

these records.—W. S. LONG, *Museum of Birds and Mammals, Lawrence, Kansas.*

**Samuel Champlain's Notes on West Indian Birds.**—In the 'Narrative of a Voyage to the West Indies and Mexico in the years 1599–1602' by Samuel Champlain, translated by Alice Wilmore and published by the Hakluyt Society in 1859, there are some interesting references to West Indian birds.

Champlain stayed at Puerto Rico for about a month. He wrote (p. 12) "The air is very hot, and there are little birds which resemble parrots, called perriquitos, of the size of a sparrow, with a round tail, and which are taught to speak: there are a great number in that isle." Presumably this refers to *Eupsittula pertinax pertinax* (Linn.) of Curaçao introduced into the island in pre-Columbian times and since extirpated, though still existing in small numbers on St. Thomas. So far as I am aware there is no other reference to this bird on Puerto Rico.

Champlain anchored at the Cayman Islands, and remained one day. He landed on one of the islands and "walked about a league inland, through very thick woods, and caught some rabbits, which are in great quantities, some birds, and a lizard as large as my thigh, of a grey and dead-leaf colour," evidently *Cyclura caymanensis*.

He also landed on another of the Caymans "which was not so agreeable; but we brought away some very good fruits, and there were such quantities of birds, that at our landing there rose so great a number, that for more than two hours after the air was filled with them: and there were others, which could not fly, so that we took them pretty easily; these are of the size of a goose, the head very large, the beak very wide, low on their legs, the feet like those of a water-hen. When these birds are plucked, there is not more flesh on them than on a dove, and it has a very bad taste."—AUSTIN H. CLARK, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Some Early American Bird Lore.**—For a generation or more following 1789 the geographies of Jedediah Morse seem to have been popular in the United States. A publishers' announcement even refers to an abridged edition as a *classic*. A borrowed copy of the edition of 1819 is interesting. The Sapajou and the Sagoine are "said to inhabit the country on the lower part of the Mississippi." There has evidently been little revision in the author's bird lore since earlier editions, other than the elimination of a long list of American birds. Of a number of lists of birds representing different states, Dr. David Ramsay's list from South Carolina is the longest.

Among birds listed for the United States is the Wakon Bird, "which probably is of the same species with the Bird of Paradise." The name indicates the Indians' idea of its superior excellency, it being the bird of the Great Spirit. A beautiful tail of four or five feathers, three times as long as the body and shaded with green and purple is carried "in the same manner as the peacock does his, but it is not known whether, like him, it