

such a work as the one proposed. Photographic processes and methods of reproduction have now reached a stage of perfection which makes the full and artistic representation of our bird-life not only desirable but imperative. There is, so far as we have been informed, no promise of any other such work in the reasonably near future. Yet the popular interest in birds is really very great. It is undeveloped, latent, often unintelligent indeed, but it is really more powerful and more nearly universal than many of us who follow ornithology as a hobby or as a science are aware. A work addressed to this larger public will be of the greatest value, not only in the direct service of that public, but in guaranteeing a more intelligent consideration of the legislative and protective measures and in arousing a more ready support for museums and other scientific institutions. Mr. Dawson is the man to do this work in California and we rejoice at his coming.

We own we are a little dazzled by the brilliancy of the program outlined by the author: editions de luxe, and illustrations on a scale of magnificence rarely if ever before attempted in the history of American bird-book making; but Mr. Dawson made good in Washington, both as a writer and as a book-builder, and there is no reason that we can see why he should not achieve success here in California.

Mr. Dawson's plans have been enthusiastically ratified in open meeting by both divisions of the Cooper Club; and the Club is pledged to extend to the new enterprise its fullest moral support. The name of the Club is to be associated with that of the author upon the title page of "The Birds of California" and the work is to be, in so far as it is possible, a cooperative one.

With characteristic energy the author launched the canvass for the new work in San Francisco immediately upon receiving the Club's endorsement and under the patronage of the Messrs. Mailiard has succeeded in enlisting enough influential support to assure a good beginning and to justify the expectation of a general public interest. He has now gone to Pasadena and Los Angeles to develop the local interest there, and expects at the close of a six weeks campaign to complete the organization of The Birds of California Publishing Company which is to finance the new undertaking. In a succeeding issue of this magazine we shall expect Mr. Dawson to set forth in detail the scope and specifications of the proposed work, as well as to tell us more particularly how Cooper Club members may cooperate.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA. By STEPHEN SARGENT VISHER. [From *The Auk*, vol. XXVII, July 1910, pp. 279-288.]

This list of 127 species covers a part of the ground that was treated in great detail by W. E. D. Scott in *The Auk* for 1886-88, and is published partly for the purpose of adding several species not included in Scott's list, and largely

(according to the introduction) with "the desire to add a mite to the far too meagre knowledge of the habits and songs of many interesting birds." As it is seldom that more than a line or two is devoted to a species, this phase of the subject is perhaps not entered into as exhaustively as might be expected from the introductory remark. Two species are here recorded from Arizona for the first time, the White-headed Woodpecker and the Golden Plover, neither from specimens actually secured. The list is all through compared with that of Scott's and it is put forward largely as a compilation of the additional ornithological notes and information accumulated since the publication of the latter. Yet we find numerous species recorded precisely as Scott treated them, but placed in the category of those found under different conditions.

The Green-tailed Towhee, Lutescent Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird are casually mentioned as breeding in the vicinity of Tucson, records of sufficient importance to merit more detailed accounts—to say the least. So also with Mr. Visher's working out of the distribution of various closely related sub-species. To say that *Dendroica auduboni nigrifrons* is "resident" on the mountain tops, while *D. auduboni auduboni* nests in the valleys, that *Phalaenoptilus nuttalli nilidus* breeds in the mountains and *P. nuttalli nuttalli* in the valleys, and that *Sialia mexicana occidentalis* breeds in the spruces and *S. m. bairdi* in the pines, is, perhaps, definite enough; but these are positive statements that require much field work and the collecting of many specimens to back them up before they can be expected to be generally accepted.

On the whole, the important records are not put forward in such a way as to invite confidence in them, the statements regarding certain of the species are exactly such as have already been published about the same birds in the same general region, and the comments upon others are of absolute unimportance.

This list does not seem to have been carefully considered, and might well have been left unpublished.—H. S. S.

WATER BIRDS OF THE VICINITY OF POINT PINOS, CALIFORNIA, by ROLLO HOWARD BECK. (Proceedings Calif. Acad. Sciences, 4th ser., vol. iii, pp. 57-72; issued Sep. 17, 1910).

