

the identity of changing structures under the disguise of new forms, but to measure the rate of these changes, and to seek out the underlying causes that have brought them about. He is heavily handicapped by the lack of materials that can be precisely measured or controlled. But on the other hand there is a certain advantage inherent in the very size and remoteness of his problems, that is absent in the brief laboratory experiments that have taken place under the eye of man. His problems must be viewed from a great distance, but one that gives a large perspective, and draws a vast range of structural changes into a single horizon where sporadic details disappear, and only those events catch the eye that are massed around some central cause or are ranged with monotonous regularity along some common line of physiological upheaval."

Whether or not the reader accepts all the author's conclusions, there can be only the greatest admiration for the work that has preceded the writing of this important book, as well as for the marked ability with which the arachnid theory is presented. The work is a masterpiece, and marks an important step in the progress of zoology.

The publishers, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., are to be complimented upon the excellent get-up of the volume. The press work is very fine.—J. M. S.

A HISTORY OF THE BIRDS OF COLORADO, by William Lutley Sclater, M.A. (Oxon.), M.B.O.U., Hon. M.A.O.U., (lately Director of the Colorado College Museum), with seventeen plates and a map; Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London; price \$5.00.

This new volume of 576 pages is founded upon the very complete collection of Colorado birds formed, during the last thirty-five years, by Mr. Charles E. Aiken, of Colorado Springs. The number of Colorado birds included is 392, and of these 225 are considered as regular breeders within the State. The nomenclature and classification used are almost without exception that of the recently published third edition of the A. O. U. check list.

Under each species is given references to Colorado Records, Descriptions of the Adults, Distribution and Habits, which latter includes nesting habits with an account of the eggs. Pages 533 to 551 are devoted to a Bibliography which includes references to all articles on Colorado ornithology of importance, up to December, 1910.

Students of birds generally will welcome this important contribution to American ornithology. There is no apology necessary for the appearance of this additional bird treatise.

The author points out that the published work of Cooke is now out of print and difficult to obtain. This new book, in addition to the description of the birds, etc., gives keys by which the birds observed, or obtained, may be determined.

The plates are beautiful reproductions from photographs taken from nature, and add much to the interest and value of the volume. The printing and arrangement of the text, etc., are excellent, and the author and publishers alike are to be congratulated.—A. G.

In that valuable series of little books, the "Cambridge Manuals of Literature and Science," there are some numbers that may appeal in particular to readers of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST. The following have been added to the Carnegie Library, Ottawa:—

1. "Heredity in the Light of Recent Research," by Doncaster; a useful little book, giving outlines of the theories of DeVries and Mendel, and of the work of Bateson.
2. "Plant-animals," by Keeble; based on researches carried on for some years in a marine laboratory in Brittany—really a study of the life-history and habits of two marine worms, the green plant-animal and the brown plant-animal.
3. "Prehistoric Man," by Duckworth; an account with illustrations of various human remains of great antiquity, with brief mention of theories based thereon, and an attempt to arrange the primitive types in ascending order.
4. "Links with the Past in the Plant World," by Seward; an enquiry into the relative antiquity of existing plants, with reference to the evidence afforded by fossils—deals chiefly with ferns and coniferæ.
5. "The Migration of Birds," by T. A. Coward; titles of chapters are: Cause and Origin of Migration, Routes, Height and Speed of Flight, Route Finding, Distances Travelled, Perils.
6. "Plant-life on Land," by F. O. Bower; a series of short essays to illustrate the migration of plants originally aquatic, to the land, and their adaption to their atmospheric surroundings—shows the point of view of the present day botanist.
7. "The Natural History of Clay," by Searle: some topics are: clay and associated rocks, origins of clays, some clays of commercial importance.
8. "Earthworms and Their Allies," by Beddard.
9. "The Coming of Evolution," by Judd.
10. "The Natural History of Coal," by Arber.



Gibson, Arthur. 1912. "A History of the Birds of Colorado, by William Lutley Sclater [Review]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 26(2), 39–40.

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