

REVIEWS OF PUBLICATIONS

Handbook of Birds of the Western United States. Florence Merriam Bailey. Houghton, Mifflin Co. \$3.50, net. Fourth Edition Revised.

This last edition of a well known and useful book is in the main a reprint of earlier editions, but with an extended "Addenda" of 58 pages, in which are indicated the changes in the nomenclature made in the last revisions of the Check-List of the A. O. U. committee, together with the addition of 56 forms and the elimination of 52. The last part of this "Addenda" is concerned with the "Birds of the Western United States in the Nomenclature of the 1910 Check-List," and with a list of "Books of Reference." The book was so complete for its purposes in the first edition that there has been little need for other changes than those given above.

L. J.

Alaskan Bird-Life as Depicted by Many Writers, edited by Ernest Ingersoll. Seven plates in colors and other illustrations. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies. New York, 1914.

As stated in the introduction by T. Gilbert Pearson, the Secretary of this Association, the object of this volume of 72 pages is for free distribution among the people of Alaska for the purpose of educating them in regard to the real value of the birds and thus securing their coöperation in the conservation of Alaskan birds. This finds the hearty approval of the United States Bureau of Education. The birds of the several districts into which Alaska is divided topographically and climatically are treated on the group plan, and the volume closes with the extended treatment of the Tufted Puffin by William Leon Dawson, the Crested Auklet by Charles Haskins Townsend, the Emperor Goose by Edward W. Nelson, the Hudsonian Curlew by A. C. Bent, and the Alaskan Longspur by Edward W. Nelson. There are colored plates of these species, and of the Red Crossbill. It is a valuable volume. L. J.

A Peculiarity in the Growth of the Tail Feathers of the Giant Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*). Alex. Wetmore, of the Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. Agr. No. 2059. From the Proceedings of the U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 47, pages 497-500. Published October 24, 1914.

It appears that one tail feather of the central pair of long feathers is fully developed before the young bird leaves the nest, and that in adult life the new feather of this pair grows out under the old one, the latter not being shed until the new one has become fully grown; also that the two central long feathers are shed in

alternate years. Certainly a remarkable condition of growth and molt.

L. J.

Anatomical Notes on the Young of *Phalacrocorax articeps georgianus*. R. W. Shufeldt, M.D. Extract from A Report on the South Georgia Expedition. Science Bulletin of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 95-102. November 5, 1914. Two plates.

This is a carefully prepared technical paper about a specimen twenty-four hours old.

L. J.

The Gannetry at "The Stack," Orkney Islands. J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S. From "The Ibis" for October, 1914, pp. 631-634. One plate.

This short paper is a report of the impressions of the number of these birds found here after three visits in May and June, 1914, by the Duchess of Bedford. The Duchess concluded that the estimate of 8000 was too high, and that 5000 was nearer the fact.

L. J.

Are Gannets Destructive Birds? J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S. Reprinted from the Irish Naturalist, October, 1914, pp. 212-213.

The conclusion here reached is that while these birds do eat great quantities of herring and other fish they only serve to maintain the necessary balance, and therefore should not be considered a menace economically.

L. J.

Geological Survey Work on Point Pelee, Ont. P. A. Taverner. Reprinted from The Ottawa Naturalist, Vol. XXVIII, November, 1914, pp. 97-105.

This is a brief report of work done here by the author and others, beginning on May 15, 1914, with references to work done here previously. It is encouraging to note that the Cardinals and Mockingbirds are holding their own here, if not increasing, but discouraging to find that the Carolina Wrens were all but exterminated. Indications point to their increase again, however. It is also interesting to note the reappearance of the Dickcissel and the taking of a specimen of Cory's Bittern (*Ixobrychus neozenus*). To the record of the taking of the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) noted on page 100, should be added the writer's record for August 22, 1911, on Pelee Island. The paper contains records of certain trees and other plants, and other animals than birds.

L. J.