

ten feet away, sitting erect on a limb of another tree, was a red squirrel eating something that it held in its fore-paws. My 8-power binoculars showed this to be a naked baby bird, presumably a Hairy Woodpecker and not more than two or three days old. Many times before I have seen red squirrels near the nests of birds and the parents were making a great fuss and trying to drive them away but this is the only time that I have actually seen one eating a young bird.—VERDI BURTCHE, *Branchport, N. Y.*

Note on Bonaparte's Continuation of Wilson's Ornithology.—Having by chance found an advertising leaf of the Philadelphia publishers, Carey, Lea and Carey, bound in one of their publications of 1825, in which they announce as "Just Published" "The American Ornithology or Natural History of Birds inhabiting the United States not given by Wilson", it may be of interest to make some comment.

In this advertisement the publishers state that Volume I, now for sale, will be followed by Volume II to be "published in June, and the third and last volume early in the autumn." They go on to remark: "Of this splendid work a very limited number is printed, the greater part of which are already subscribed for." It will thus be seen that Bonaparte and his publishers had no expectation of issuing a fourth volume. Examination of the first three volumes shows that Volume I was printed in 1825, and Volume II, instead of being published in June of the same year, did not appear until 1828. Volume III was also published in 1828. The chief bibliographic interest in this work, however, centers in Volume IV, not originally contemplated by the author or publishers, and which was issued by Carey and Lea in 1833, after an interval of five years from the publication of Volume III. In his Preface to Volume I, page 6, second paragraph, Bonaparte implies that the third volume would complete the work, but there is no preface or other remark explaining the issuance of a fourth volume. However, in the preface of Volumes II and III which appeared simultaneously, it seems that he decided to thus issue in two volumes what he had originally intended to be published in one, on account of the large amount of material which had accumulated. This being the case, Volume IV probably represents what he had originally intended to be Volume III.

As is well known to librarians and collectors of books on birds, the fourth volume of Bonaparte's work is very hard to secure. Probably one-half of the sets of the first three volumes lack the fourth, in spite of the endeavors of the owners to secure that volume. There is little doubt, in my own mind, that the fact of the original subscribers having been given to understand that three volumes would complete the work, together with the long period of time between the dates of the third and fourth volumes, greatly reduced the number of subscribers for the additional volume. Whether the number of copies of the fourth volume was further reduced by some accident to the stock, such as fire or water or

other damage, we have no information. We do know, however, that the majority of copies of this volume now existing are much injured by unsightly stains and spots due to dampness, in this respect greatly exceeding such defects in the other volumes.—SAMUEL N. RHOADS. *Haddonfield, N. J.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Todd and Carriker on the Birds of Santa Marta.¹—Ornithologists have known that for many years past Messrs. Todd and Carriker have been engaged upon an intensive study of the birds of the Santa Marta Region of northern Colombia. Mr. Carriker took up his residence in the district in 1911, and ever since has been diligently engaged in collecting specimens which have been secured by the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and in studying the habits and distribution of the species, while Mr. Todd at the Carnegie Museum has been identifying the material and working out the technical questions presented by the collections and by his colleague's field notes. While we understand that the report has been practically completed for some time it has only recently appeared from the press. It constitutes a very full account of the 514 species recorded from the Santa Marta region, with prefatory sketches of the geography, geology, and climate and an historical account of ornithological explorations in the area. There is also a list of the species described from the Santa Marta region and a detailed discussion of the faunal zones into which it may be divided. At the end of the volume is an elaborate bibliography in which every paper with the slightest mention of Santa Marta seems to have been included, and a few supplementary pages by Mr. Carriker, covering a trip made in the summer of 1920, to the valley region east and south of the Santa Marta range. A colored map, four views of the country, six excellent colored plates of birds from paintings by G. M. Sutton and nine text figures illustrate the volume. The writers have termed their work "complimentary" to Dr. Chapman's volume on 'The Distribution of Bird Life in Colombia' and such indeed it is, especially as that author, well aware of the present investigation, omitted the Santa Marta region entirely in his study. It must therefore be very gratifying to the authors of both works as well as to ornithologists at large, that this intensive study of a limited area carried on for ten years, confirms in every way the

¹ *The Birds of the Santa Marta Region of Colombia: A Study in Altitudinal Distribution.* By W. E. Clyde Todd, and M. A. Carriker, Jr. *Annals of the Carnegie Museum.* Vol. XIV. October, 1922. Publications of the Carnegie Museum. Serial No. III. pp. 3-611, pls. I-IX. [pages 1-2 contain a foreword by W. J. Holland] (Received January 23, 1923.)