In this paper we are provided with the most important contribution to a knowledge of the oceanic bird-life of California since the appearance of the last one of Loomis's series of papers, in December, 1900. During the past seven years Beck, in his work for the California Academy of Sciences, has spent all put together 26 months in collecting water birds of Monterey Bay, with Pacific Grove as a basis. The results of his work in specimens, up to the San

Francisco fire of April, 1906, were all destroyed. But some of the field notes of this period are included in the present paper along with those resulting from the work in subsequent years. The present paper is based primarily on Beck's field observations; but critical notes on the large series of specimens secured since the fire are often added, and for these Loomis and Gifford, of the Academy's curatorial staff, are evidently largely responsible.

The paper under consideration is couched in excellent form, literarily and typographically, practically ideal in the latter respect, a rather rare thing in this day of hurriedly proof-read publications. The great value in the paper lies in the large addition to our knowledge of the seasonal occurrence of the species dealt with, especially the Jaegers, Gulls, Terns and Shearwaters. One species is newly recorded not only for California but for the American side of the Pacific, namely the Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*), of which Beck has taken no less than ten specimens, from 1903 to 1907. Of *Puffinus bulleri*, of which only one example was previously known from Californian waters, ten more specimens have been secured, all in the fall. Of the Skua (*Megalestris skua*) a second specimen for California is recorded. A number of species previously thought to be of but casual occurrence along the Californian coast, have been found by Beck to occur regularly in large numbers. Only concentrated and long-continued work, such as this has been, can be expected to yield a knowledge of the true status of any pelagic avifauna.

The reader of the paper in hand is at once impressed with the uniform occurrence of certain usages at variance with ruling custom among American ornithologists. Trinomials are tabooed; but instead of treating all forms (both small-species and remotely divergent species) as binomials, all of the small-species or subspecies (evidently forms which are found to intergrade in any way) are lumped under a binomial, the earliest nomenclaturally appropriate name being employed. Thus our California Murre is just Murre, *Uria troille*; the Pacific Kittiwake is just Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*; etc. This does not appear to be an advantageous move in the interests of a better knowledge either of the ranges or of the migration-routes of birds. The recognition of even the smallest geographic variants is essential. This was emphasized by Stejneger many years ago (*Birds of Kamtschatka*, 1885, p. 348), and the principle holds with increasing force.

The reader must recognize the peculiar usage above referred to, in weighing such records as that of "*Ereunetes pusillus*" for California, which is given as including *E. mauri*. The implication is that intergrades have been found between *E. pusillus* and *E. mauri*; but

no data is presented in this regard. In the same way, *Fulmarus rodgersi* is lumped under *F. glacialis*.

Doubt is cast upon the validity of *Brachyramphus craverii* as distinct from *B. hypoleucus*. *Larus brachyrhynchus* is combined with *Larus canus*; that is, the separate existence of a species *brachyrhynchus* is denied. This is at variance with the idea of Bishop (CONDOR XII, 1910, 174) that previous records of *Larus canus* for California should probably be referred to *Larus delawarensis*.

It would of course have been of enormous interest and value if the data substantiating the above conclusions had been presented. However, the reader of the paper under review is left with the feeling that this is but a preliminary report, and that extended critical treatment may be expected to follow in due course. Certainly no ornithologists in the country are in a more fortunate position for the handling of problems of this sort than the persons connected with the California Academy of Sciences, whose Museum contains at the present time with little doubt the finest collection of water birds in America.—J. GRINNELL.

METHODS OF ATTRACTING BIRDS. By GILBERT H. TRAFTON; with thirty-nine illustrations (twenty-four of them from photographs) and a chart of fruits eaten by birds. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, September 1910, pp. xv + 164; price \$1.25 net.

This book, published under the auspices of the National Association of Audubon Societies, "has been written from two view-points, that of birds and that of human beings; for the protection of the former and the pleasure of the latter."

It is written by the Supervisor of Nature-Study, Passaic, N. J., and gives beside his own experience, the results of many observers, thus summarizing very completely the work being done throughout the country. An appendix gives a list of ninety-one to whose contributions the author has had access, or who have furnished information through personal correspondence.

The practical value of the book in nature-study in the schools should be great; for the methods given have thus had the test of experience. A statement of the results obtained makes them the more valuable.

The chapters deal with the need and value of attracting birds; nesting houses; attracting the winter birds; drinking and bathing fountains; planting trees, shrubs, and vines; bird-protection in schools, and bird photography.

Special drawings bring out details of plans and constructions presented.

The methods given would seem to be well calculated to attain the results desired in the Audubon movement, by inculcating a love for