

Specimens were collected and others positively identified. On May 3, the first specimen, a male, was seen and collected. From the 8th to 12th they were most numerous when four or five were seen daily. The last specimen was noted on the 25th.

Geothlypis formosa. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—A male was taken at Ann Arbor on May 7, 1924. This is the fourth positive record for the State.

Thryomanes bewicki. BEWICK'S WREN.—A female was collected at Waterloo on May 12, 1923.—WALTER KOELZ, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Colorado Bird Notes.—I wish to record the following occurrences in Colorado. While all have been previously recorded from the State they are rare.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—One on Brush Creek near Eagle, Eagle County, June 5, 1923.

Geococcyx californicus. ROAD-RUNNER.—One along the Cañon City—Colorado Spring highway, near Penrose, Fremont County, June 25, 1923.

Spiza americana. DICKCISSEL.—One eight miles southeast of Fort Collins, Larimer County.—W. L. BURNETT, *Fort Collins, Colo.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Brewster's 'Birds of the Lake Umbagog Region of Maine.'¹—One of the treats enjoyed by readers of the earlier volumes of 'The Auk' were the bird biographies that appeared now and then from the pen of the late William Brewster. Written in a clear, straightforward style, with no effort at embellishment, they were yet full of the atmosphere of the haunts he was describing and ever fascinating to the fellow student of the birds whose habits he was recording. When the well known 'Birds of the Cambridge Region' appeared doubtless others beside the writer regretted that the scope of the work necessitated the cutting down of the accounts of the various species to statements of character of occurrence, relative abundance, etc., with little of the charming biography of which the author was capable.

It must therefore be a great delight to us all to realize that before his death Mr. Brewster was able to complete his accounts of the birds of Lake Umbagog, that spot in the wilds of Maine which he so loved to visit, where more than anywhere else he was able to study birds under primeval conditions. And in these accounts which are now being published by the Museum of Comparative Zoology, we find the biographies which we missed in 'The Birds of the Cambridge Region.'

¹ The Birds of the Lake Umbagog Region of Maine. By William Brewster. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. [Cambridge, Mass.] Vol. LXVI. Part 1. June, 1924, pp. 1-209. Price post paid \$1.50.

Based on his experiences with the birds of Umbagog during a period of nearly forty years, these biographies consist of admirably written summaries of the habits and occurrence of each species with many detailed descriptions of particular incidents and delightful bits of personal experience and extracts from the author's diaries. As we read the pages we seem to see before us the lake in its setting of mountains and forest primeval, the canoe from which Brewster made many of his observations, his frequent companion, Alva Cooledge, his setter dog "Druid" and the ever-changing ornithological background.

It is these intimate studies of wild birds that constitute the great charm of ornithology and we are doubly indebted to the man who has the ability and patience to record his observations and to pass them on for the delight and instruction of his successors, as Mr. Brewster has done. The scientific value of such records, too, is very great and the importance of that branch of ornithology which pertains to animal behaviour is only beginning to be realized. Along with it is the necessity, in recording our data, of distinguishing clearly between actual observation and inference—a distinction which in Mr. Brewster's writings is scrupulously maintained. The concentration of effort on the study of the bird life of a limited region as has been done in 'The Birds of Umbagog' has always appealed to the writer as far more worth while than the spreading of our studies over a wide area, pleasing as this more varied experience maybe, though the intimate and authoritative knowledge that one acquires of a region long subjected to intensive study has a charm and a value that it is hard to overestimate.

The present publication is only the initial part of Mr. Brewster's work and covers, beside the brief introductory pages, only the water birds as far as the Rails.

There are some delightful descriptions of various spots located about the lake with their natural characteristics, some account of the changes of season about the lake and a few pages on migration. In the latter the author reasserts his belief, so clearly set forth in his pamphlet on 'Bird Migration,' that natural landmarks play the most prominent part in guiding birds on their way. He thinks that the importance of Dr. Watson's experiments on Terns at the Dry Tortugas "has been overestimated and its precise significance more or less misinterpreted," and that the return of the Sooty Terns from Hatteras could easily be explained by their following the coast line. This however was written before Dr. Watson's further experiments showing a return flight directly across the Gulf of Mexico from Galveston to the Tortugas, while Mr. Brewster himself admits "that Terns and other sea-frequenting birds must possess a specialized, and for the most part intuitive sense of direction" to enable them to find their way so directly through dense fog. He does not, however, think we are warranted in arguing that land birds have this sense so highly developed, and holds that they are less often guided by it than by conspicuous landmarks and suggests further the possibility that the

sun and moon may frequently serve certain of the more acute and observing species as guides to direction.

We shall look forward to the appearance of the remaining parts of Mr. Brewster's work with keen interest and with the confidence that when completed it will constitute one of our most important publications on the life histories of North American birds.—W. S.

Gyldenstolpe on Birds of Central Africa.—Count Gyldenstolpe, the author of this important report¹ accompanied the Crown Prince of Sweden Expedition to Central Africa and hence is able not only to discuss the systematic relationship of the various species obtained but to comment on their range and habits from personal experience, which adds not a little to the value and interest of his report.

The expedition starting from Nairobi crossed to Lake Victoria, thence to the Birunga volcanoes and the north shore of Lake Kivu. Turning north it visited Lake Edward and the Congo forest north of Beni, thence to Irumu, Lake Albert and out by way of the Nile. The expedition covered the months of January to August, 1921, inclusive.

There are interesting discussions of the avifauna and physical features of several of the regions visited. The author shows that the avifauna of the Birunga Mountains has been derived mostly from an immigration of southern and eastern forms and not from the West Africa fauna as in the case of Mt. Ruwenzori. He endorses Lömberg's hypothesis that the forest region of tropical Africa was originally of much greater extent and its breaking up into separate areas accounts for the disconnected distribution of various species, or the presence of slightly differentiated races in widely separated localities. With the climatic changes, resulting in great diminution in the rainfall of Eastern and Southern Africa, former forest species were either wiped out or adapted themselves to other environments, forming new species or races.

The annotated list of the species collected or observed occupies most of the report—some 300 pages, and contains very full discussions of their relationship, distribution and nomenclature and in most cases some account of their habits. There is a full list of the specimens, often with measurements and colors of the soft parts, making an exceedingly valuable contribution to the ornithology of Central Africa.

We notice only one new name, *Rhinoploceus* (p. 35), a new subgenus for the interesting Weaver Finch, *Malimbus flavipes*, described by Chapin from the Ituri forest, and of which this expedition obtained two specimens. The new forms secured by the Swedish Expedition were all previously described by the author in the 'Bulletin' of the British Ornithologists' Club.

¹ Zoological Results of the Swedish Expedition to Central Africa, 1921. *Vertebrata I. Birds*. By Nils Gyldenstolpe. With 1 map, 2 plates and 16 figures in the text. Kungl. Svenska Vetensakad. Handlingar Tredje Serien. Band 1, No. 3, 1924, pp. 1-326.