

her views and quote or compile with more discrimination, we feel sure she would readily admit.

The illustrations have been "adapted and grouped from Audubon's 'Birds of America,' Dr. Warren's 'Birds of Pennsylvania,' DeKay's 'Ornithology of the State of New York,' and . . . Fisher's 'Hawks and Owls of the United States.'" We wish we could say that they are worthy the text. The colored plates show that the process by which they were reproduced is not available for the purposes of ornithological illustration. The half-tone black and whites are excellent when they are from good originals, as for example, Fisher's 'Hawks and Owls'; others are from DeKay and there seems to us no excuse for using these effigies at this late day. We all know, however, that publishers rarely look at this matter from the author's standpoint, and we can wish Mrs. Wright's book no better fortune than that in the future editions it is sure to reach, it may have illustrations in keeping with the exceptionally high character of the text — F. M. C.

Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America.'¹ — Falling on a time of growing popular interest in our native birds, this volume which, in its fullest sense, justifies the title of 'Handbook,' is marked for a career of extended usefulness.

The region covered by the work — North America east, say, of the meridian of the Mississippi River — although not co-terminous with any natural faunal tract, forms, nevertheless, a convenient and sufficiently definite geographical field. The more formal treatises on North American ornithology, which cover the region by inclusion, were not designed to slip into easy use outside of a specially interested class. Therefore, the considerable company of interested but not-too-devoted bird-lovers is to be especially congratulated on the appearance of this work.

"I have not addressed an imaginary audience, nor have I given my prospective readers what, theoretically, I thought they ought to have, but what personal experience with students of birds has led me to believe

¹ Handbook of Birds | of Eastern North America | with Keys to the Species | and Descriptions of their Plumages, Nests, and Eggs | their Distribution and Migrations | and a Brief Account of their Haunts and Habits | with Introductory Chapters on the | Study of Ornithology, How to Identify Birds | and How to Collect and Preserve Birds | their Nests, and Eggs | By Frank M. Chapman | Assistant Curator of the Department of Mammalogy and Ornithology | in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City; | Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, etc. | With Full-page Plates in Colors and Black and White | and Upward of One Hundred and Fifty Cuts | in the Text | New York | D. Appleton and Company | 1895. 12mo. pp. xiv + 421. 20 full-page pls.; 115 figs. in text. Library edition, cloth, \$3.00; pocket edition, flexible morocco, \$3.50.

would meet their wants." So writes Mr. Chapman in his preface. Those whose experience has likewise placed them in touch with both the technical and popular sides of bird study, will agree that this purpose has been most happily achieved. The conveniently sub-divided chapters of the introduction, brief as they are, abound in helpful suggestions to the student. Those who take an æsthetic delight only in bird life may here learn how best to study birds out of doors, those of more mechanic turn, how to form collections and prosecute the study along approved scientific lines. An interesting feature in this connection is a series of chronological lists showing the migrating and nesting times of birds in the vicinity of New York City.

The more systematic part of the work begins with a key to orders and families, which proceeds by simple definitions and appropriate illustrations in the text. This, while admirably suited to its immediate purpose, will incidentally convey to the uninitiated something of the meaning of classification in general, and of the fundamental lines of division which underlie the commonly accepted distinctions of 'tribes' and 'kinds.' The spacious keys beyond are models of their kind, and evidence a great amount of painstaking and conscientious care. Nor has their usefulness been limited by designing them for spring males alone; females and immature birds are included.

The aim of the author to employ throughout the simplest English possible to the special subject has been agreeably realized. The descriptions, for their purpose, lose nothing of definiteness from the ruling absence of technical terms. Much has been done to render less shadowy the mazy region of female and immature plumages, where many a beginner, having put his hand eagerly to the plow, has turned back.

No attempt has been made to meet the problem of nestling plumages, but this scarcely explains why noteworthy markings on certain migrating autumn birds are left unnoticed. We may instance the white-bordered inner secondaries of the White-breasted Swallow, the peculiar rusty-backed state of the Wood Pewee, the buffy spotting in the scapular and covertal regions seen in the *Hylocichla*.

Following the descriptions, range and characters of nest and eggs are set forth as fully as brief, general statements will permit. The breeding ranges and the winter habitats are specially indicated, as far as known,—a commendable feature. While it may seem ungracious to ask for more where so much is given, we think that in the matter of breeding range, not quite enough allowance has been made in the case of some species for their southward extension along the Alleghanies. The student who reads of the Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers, that their general breeding range extends from, say, northern New England, southward, along the *crests* of the Alleghanies, would scarcely be prepared to find both species common summer birds along valleys and lower slopes in the Catskills or in the plateau region of Pennsylvania. With the Canadian Warbler the case is similar, and the Black-poll and Yellow-rumped

Warblers have been recorded as summer birds at points far south of "Northern New England." The ascertained breeding range of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher should also have been allowed to include the Catskills, if not a more southern point.

An important feature, of both local and general interest, is the dates of arrivals and departures of migrants at Washington, at Sing Sing, and at Cambridge, contributed respectively by Mr. C. W. Richmond, Dr. A. K. Fisher, and Mr. William Brewster. Similar records for the water birds on Long Island have been supplied by Mr. William Dutcher. A further illustration of the modern principle of co-operation is seen in the biographies, many of which have been contributed by well-known writers on birds, whose names are signed to their contributions. By far the greater number of these sketches have, however, been written by Mr. Chapman himself. They are in all cases brief, and aim to present the bird in life with especial reference to haunts, notes and habits—such facts connected with a bird's individuality as would be likely to be of assistance to the observer in the field.

The illustrations are numerous and excellent, consisting of full-page engraved half-tones, and pen and ink drawings in the text, prepared expressly for their present use. A color chart for reference in connection with the descriptions is a useful adjunct.

The book as a whole presents us with the scientific and popular in singularly harmonious union. Mr. Chapman has produced a noteworthy contribution, both to general and to educational ornithology. His volume takes rank among the authoritative works on North American birds.—E. P. B.

Minot's Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England. Second Edition.¹—Mr. Brewster, in his editorial preface, gives a fair and appreciative estimate of the value of Mr. Minot's well-known manual, from which we quote: "The 'Land-Birds and Game-Birds of New England' is, in many respects, a remarkable and interesting book. Written by a youth of seventeen, with, as I am assured, almost no outside help of either a literary or a scientific kind, it found favor at once, and for nearly twenty years has been ranked among the authorities on the subject of which it treats. It has evidently owed this popularity partly to the large amount of original matter which it contains, partly to the pleasant style in which it is written, and in no small degree, apparently, to the

¹ The | Land-Birds and Game-Birds | of | New England | with Descriptions of the Birds, their Nests | and Eggs, their Habits and Notes | With Illustrations | By | H. D. Minot | Second Edition | Edited by William Brewster | [Motto=4 lines and publishers' monogram] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1895. 8vo. pp. xxiv + 492, frontispiece, 1 pl., and 22 ill. in text. Cloth, \$3.50.



Chapman, Frank M. 1895. "Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America'" *The Auk* 12, 282–284. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4068296>.

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