

"on the ground that the head is brown instead of gray," and adds: "the difference is doubtless due to abrasion." It was doubtless nothing of the kind. The specimen was not at all in abraded plumage as will also be perfectly clear from my original description which says: "Entire head and throat of a dull cinnamon-chocolate, glossed with lilac on crown and occiput." Has anybody ever seen a slate colored ground color change to cinnamon-chocolate glossed with lilac by any sort of abrasion?

In that same paper I demonstrated beyond the remotest doubt, that *Turtur risorius* belongs to an entirely different subgenus from that which embraces the wild Japanese Ringed Turtle-dove, and, moreover, that the Barbary Turtle-dove, the true *T. risorius*, is also found tame in Japan. Yet, without a word of comment, Mr. Seebohm perpetuates the old and now "unpardonable blunder" (to use a Seebohmian expression).

Finally, all that Mr. Seebohm knows of the occurrence of *Turtur humilis* in Japan is limited to the example obtained by Mr. Owston from a dealer at Yokohama, in spite of the fact that on pp. 428-429 (*tom. cit.*) I gave an elaborate description of a specimen from Nagasaki.

Before concluding I should like to say a few words of the figures. Besides the exquisite woodcuts reprinted from his monograph of the Charadriidæ, we find a number of more or less crude drawings of heads. If the enormous beaks of "*Fratercula*" *pygmæa* and *pusilla* correctly represent Japanese specimens, we have certainly to do with species differing from those occurring in Kamtschatka and Alaska, but that is highly improbable. The Shags of the species "*pelagicus*" and "*bicristatus*" seem to be as much of a stumbling block as ever, in spite of all the reviewer has written and painted about them. The head on p. 210 does certainly not represent a *pelagicus*, and is probably a young *bicristatus*. The head on p. 211 looks much more like a different species than a *bicristatus*, and unless the drawing is very inaccurate the specimen from which it is taken is something else.

In reviewing this work I have felt keenly that fault-finding comes with but little grace from one who works in the same special field as the author whose work he criticizes. But, on the other hand, he is expected to speak, because he is supposed to know something about it, and it then becomes necessary to show neither fear nor favor. Mr. Seebohm himself has never handled his colleagues with gloves, and he himself would be the first one to resent any attempt at establishing a mutual admiration society.—L. STEJNEGER.

Warren's Revised Report on the Birds of Pennsylvania.*—The great demand which arose for this 'Report' immediately upon the publication of the first edition in 1888, led the Legislature to order an enlarged and

* Report | on the | Birds of Pennsylvania. | With Special Reference to the Food-Habits, based on over Four | Thousand Stomach Examinations. | By | B. H. Warren, M. D., | Ornithologist, Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture. | Second Edition, Revised and Augmented. | Illustrated by One Hundred Plates. | — | Published by Authority of the Commonwealth. | — | Harrisburg: | E. K. Meyers, State Printer | 1890. —8vo. pp. xiv, 434, pll. 100.

revised edition; upon the preparation of this Dr. Warren has been engaged during the past two years, and the present volume is the result.

The primary purpose of the Report is not to lay before the scientific public the outcome of the author's investigations, though a great deal of important original matter is actually given; its object is simply to instruct the people of Pennsylvania in regard to the birds of their State, and especially to give the farmers all available information as to the bearing upon their own interests of the food habits of the various species. In a way the book seems intended to fill a place today in Pennsylvania very similar to that so long occupied in Massachusetts by Samuels' 'Birds of New England'; and it is amply qualified to do so.

