

some specimens of obscure plant remains seen. Mr. Nichols pointed out a fault in the rock on the opposite side of the brook in view of the audience. The strata on the western side of the fault dips at a considerable angle and gradually becomes nearly horizontal at some distance away, while on the east side the layers are almost undisturbed. Attention was also called to the erosion of the clay beds and soft shale through which the small brook has cut a deep gully.

J. W. G.

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### BOOK REVIEW.

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BIRDS OF NEW YORK, by Elon Howard Eaton; Part I, Introductory Chapters; Water Birds and Game Birds: New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y., Memoir 12.

This sumptuous volume of 390 pages, beautifully printed on the best of paper, has just recently appeared. It is in every way fully up to the high standard of the other excellent Memoirs of the New York State Museum, the authorities of which have done so much to stimulate research in natural history. The economic importance of a study of birds is now widely recognized. Much investigation into their feeding habits has proved beyond doubt that they are extremely important friends of the agriculturist, in fact, of the whole community at large.

At the present time it is stated that there are 411 species of birds which have been recorded as occurring in New York State. The species have been grouped into six classes, viz.: I. Residents, II. Summer residents, III. Transients, IV. Winter visitants, V. Summer visitants, VI. Accidental visitants. In an interesting chapter near the beginning much useful information is given on life zones, as well as charts to illustrate the distribution of the birds which breed in the three life zones of New York. In a chapter on "Increase and Decrease of Species," it is remarked that it is the general testimony of authors that there has been a marked diminution in the bird life of New York State during the past century. The reasons why this is so are clearly set forth and are only too well known. Modern agriculture is responsible for the death of many birds. Telephone and telegraph wires, electric lights, plate glass windows, cats and thoughtless boys, in cities and towns, all add to the danger to many species. "Perhaps the most destructive class are the thoughtless boys who go birds' egging and shooting indiscriminately; also foreigners, mostly Italians, who often kill all kinds of birds for food, as they have been accustomed to do in their native country; and the pot hunters and market gunners, who



exterminate our game without mercy." The author states that on one occasion he picked up 18 swallows which had been killed by a gunner who was returning home from a disappointed duck hunt. Such acts are, of course, "largely the result of thoughtlessness or ignorance, and it is hoped by spreading a knowledge of our native birds, thereby arousing a pride and interest in their welfare, we may overcome a large portion of this wanton destructiveness."

The tables of "Spring Migration: Arrivals," and "New York Birds: Local Lists" will be of much interest to students in Canada, as well as in the United States. 300 pages are devoted to the water birds and game birds. The species are treated of under the sub-headings "Description," "Distinctive marks," "Field marks," "Distribution," "Migrations," "Haunts and habits," "Food," and "Nests and eggs." The Diving Birds are given first attention. These are followed by an account of the Long-winged Swimmers; then, in order, the Tube-nosed Swimmers; the Totipalmate Birds; the Lamellirostral Swimmers; the Herons, etc., the Marsh Birds, the Plover, Snipe, etc.; Gallinaeous Birds, and Pigeons. Altogether 179 species are treated of. Throughout the text many beautiful illustrations from photographs have been incorporated. Those showing nests and eggs are of special merit and interest. At the end of the volume there are 42 full paged magnificent coloured plates, all of which have been drawn by Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertes, the well known bird artist. For the last ten years Mr. Fuertes has made careful colour notes immediately after the capture of the birds used for illustrations. In this way he has been able to depict, wonderfully well, the different colours of the birds.

This work is a most important addition to the literature of North American ornithology, and will be greatly welcomed by students of birds everywhere. It will be of much interest to Canadian ornithologists on account of so many of the species occurring in our territory. Much credit is due to the author for the preparation of this immensely valuable Memoir, to the artist for his beautiful illustrations, and to the New York State Education Department for the publication of the whole work. Such a Memoir will be a source of authoritative reference for many years to come.

A. G.

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CATALOGUE OF NEARCTIC SPIDERS, by Nathan Banks; Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, Bulletin 72.

This publication takes the place of the Marx Catalogue, prepared some twenty years ago. The author states that the



Gibson, Arthur. 1910. "Birds of New York, by Elon Howard Eaton [Review]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 24(3), 62–63.

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