NOTES.

FROM BOULDER, COLORADO.

Our experience with House Finches (Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis) and Say Phoebes (Sayornis saya) may be of interest to your readers. Early in May a pair of the finches began building a nest of roots and mud in a 4x5 dry plate box placed under our front porch for their benefit. A few days later another pair began work on the same nest, which finally resulted in a pitched battle lasting for several hours, with brief intermissions. One pair then left and the other continued work. In a day or two a Phoebe put in an appearance and began work on the same nest, apparently working in harmony with the finches, for we never caught them in any altercation, though unquestionably both families worked on the nest. In two or three days the finches left Then the Phoebes built a fine symmetrical nest of hair and wool over the finches' rough foundation. In due time four Phoebe eggs appeared, then after three or four days incubation the Phoebes abandoned the nest, having apparently been kept from the eggs by visitors on the porch so long that the eggs got chilled. Nest and eggs are now in the Museum of the University of Colorado. JUNIUS HENDERSON.

HOPE, DICKINSON CO., KAS., January 25, 1904.

I am glad to note some new birds in this locality in the last two years. All first noticed in 1902 and again in 1903. The first was the Phoebe, three nests found in 1902 and twelve in 1903. Wood Thrush, three nests in 1902 and one in 1903, in park in town. Chimney Swift one pair nested in school house chimney in 1902 and three birds seen in spring of 1903, but did not nest as they only staid about a week and then left. The Phoebe was quite common last summer along the creeks, but only a few in 1902. I am sure they have not nested here before 1902, as I have been under the bridges where they nested every year since they were built, and never saw them or their nest until 1902. The Chimney Swifts are also the first pair ever noted in town; pointed them out to old eastern people and they said, "they were the first they ever had seen here but are quite common in eastern part of state." On January 5, 1904, as I was driving in the country I saw a Brown Thrasher hopping along a hedge fence, the first one of them I ever noticed in the winter here. O. H. PEASE.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

A Revision of the American Great Horned Owls. By Harry C. Oberholser. From the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Vol. XXVII, pages 177-192. No. 1352.

A Review of the Wrens of the Genus Troglodytes. By Harry C. Oberholser. From the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXVII, pages 197-210. No. 1354.

In these two papers Mr. Oberholser has reviewed all American forms, not simply those which we call North American. We regard this broad-

ening of view which has been evident recently, a distinct gain in classification methods. It is certain to throw light upon many problems of distribution and relationship hitherto only suspected. The use of *Asio* instead of *Bubo* for the the genus of the Great Horned Owls will cause temporary confusion, but ultimately make for stability, we trust. Seventeen forms of the Great Horned Owl are recognized, six of which are new species. That does not seem excessive from the whole of the Americas, but we trust that the naming of forms may rest permanently here. In treating the wrens of the genus *Troglodytes*, Mr. Oberholser has made a new genus in which to place that curious form, *Thryorchilus browni* from Panama. Of the 37 forms of *Troglodytes* recognized there are 14 independent species showing no subspecific affinities. The South American form *musculus* is split into 14 forms, while our North American form *aedon*, remains triple. In the whole genus bnt three new subspecies are eloborated, none of which affect our fauna. We congratulate Mr. Oberholser upon this work, and trust that the whole field of American ornithology may be gone over as carefully in the near future. L. J.

THE BIRDS OF LICKING COUNTY, OHIO. By I. A. Field. Reprinted from The Bulletin Scientific Laboratories of Denison University, Vol. XII, December, 1903.

Mr. Field prefaces the annotated part of his catalogue with remarks upon the topography of the county and the general distribution of the birds found there. The annotations consist of statements concerning the times of appearance of the birds and the regions in which they may be found. Of the 203 species found in the county during the three years of his study, 27 are permanent residents, 79 summer residents, 9 winter residents, 80 transient visitants, and 8 accidental visitants. Of the accidental species the most interesting are the European Widgeon and Cinnamon Teal, both captured on Licking Reservoir. We welcome this additional faunal l st as a contribution to the literature of distribution. L. J.

BOLL WEEVILS AND BIRDS. Address by Prof. H. P. Attwater, industrial agent Southern Pacific, at the Second Annual Convention of the Texas Cotton Growers' Association, Dallas, Texas, November 6th, 1903.

In this paper Prof. Attwater shows clearly that one of the greatest enemies of the Cotton Boll Weevil is the host of birds. He pleads for the protection and encouragement of the birds that they may go about their beneficent work of destruction of insect pests unhindered. It is not too much to expect that if the birds are allowed to increase as they would normally they will keep in check insect depredations, for they will eat such insects as are most easily secured, other things being equal. L. J.

POSTGLACIAL ORIGIN AND MIGRATION OF THE LIFE OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. By Charles C. Adams. Reprinted from

Journal of Geography, Vol. I, No. 7, September, 1902, pages 303-310, 352-357.

In this paper the author endeavors to trace the redistripution of Life in that part of North America which was covered with glacial ice. The first migration was by the arctic types, which pushed up against the border of the retreating ice; second by the subarctic life, following close upon the heels of the arctic, and the third the temperate, the last migration, represented by the forms now found in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Only the third class are typically American. The northward migrations were marked not by river courses so much as by forest and plains regions. We welcome this paper as throwing light upon the post-glacial origin of our flora and fauna. L. J.

Southeastern United States as a Center of Geographical Distribution of Flora and Fauna. By Charles C. Adams. Reprinted from Biological Bulletin, Vol. III, No. 3, July, 1902. Pages 116-131.

The author here shows that so far as the eastern United States is concerned, the post-glacial life has been distributed from the southeast, except the distinctly boreal forms, and still remains as a center of dispersal. He recognizes, also, a southwestern center of dispersal in the arid region of northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. LJ

Amateur Sportsman, Vol. XXX, Nos. 2, 3, 4.
American Ornithology, Vol. IV, Nos. 1, 2, 3.
Bird-Lore, Vol. VI, Nos. 1, 2.
Boll Weevels and Birds.
Cassinia, 1903.
Condor, The, Vol. IV, No. 1.
Journal of Applied Microscopy, Vol. VI, Nos. 9, 10.
Maine Sportsman, The, Vol. II, Nos. 125, 126.
Naturaliste Canadien, Le, Vol. XXX, Nos. 11, 12; Vol. XXXI, No. 1.
Nature Notes, Vol. XV, No. 170.