

even so little beyond our narrow field, yet we cannot help remarking upon the pleasure to be derived from the study of mammals both in the field and museum. No specialist in any one group of animals can totally ignore every other group. The most eminent ornithologist will be the one who has a general knowledge of natural history to serve as a background for the study of his chosen specialty. A fair knowledge of insects, worms, molluscs, batrachians, reptiles and mammals will increase the accuracy of his study of the food-relations of birds, their distribution, and checks controlling their abundance. Mammals in particular need to be studied more in their bearing upon our avifaunas. Many birds-of-prey feed upon mammals, and many mammals feed upon birds. The chipmunk, as a nest-destroyer, has been accused of decimating the bird population of some parts of the country where a certain species abounds. In fact mammalogy and ornithology can be very comfortably studied together, with little interference, and with much added satisfaction. Heretofore students of mammals have had no text-book to refer to in identifying west coast species. This want is now to be met by our own fellow club-member, Mr. Frank Stephens, who is even better known as a mammalogist than as an ornithologist. As announced elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Stephens is the author of a forthcoming work on California mammals which will place this study on a basis for comparatively easy pursuit. Let us hear more in regard to the relations of the various members of the squirrel family to bird population.

We wish to call the attention of every bird student to the communication in this issue from Mr. P. B. Peabody. When a prospective author resorts to a published appeal for information concerning the subject he is elaborating, everyone becomes in a way responsible. It too often happens that a book, of a comprehensive nature such as Mr. Peabody is so earnestly striving to compile, might have been a little more up-to-date if only someone who had the needed information up his sleeve had "loosened up." More than likely the individual in question remarks after the book appears in print, "Ugh! I could have told him better than that." Of course an author is responsible himself for the searching out of, and proper selection from, all *published* writings. In order to make his knowledge available to all other workers (in other words, therefore, to shift the responsibility), it is incumbent upon every serious bird student to put whatever observations of value he has made, upon permanent record. And to afford a medium for recording these things is the *raison d'être* of such a magazine as THE CONDOR.

## BOOK NOTICES

WILD WINGS. Adventures of a Camera Hunter Among the Larger Wild Birds of North America on Sea and Land. By HERBERT KNIGHTLY JOB. With an Introductory Letter by Theodore Roosevelt. Houghton Mifflin & Co., 8 vo., XXVIII+344 pages, 160 illustrations after photographs by the author. Price, \$3 net.

This is one of the most interesting portrayals of wild life that we have had the good fortune to read. Mr. Job is an enthusiastic naturalist and a skilled photographer as well, and with this equipment he has brought a generous slice of 'out-doors' between the two covers of his book. The illustrations are all good, and many are remarkable, having required a vast deal of patience and perseverance. Obviously it is impossible to give an adequate idea of a book of this character in a short notice, but the territory covered extends from Bird Rock in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to the Florida Keys, and some notion of the variety in subject matter may be gained from the chapter headings. Part I. Adventures in Florida Wilds, including: Cities of Brown Pelicans; Following Audubon among the Florida Keys; In the Cape Sable Wilderness; The Great Cuthbert Rookery; On Lone Bird Key. Part II. Other Wanderings South; Scavengers of the South; Virginia Bird-Homes of Beach and Marsh; The Egret, in Nature and in Fashion. Part III. The Sea! The Sea!—To Bird Rock in an Open Boat; Amid Northern Spruces and Sea-Girt Rocks; Off Chatham Bars. Part IV. The Elusive Shore-Birds—The Shore Patrol; Northward with the Shore-Bird Host; Shore-Bird Loiterers. Part V. Raptores and Forest Fastnesses—The New Sport of "Hawking"; Owl Secrets; Adventures with Great Horned Owls.—W. K. F.

TWO BIRD-LOVERS IN MEXICO. BY C. WILLIAM BEEBE. Illustrated with photographs from life taken by the author. Boston and New York. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 12 mo., XIII+408 pages, 106 half-tones. Price, \$3 net.

This attractive volume contains an account of a winter journey to Mexico, where three months were spent by Mr. and Mrs. Beebe, on what was virtually a camping trip. "We reached Vera Cruz on New Year's from which city we made three camping trips in the vicinity of the volcano of Colima, in the States of Jalisco and Colima; and returning via Vera Cruz, we left that port enroute for New York at Easter.

