

In sequence of families and species, and in all but a few cases in nomenclature as well, Mr. Howell has followed the new edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' While one may follow his own ideas on nomenclature in a technical publication where arguments may be presented, it seems unfortunate that in a work of this sort he has in a few cases—cf. Blue Jay and Grackle—preferred to follow his personal opinion instead of that of the A. O. U. Committee, which was appointed for the very purpose of establishing uniformity. Such discrepancy confuses many—if not most of the readers of his excellent work and we have already had to answer several letters from puzzled readers who thought that the author had made a "mistake." At least a footnote might have been added to explain why the names in the 'Check-List' had not been followed.

Mr. Howell's 'Florida Bird Life' will be our authority for many years to come on the birds of the South Atlantic and Gulf States as well as of Florida since nearly all of their species include Florida in their range. We congratulate both the author and artist upon a work well done.—W. S.

Chapman's 'Handbook.'—**Revised.**—Probably no book has had so much to do with developing ornithologists and an interest in birds as Dr. Frank M. Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America.'¹ Appearing originally in 1895, when the author had scarcely more than started upon his scientific career, it has been our standard for the past thirty-seven years, thus fully confirming the late Eugene P. Bicknell's prophecy, when reviewing the first edition, that it "is marked for a career of extended usefulness" and "will take rank among the authoritative works on North American birds." (Auk, 1895, pp. 282-284.)

Since that time a revised edition was published in 1912, and now with the advance of our knowledge, another revision has become necessary. This new "Chapman" is in many respects a new book which is not surprising when we note that four feet of 'Auks,' as the volumes stand on the shelf, have been published since the last edition, giving some idea of the accumulation of bird lore since that time.

The most noteworthy change is the entire rearrangement of the sequence of species to conform with the classification of the new A. O. U. 'Check-List.' It is most fortunate that the two works have appeared at so nearly the same time since the presentation of the new arrangement in such a work as Chapman's 'Handbook' will do more to make it familiar to bird students, gain immediate recognition and bring about uniformity than any

¹ Handbook of Birds | of Eastern North America | with 'Introductory Chapters on | the Study of Birds in Nature | By | Frank M. Chapman | Curator of Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History | Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union | Honorary Member of the British Ornithologists' Union etc. | With Illustrations by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, | Tappan Adney, Ernest Thompson Seton, and Francis L. Jacques | Second Revised Edition | New York and London | D. Appleton and Company | 1932. Pp. i-xxxvi + 1-581, 29 plates and 166 text figures. Price \$5.00.

other agency. In nomenclature Dr. Chapman also wisely follows the 'Check-List' sinking any personal opinion in favor of that of the A. O. U. Committee and thus again making for uniformity. While usually following the idea of the 'Check-List' in adding the words "Eastern" or "Southern" to the names of various familiar birds in order to distinguish them from western or other races, we note that in a few cases this has not been done, as in "Parula Warbler" and "Fox Sparrow," a quite excusable lapsus when we consider the magnitude of the task of rearranging the text of the entire work.

The invaluable introductory chapters have been largely rewritten or amplified bringing them up to date and in this connection it is interesting to find three pages devoted to bird banding, a phase of bird study which has developed in its entirety since the last edition of the 'Handbook' appeared. The main text has been subjected to revision too, and, in the supplementary references after each species, many papers published in recent years have been added. The historical review is reprinted as it stood in 1912 but another section is added, under the heading 1912-1931, covering nearly twice the space of the original—another indication of the progress of ornithology during the last twenty years. A noteworthy innovation is the reversal in the order of the names of the birds, the popular name preceding the scientific, instead of vice versa as heretofore, the author commenting that "the former is more frequently used and more stable than the latter"—another argument in favor of keeping "hands off" of the English names in the 'Check-List,' which was done so far as possible, in spite of urgent recommendations from some sources to adopt more "suitable" common names. Dr. Chapman has retained the old numbers of the 'Check-List' in brackets after the name, just as is done in both the third and last edition of the latter work, although he states, curiously enough, that "in the current edition of the 'Check-List' the birds are not numbered!" To the now historic illustrations of the earlier editions have been added some outline drawings by Francis L. Jacques, notable among which are the plates of sandpiper heads and ducks on the wing, the latter forming the frontispiece as evidence, perhaps, of the great increase in the popular interest in water birds that has developed in recent years.

As in previous editions, Dr. Chapman has brought the 'Handbook' strictly up to date but so great are the improvements in this third edition that we prophecy that not only will it continue to be indispensable to all beginning the study of ornithology, but that those possessing the earlier editions will find it necessary to possess this one as well, if they wish to keep their knowledge abreast of the times. Our only regret in congratulating the author on his admirable revision of an already excellent work, is that he did not revise the price of 'The Auk' which since 1921 has been four dollars instead of three as he gives it! However, the treasurer will doubtless be able to induce misguided applicants to become Associates of the A. O. U. and so receive the journal for their three dollar dues.—W. S.