The book begins with a brief introduction which includes a geographical description of the State of Pennsylvania and a list of the anatomical terms used in the descriptions of species, the latter illustrated by a plate to make the subject clear to the inexperienced. After this comes the body of the work, occupying 331 pages, in which 298 species are treated. Each family or subfamily is introduced by a concise and well-planned account of its habits, nesting, and distribution, and its distinctive physical characters. Under each species is given a description, expressed in unusually simple language, brief, yet generally sufficient to identify the bird. "The greater portion of the descriptions . . . are original, having been taken principally from specimens in the author's collection," but in some cases lack of material has made it necessary to quote from Baird, Coues, or Ridgway. Following the description comes a statement of habitat, copied, occasionally with slight changes, from the A. O. U. Check-List. The rest of the text treats of the times of occurrence, the abundance, and local distribution, of the bird in Pennsylvania, and, often in considerable detail, of its habits, nesting, and food. These accounts are based upon "field observations made by the writer, during the past ten or twelve years, in the State of Pennsylvania." When these prove insufficient the gaps are filled by extracts from the writings of Audubon, Nuttall, Coues, and various others. In the case of many of the less common species the author has incorporated the previously unpublished notes of a number of observers in different parts of Pennsylvania. In some cases their reports are given in tabulated form, showing very satisfactorily the evidence as to abundance and seasons of occurrence throughout the State.

While these accounts are on the whole eminently satisfactory, and adapted with great discretion to the purpose of the Report, there is one fault which cannot be overlooked,—at least by the scientific ornithologist. Occasionally rarities are recorded with but the barest mention of the circumstances; giving rise unavoidably to painful doubts in the reader's mind as to the correctness of the record. A case in point is *Dendroica kirtlandi*, which is given as breeding, on the strength of the statement by a correspondent that he "saw one and its family." Apparently none of the "family" were secured, and the author seems content to remain in ignorance as to whether or not even the parent bird was taken. For-

unately cases like this are few, but they incline one to caution in accepting some other interesting statements made by his correspondents in regard to matters that have not come under Dr. Warren's own observation. If some of these records are not of sufficient interest to the general reader to be given more space in the book itself, their full details, if substantiated, should at least be published elsewhere; and if not fully sustained, there is no excuse for their appearance in print at all.

The book ends with an appendix of 92 pages, which includes an account of the Pennsylvania 'Scalp Act'; extracts from reports of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (54 pages) upon "Food of Hawks and Owls," "The Food of Crows," and "The English Sparrow"; a tabulated report of birds that struck a light-house at Atlantic City, N. J., in the autumn of 1889; a list of publications quoted in the Report, and of observers who contributed to it; and a glossary of technical terms.

One feature, invaluable in a work of popular instruction in such a subject, is the unusual abundance of colored plates which, happily, legislative authority has bestowed with an enlightened liberality. These number altogether 99, and on them are shown 160 species, often two or three different plumages of one species being exhibited. By the terms of the legislative 'order to print' the lithographer was restricted in the number of colors to be used, but in spite of this he has succeeded in producing plates that in almost every instance will be of the utmost usefulness in aiding the learner to identify the birds he meets. In a few cases, *e. g.*, some of the Thrushes and Sparrows, the close similarity in coloring of the species has proved too much for the artist's abilities,—or for the means at his command,—and we fear that the seeker after knowledge will get but little aid from them. Most of the figures are of course reduced in size, and unfortunately the proportion between the actual sizes of different species represented on the same plate has sometimes been overlooked, with results that may now and then prove confusing to a careless reader. Another point that is open to criticism is the order, or lack of order, in which the plates are arranged,—utterly without regard to the sequence of the species in the text. Sea Birds face the text that treats of Woodpeckers, Warblers appear opposite the accounts of Birds of Prey, and Wrens and Waders are seen where Sparrows and Finches would be looked for.

Yet if the book be considered as a whole, its few faults are chiefly such as are objectionable from the standpoint of the scientific ornithologist, and detract little from its value as a hand-book for the people; whereas if we look in the other scale we see a book, well proportioned, readable, full of just the information that the public needs, one that can hardly fail to mark an era in the popular knowledge of ornithology, at least in this much favored State. The author is to be congratulated upon having accomplished a work of such far-reaching usefulness, and we hope that the Legislature of Pennsylvania may see fit to complete its good work by enlarging the edition of the Report to such a degree as to bring it within the reach of all who are interested in the subject.—C. F. B.



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