

paper published in January, 1906,¹ but a few further changes are here made, especially in nomenclature, where *Myiochanes* replaces *Contopus* and *Procnias* supplants the familiar name *Casmorinchos* (or *Chasmorhynchus*, as usually written), etc., and original spellings of many names replace the emended forms of purists. *Planesticus* takes the place of *Merula*, but *Galeoscoptes* remains. The departures from the A. O. U. Check-List names of North American birds are, however, few, and have mostly already been adopted by the A. O. U. Committee, though not yet announced.

The present volume is marked by the same painstaking bibliographic research and attention to details that so eminently characterize its predecessors in the series, and we welcome it with the same sense of gratitude to the author for his invaluable contribution to systematic and faunistic ornithology. The thirty-odd plates of structural details, drawn mostly by J. H. Hendley of Washington, are an important adjunct to the text.—J. A. A.

Townsend and Allen's 'Birds of Labrador.'—This important summary² of present knowledge of the birds of Labrador is based, the authors inform us, on examinations of all the literature on the subject they have been able to find, and on a visit by them to the Labrador coast in the summer of 1906. The paper includes an account of the topography of Labrador, its faunal areas and bird migration; its ornithological history and the bird and egg destruction that have disgraced its coast and inlands, followed by an annotated list of its birds, and a bibliography. The historical part begins with George Cartwright's 'Journal,' published in 1792, and mentions in more or less detail the visits of other naturalists down to the 'Neptune' expedition of 1903-1904, including the journeys of Audubon (1833), Storer (1849), Bryant (1860), Coues (1860), Verrill (1861), Packard (1860 and 1864), Stearns (1875, 1880, 1882), Turner (1882-1884), and others, some of whom barely touched its southern coast. After recounting the barbarous havoc of the 'egggers' and the wholesale slaughter of geese and other waterfowl for their flesh or feathers, it is asked "What will be the result of all this if nothing be done to stop the destruction?" The answer is obvious,—the entire depopulation of the water bird resorts of the Labrador coast and adjacent islands.

In the systematic list 259 species and subspecies are considered, of which two are extinct, and 44 are regarded as having been wrongly attributed to Labrador, leaving 213 as authenticated Labrador species. A tabular statement gives the approximate number of birds seen by the authors in

¹ Some Observations concerning the American Families of Oligomyodian Passeres. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XIX, pp. 7-16, Jan. 1906.

² Birds of Labrador. By Charles W. Townsend, M. D., and Glover M. Allen. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXIII, No. 7, pp. 277-428, pl. xxix (map). July, 1907.

Labrador, July 10 to August 3, 1906, with localities and date of observations, the list numbering about sixty species.

The Labrador of the present paper includes the whole peninsula commonly known by that name, extending from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Hudson Strait, its eastern coast extending from N. Lat. 52° to about 63°. Faunally it extends from the Arctic barren grounds, which wholly occupy its northern part and a narrow strip along the entire eastern coast, across the Hudsonian and into the Canadian zone, the latter extending, in a general way, to "the latitude of Hamilton Inlet." The characteristic species of both plants and birds are enumerated for each of the three zones.

Among the points of special ornithological interest are the notes on the Great Auk, the Labrador Duck and the Eskimo Curlew, and on various species wrongly attributed to Labrador. *Otocoris alpestris praticolor* is eliminated as a bird of Labrador, "the Horned Lark of the Labrador coast, both eastern and southern," being considered as "the northern race, *Otocoris alpestris alpestris*"; and in this connection the alleged recent eastward extension of *praticolor* is again considered as probable. The supposed Labrador race of the Savanna Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius* Howe) is again shown to be untenable, even Mr. Oberholser, contrary to his "previous suspicions," being unable to find "any substantial difference worth recognizing by name." The determination of the status of the Labrador Horned Lark and Savanna Sparrow was among the incentives that induced the authors to undertake the Labrador trip. Altogether the paper that has resulted is one of unusual interest and value, clarifying and summarizing our knowledge of Labrador ornithology.—J. A. A.

Townsend's 'Along the Labrador Coast.'¹—This is an entertaining narrative of the trip along the Labrador coast that furnished the basis of Townsend and Allen's 'Birds of Labrador,' described above. It consists, as would be expected, mainly of notes on the natural history, and especially on the birds of the Labrador coast, but contains as well an interesting account of the country, its industries and people. The narrative is pleasantly written, and as little worth noting appears to have escaped the author's attention it is full of general as well as ornithological information about the parts of the country visited. The author's ornithological observations are here recorded in much greater fulness and much more informally than in the 'Birds of Labrador,' and have thus the freshness of the daily note-book jottings of the bird-lover in fresh fields. An index, which gives the technical as well as the common name of the species observed, gives definiteness as well as easy access to the natural history matter of the text.

¹ Along the | Labrador | Coast | — | By | Charles Wendell Townsend, M. D. | Author of "The Birds of Essex County" | With illustrations from Photographs | and a map [Seal] — | Boston Dana Estes & | Company Publishers | [1907] (no date). Price, \$1.50.



Townsend, Charles Wendell and Allen, Glover M. 1907. "Townsend and Allen's 'Birds of Labrador'" *The Auk* 24, 451–452. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070591>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54995>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070591>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/90213>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.