E. Miller and W. B. Richardson.

Dr. Chapman is sparing no pains to make his study of the Colombian avifauna thorough in all its details and the further his work progresses the more anxiously do we await the final report upon the subject.

The present contribution even though admittedly preliminary, is a welcome relief from the wretched descriptions of two or three lines with which our literature is becoming overburdened. Not only are the diagnoses here presented full and adequate, with appropriate discussion, but in many instances brief contrasted descriptions of all the known forms of a group are given with their respective geographic ranges.— W. S.

**Shufeldt on the Young of *Phalacrocorax atriceps georgianus*.**<sup>2</sup>— This paper consists of a detailed account of a young cormorant twenty-four hours out of the egg. While no generalizations are suggested the condition of the various organs is minutely described as well as the progress of ossification in various parts of the skeleton, making a permanent record of facts that may be used in future comparative study.— W. S.

**'Alaskan Bird-Life.'**<sup>3</sup>— Through the generosity of one of its members the National Association of Audubon Societies has been enabled to carry its

<sup>1</sup> Diagnoses of apparently new Colombian Birds. III. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXIII, Art. XL, pp. 603-637. November 21, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> Anatomical Notes on the Young of *Phalacrocorax atriceps georgianus*. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., extracted from a Report on the South Georgia Expedition. Sci. Bull. Mus. Brooklyn Inst. Arts and Sci., Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 41-102. November 5, 1914.

<sup>3</sup> *Alaskan Bird-Life as Depicted by Many Writers*. Edited by Ernest Ingersoll. Seven Plates in Colors and other Illustrations. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies. New York, 1914.

educational work into the far off settlements of Alaska. The medium is an attractive booklet, containing well prepared accounts of the bird-life of the various portions of the territory compiled from the publications of Dall, Nelson, Grinnell, Osgood, Bishop, Bent, and other explorers of the extreme northwest; the 'Arctic Coastal District' being written by Mr. Nelson himself. The illustrations consist of half-tones, and colored plates from the series of 'Educational Leaflets' published by the Association, each being accompanied by its respective text.

This little volume is to be freely distributed among the people of Alaska, in the effort "to cultivate a better appreciation of the value to mankind of our wild birds and animals."

The book is admirably adapted to its purpose and should go far toward preserving an interesting and valuable fauna.— W. S.

**Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States.'**  
— **Fourth Edition.**<sup>1</sup>— The excellence of Mrs. Bailey's well known 'Handbook' as well as the increased interest in ornithology through our western states are attested by the issue of a fourth revised edition of the work. While the main text is the same, important additional matter is contained in the 'Addenda.' The changes made in the nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List are summarized, and lists of species to be added and eliminated are given, as well as a complete list of the birds of the western United States with their ranges, as they appear in the third edition of the Check-List. There is also an additional list of 'Books of Reference' bringing the bibliography up to date. All of these improvements tend to make this authoritative work still more indispensable to the student of western bird life.— W. S.

**McIlhenny's 'The Wild Turkey and Its Hunting.'**<sup>2</sup>— This work consists of two parts. Chapters III and IV treating respectively of 'The Turkey Prehistoric' and 'The Turkey Historic' are by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt; while the remainder, dealing with the hunting of this famous game bird and its actions in its native haunts, is compiled by Mr. McIlhenny, largely from the manuscripts of the late Charles L. Jordan, a life long turkey-hunter and manager of the Morris game preserve at Hammond, La. In his introduction Mr. McIlhenny says, "After Mr. Jordan's death . . . I secured his notes, manuscript, and photographic plates of the wild turkey,

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<sup>1</sup> Handbook of Birds | of the | Western United States. | Including | the Great Plains, Great Basin, Pacific Slope, and | Lower Rio Grande Valley. | By | Florence Merriam Bailey. | With thirty-three full-page plates by | Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and over six | hundred cuts in the text. | Fourth Edition, Revised. | Boston and New York. | Houghton, Mifflin Company. | Riverside Press, Cambridge. | 1914. 12mo, pp. i-li+1-570. \$3.50 net, postpaid \$3.69.

<sup>2</sup> The Wild Turkey | and Its Hunting. | By | Edward A. McIlhenny. | Illustrated from photographs. | 12mo, pp. i-viii+1-245, 20 plates. Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York. \$2.50 net.