"The entire trip was so novel, so delightful, so absolutely devoid of unpleasant features, and on the whole so inexpensive, that it seemed to me that the knowledge of such an outing would tempt many lovers of Nature to this neighboring Republic. As an aid to such, Mrs. Beebe has added a chapter on 'How we did it.'"

The book is well calculated to tempt one to follow their example. It is written in a familiar, interesting style and contains many notes not only on birds but also on all the animals

which the enthusiastic naturalists encountered in their wanderings. Their trip covered a wide range of country with great diversity of climatic conditions. They were thus provided with a considerable variety of experiences which their freedom from the cares of 'collecting' enabled them to appreciate to the fullest extent.

The numerous illustrations, from photographs, of both animals and scenery greatly add to the attractiveness and value of the book, which is, in the best sense, a natural history narrative.—W. K. F.

STONE AND RHOADS "ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS AND MAMMALS FROM THE COLORADO DELTA, LOWER CALIFORNIA." Early in 1905 Mr. S. N. Rhoads made a trip thru the northeastern portion of Lower California in quest of specimens for the Philadelphia Academy. These are reported upon by Mr. Witmer Stone in the present paper, the field notes being quoted from Rhoads. 258 birds were secured, of 49 species. Among these, the record of 5 specimens taken of *Passerculus rostratus* rectifies the error of W. W. Price who recorded the bird found at the mouth of the Colorado as *guttatus*. (Bull. Cooper Orn. Club 1, Sept. 1899, page 92.)

Mr. Stone incidentally records another specimen of *Dryobates scalaris lucasanus* from California (exact locality apparently unknown), but concludes from the four skins taken in northern Lower California that *lucasanus* is not deserving of full specific rank, as urged by Brewster.

Besides the 49 species represented by specimens, a list of 58 additional species is appended as seen by Rhoads. Many of these are very doubtful, as often confessed by the use of the question mark. The catbird, western winter wren and broad-winged hawk seem to be particularly dubious cases.

Thus about 107 species were noted by Rhoads where Price (in the paper cited a few lines above) recorded 91 for the same locality at about the same season. The region will, however, bear a good deal more thoro attention than has yet been given it.—J. G.

## COMMUNICATION

### A New Bird Book

Editor THE CONDOR:

Prof. Lynds Jones having, in the latest issue of the Wilson Bulletin, spoken very kindly of my forth-coming work on the "Nesting Ways

of North American Birds" to the equal surprise and gratification of the compiler of the work, it becomes necessary to say somewhat in public, at once, concerning what has hitherto been exploited only in private. From the chronicling of personal records covering one hundred and ninety-five species and sub-species of birds, this work has grown, thru painstaking and minute elaboration and abridgement from "data" books, bulletins and magazine files, and the hearty co-operation of ornithologists, professional and amateur, until records that have been assorted, adapted or digested into manuscript now cover all but one hundred and two species and subspecies of the birds occurring north of the Rio Grande River (including, however, the ornithology of the California coast islands; and that portion of the birds of the Greater Antilles that have a place on the A. O. U. List). The nomenclature will be brought up to the date of going to press. Geographic races recognized as subspecifically distinct by competent ornithologists will be appended in the above work, even tho not recognized by the A. O. U. Committee on Classification.

The scope of the work is the whole field of nesting habits, save for considerations of shapes, colors, sizes and textures of eggs; this portion of the field being already fairly well covered. Everything available in print has now been drawn upon except the great files of bulletins and proceedings which are to be found only in the larger city libraries; and not, by any means, in even all of these. The work now being done is in this direction, and it is a work both laborious and costly.

In the preparation of large masses of material, never as yet adequately found in print, the Preparator of the proposed book has enjoyed the generous help of just forty bird students and field workers. Of these, twenty-five are men of national reputation in this domain. When this work is ready for the press, the student who shall look to it for information concerning times, places, number of eggs, nesting conditions and distinctive habits of birds during the nesting season may confidently look to find, in "Nesting Ways," the vital facts, so far as known, for all North American birds. Here, in reasonably brief space, he will readily find thru careful lists and indexes that which would cost him no less than two hundred dollars, if bought in original form, and which would involve, even then, literally months of perplexing and wearisome research. The illustrations will be full, and wholly original. A large number of the subjects portrayed have never before been photographed; and there will be found in this work not a few facts that are absolutely new to science.

The book in question, incubating in the Preparator's mind for many years, has not been

<sup>1</sup> From the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, September, 1905. Issued Dec. 6, 1905. Pages 676-690. Birds, pages 681-690.