

ist in any one field of natural history without at the same time knowing something of the general problems, laws and theories of biology. No student of birds should pursue his narrow line of study, oblivious of the main results of work with the other classes of animals. The all-important facts and processes of organic evolution are as essential a feature of ornithological knowledge, as of a knowledge of insects, or fishes, or of plants.

In their new book, titled as above, Jordan and Kellogg present a well-selected series of facts bearing on the subject of evolution, derived from the latest work in both Europe and America. The early theories and arguments of Darwin, Lamarck and others, and the recent laws and theories of Mendel, Galton, DeVries, and Burbank, are succinctly presented. And the views of the authors themselves appear to us to reflect the very sanest of recent opinions on the many disputed points discussed. The treatment is popular, in the sense of being clear and easily understandable by the lay reader. The abundant illustrations are lessons in themselves.

In fine, we would recommend the book as the very best and most up-to-date on the subject of evolution, a book that every bird student should read and study, in order to have a broad foundation-knowledge upon which to build his ornithology.

We regret to note not a few typographical or perhaps chirographical slips, such as doubtless resulted from hurried proof-reading. A few minor errors are noticeable; such as the nest of "Rufous hummingbird" photographed at Stanford University, (Fig. 274) very improbably that species, but the Allen hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*). Nor have we ever seen any species of "Aythya" marked like those in Fig. 276. The composition in places could have been smoothed over a bit.

But the subject-matter and mode of presentation of the book cannot be criticized, as far as we are concerned. We urge those of our readers who wish to acquire a familiarity with the latest evolutionary views, to make use of this, the best exposition of the entire subject as it now stands to be obtained.—J. G.

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA: | A Descriptive Catalogue | [etc. 7 lines]. | By | ROBERT RIDGWAY | Curator, Division of Birds | ——— | PART IV. | Family *Turdidae*—Thrushes. Family *Zeledoniidae* | Wren-Thrushes. Family *Mimidae*—Mockingbirds. Family *Sturnidae*—Starlings. Family *Ploceidae* | Weaver Birds. Family *Alaudidae*—Larks. Family *Oxyruncidae*—Sharp-bills. Family *Tyrannidae*—Tyrant Flycatchers. Family *Pipridae*—Manakins. Family *Cotingidae*—Chatterers. | ——— | Washington: | Government Printing Office. | 1907. (our copy re-

ceived August 24) = Bulletin U. S. N. M. No. 50, Part IV, | pp 1-XXXII, 1-974, pl. I-XXXIV.

In the four volumes of this great work now published there have been described 1,675 species and subspecies, or somewhat more than half the total number of North and Middle American Birds." The amount of work represented in the 4000 closely printed pages already issued is marvelous, when we bear in mind that it means the labor of one man. The synonyms alone constitute an undertaking of great magnitude. There is not the least doubt in our minds but that Mr. Ridgway's work is not only the greatest in point of size, but the most thoro, of all the systematic treatises on American birds ever issued.

The title, above quoted, indicates the scope of Part IV. We will simply call attention to a few of the points of interest in regard to Western species.

Mr. Ridgway enters in full standing both the Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata slevini*) and the Sierra Hermit Thrush (*H. g. sequoiensis*) while the alleged *Hylocichla ustulata oedea* is included under *H. ustulata ustulata*. *Ixoreus naevius meruloides*, a supposed northern form of the Varied Thrush, is considered inseparable from *Ixoreus naevius* proper. *Planesticus* is introduced as the genus name for the Robin. The range of the San Pedro Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana anabela*) is extended to include the "mountains of San Diego and southern Los Angeles counties, California, and along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada as far as Mount Lassen." The Pasadena Thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum pasadenense*) is not considered separable from the California Thrasher (*T. r. redivivum*). The Horned Larks are entered practically as worked out by Oberholser. A sort of dichromatism is ascribed to certain Empidonaces, as *hammondi*, *wrightii* and *griseus*. This discovery is of extreme interest; yet it still more complicates the differential characterization of these difficult species. The genus *Contopus*, for the Wood Pewees, becomes *Myiochanes*.

In lack of the long-delaying new A. O. U. check-list, it seems to us that students can do no better than follow Ridgway's lead implicitly in matters of nomenclature. In fact we do not know but what the check-list had better give way for the present to the "Birds of North and Middle America," leaving the latter as the only recognized authority.—J. G.

RESEARCH IN CHINA | Expedition of 1903-04, under the direction of Bailey Willis | ——— | REPORT ON ZOOLOGY | by | ELIOT BLACKWELDER | [extracted from Carnegie Institution of Washington Publication No. 54, | Research in China, Volume I, Part II, pages 481-508, 6 plates, [vignette] | Washington, D. C.: | Pu

lished by the Carnegie Institution of Washington | June, 1907.

