

on the methods and possibilities of bird banding, several migration records and a bibliography. The domestic cat comes in for just censure and it is such evidence and publicity as are here given that will ultimately break down the prejudice in favor of cats and permit us to pass laws to prevent their free roving and so eliminate one of the worst menaces to wild bird life. Mr. Johnston is to be congratulated upon an admirable piece of work.—W. S.

Eliot's 'Birds of the Pacific Coast.'—This little volume¹ is intended to serve the purpose of a popular handbook for those who have but limited time for outdoor study and desire a short cut to a knowledge of the common birds of the woods and fields.

It consists of colored figures of all of the 118 species treated, with brief accounts of their habits and habitats and a concise statement of distribution and sometimes of coloration, the length, in inches, of each species being given immediately after the name. Allied subspecies are mentioned in the text usually without description, and unfortunately referred to as "species."

The work would seem to answer the purpose for which it is intended quite well and will doubtless aid many a beginner to a knowledge of the common birds of the "Coast", but we are sorry that fuller descriptions could not have been given especially in the case of such birds as the Sharp-shinned Hawk and others where the adult only is figured and described, whereas many specimens encountered will probably be immature. Mention of the best field characters could also have been added with advantage, the trouble with most of our popular books being that the descriptions are of specimens in hand whereas the student wants the characters of the live bird at some distance. A nominal list of all the birds of the Pacific Coast is added with the states in which each occurs.

The nomenclature throughout wisely follows the A. O. U. 'Check-List' but unfortunately the sequence of species follows "a whimsical plan" of the author's without regard to their proper order. This is regrettable as those who use the book will later secure a more advanced work and be bewildered to find the order with which they have become familiar completely upset.

The author's plan to pick out the most familiar birds has been well carried out and the work therefore deals mainly with the Passeres and "Picariae" with a few birds of prey, gallinaceous and aquatic species. The plates by Bruce Horsfall vary much in artistic merit but are mainly quite satisfactory for purposes of identification although owing to careless printing the colors in a number of instances are off register and produce

¹ *Birds of the Pacific Coast*. Including a brief account of the distribution and habitat of one hundred and eighteen birds that are more or less common to the Pacific Coast states and British Columbia, many of which are found eastward to the Rocky Mountains and beyond. By Willard Ayres Eliot. With fifty-six color plates by R. Bruce Horsfall. G. W. Putnam's Sons. The Knickerbocker Press. New York and London. 1923. pp. i-xvii + 1-211. Price \$3.50.

blurred figures. The general make-up of the book is excellent but we do not like to see bird names, especially in a bird book, printed with lower case initial letters.—W. S.

Wood's 'Birds of North Dakota.'—It is always a pleasure to welcome a State list¹ for a state that has hitherto been without such an ornithological necessity, as has been the case with North Dakota; and especially welcome is a list prepared with the care that Mr. Norman A. Wood has devoted to the publication before us. He has modestly entitled it a "Preliminary Survey" and doubtless much additional field work will be necessary before the bird-life of every part of this state is known, but it is safe to say that the present list will serve the purposes of the ornithologists of North Dakota for some years to come.

The field work was carried on by Mr. Wood under the joint auspices of the Biological Station of the University of North Dakota and the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan, the report being published as Miscellaneous Publication No. 10 of the latter institution. Collecting trips were made to half a dozen counties in widely separated parts of the state, various collections have been examined and many unpublished records secured, while the literature bearing on the birds of the state has been most carefully examined.

The bibliography seems very complete and we can find at the moment only two additional titles: a record of the capture of a Band-tailed Pigeon in the state (Shufeldt, 'Auk' 1912, pp. 539-540) which may perhaps have been purposely omitted by Mr. Wood on the basis of additional information though it should have been in the list of papers, and a popular article on 'Some Lakeside Waders of the Northwest,' by H. K. Job (Outing, September, 1906). It may also be worth while to mention that the collection made at Pembina by Dr. W. L. Abbott was presented by him to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia where it is still preserved and available for consultation.

Mr. Wood presents a brief historic summary of early ornithological work in North Dakota and an account of the physiographic features of the state, then follows the annotated list of 321 species and subspecies.

Under each is a brief statement of its occurrence from the earlier writers and a fuller account of the experiences of Mr. Wood and his correspondents, so that one has here in concise form a summary of our present knowledge of the occurrence of the bird in the state.

In the preliminary pages the author emphasizes the rapidity of the changes which man has wrought. In twenty years time the whole character of the country has been altered and with cultivation and drainage many species of birds have left or become very scarce while others of different types have increased.

¹A Preliminary Survey of the Bird Life of North Dakota. By Norman A. Wood. University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, Miscellaneous Publication No. 10. Ann Arbor, Michigan. Published by the University, July 2, 1923 [received October]. pp. 1-96 with six plates and a map.