This paper presents rather an imposing appearance to have been based on such meager data. Lists of Amphibians, (2), Reptiles (5), Birds (130) and Mammals (5), are given, and yet only 75 specimens of all the vertebrates together are stated to have been obtained; and the author was evidently quite unfamiliar with the biota of the region. It is no wonder that nearly half the species are more or less in doubt. Dr. C. W. Richmond deserves the credit for naming the bird-skins, which were submitted to him for determination. One bird, *Obiorchilus fumigatus idius* is described by him as new. The six colored plates are by J. L. Ridgway.—J. G.

BIRDS OF LABRADOR, by CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., and GLOVER M. ALLEN [=Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. 33, No. 7, pp. 277-428, pl. 29; July, 1907].

This is a review of our knowledge of the ornithology of Labrador, based upon all previously published accounts together with some new matter resulting from a visit by the authors in 1906. An extensively annotated list shows that 259 species have been accredited to Labrador. Of these, 213 are authenticated species, 2 are extinct, and 44 doubtful or erroneous. The historical phase of the subject is accorded detailed attention, and we are given most interesting quotations from the records of the early explorers. The authors also discuss the "Faunal Areas" of the region. The Arctic, Hudsonian and Canadian life zones are found to be represented. The entire paper shows the results of skilled and conscientious investigation and raises the standard which faunal papers of the future will be expected to reach.—J. G.

EIGHTEEN NEW SPECIES AND ONE NEW GENUS OF BIRDS FROM EASTERN ASIA AND THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, by AUSTIN H. CLARK [=Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XXXII, pp. 467-475; June 15, 1907].

This paper includes the description of a new Rock Ptarmigan, from Adak Island, one of the central links in the Aleutian Chain. The bird is called *Lagopus rupestris chamberlaini*, and is characterized [in nuptial plumage of male?] as being the grayest and one of the lightest of the Aleutian insular forms of the Rock Ptarmigan.—J. G.

THE BIRDS OF IOWA, by RUDOLPH M. ANDERSON [=Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Sciences Vol. XI, pages 125-417, 1 map; March, 1907].

Anderson's "The Birds of Iowa" is an admirable paper thruout, the best gotten up state list that has come to our notice. It has the stamp of scholarly workmanship. There is

evidence of long-continued research into the literature of the State, and careful attention to detail. The typography is excellent. Iowa ornithologists are to be congratulated upon so satisfactory an exposition of their avifauna.—J. G.

A PRELIMINARY CATALOG | OF THE | BIRDS OF MISSOURI | by | OTTO WIDMANN | St. Louis, Mo. | 1907 [our copy received Dec. 7, 1907]. Pp. 1-288.

While the word "preliminary" occurs in the title, this book is really an exhaustive treatise on the subject of the distribution and migration of Missouri birds. It seems to be an implied intention on the part of the author to publish later a report covering the life histories of the birds of the region, and if this is carried out with the same fidelity as the present "preliminary" report, we will have access to an ideal compendium of Missouri ornithology.

The present Catalog contains 383 species, of which 162 are breeders. Of the 383, 30 have not been actually taken within the State, thus leaving 353 fully authenticated species. Each species is annotated with localities and dates of occurrence, and with the rarer species the notes are given in detail.

Preceding the Catalog proper is an Introduction followed by a Bibliography, Explanations (of terms employed and method of treatment), and discussions of Faunal Areas, The Climate, Topography, Decrease of Birds and Bird Protection. Each of these topics is handled in a clear, concise manner, giving one the impression that the writer has thoroly studied his subject before attempting to publish upon it. The latter, it may be remarked, is not an overly common thing in American ornithology in the present age. Mr. Widmann is only now beginning to give us the general results of his twenty years of study upon Missouri birds, and we therefore look up to him as being in a position to handle his subject authoritatively.—J. G.

Volume III of THE WARBLER, published by MR. JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, came to hand in November. It consists of 56 pages, besides a colored frontispiece. There are six half-tones of nests and eggs. Two of these show eggs of the Harlan Hawk taken in Iowa. The excellent colored plate and brief accompanying note pertain to the eggs of the Santa Catalina Partridge (*Lophortyx catalinensis*). P. B. Peabody follows with two illustrated articles on "The Breeding of the Arctic Towhee" and "Rock Wren the Cliff Dweller." J. W. Clayton furnishes "Field Notes from the Upper Penobscot, Maine." Two essays by John Bachman, written fully 65 years ago, one of which is printed here for the first time, show some decidedly good field observations on the habits of Vul-