

the bird in the bush,"—that is, to assist the many who aspire to a knowledge of the names of the wild birds they see about them, but who are deprived of access to specimens. For this purpose tinted figures, giving in color those markings which most quickly catch the eye, are given on the margin of the pages opposite the descriptions, which latter are brief, giving only the most prominent characteristics of the species and subspecies, and (in smaller type) a concise statement of their ranges, without biographical matter. A short introduction tells 'How to learn a Bird's Name' and 'How Birds are Named,' followed by a 'Synopsis of Orders and Families of North American Birds' (pp. 9-40), illustrated with figures of bills, feet, heads, etc., mostly life-size. Then follows the 'Color Key' to the species (pp. 41-255), with full length colored figures in the text. The orders are arranged in the sequence of the A. O. U. Check-List, but the species within the orders have been grouped according to their color markings, for convenience of illustration. Each species, however, is designated by the A. O. U. number, and at the close of the 'Key' is a 'Systematic Table' (pp. 257-289), giving the classification and nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List, including both the common and the scientific names. The drawings are in every way creditable, but the coloring is not put forth as giving "perfect reproductions of every shade and tint of the plumage of the species, but aims to present a bird's characteristic colors as they appear when seen at a distance." The author and the artist are both to be congratulated on the very satisfactory manner in which they have performed their respective tasks, whereby the student of 'birds in the bush' has been presented with seemingly as efficient an aid as can readily be conceived. The paper and presswork, however, are not satisfactory, and it is hoped will be materially improved in the later editions, for which there will most surely be demand.—J. A. A.

Dawson's 'The Birds of Ohio.'—The title-page¹ of this excellent work

Natural History | Author of "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America," | "Bird-Life," Etc. | With Upward of 800 Drawings | by | Chester A. Reed, B. S. | New York | Doubleday, Page & Company | 1903. — 8vo, pp. vi+312, colored frontispiece, and about 800 text cuts, the greater part colored.

¹The Birds of Ohio | a complete, scientific and | popular Description of the 320 Species of Birds | found in the State | By | William Leon Dawson, A. M., B. D. | With Introduction and Analytical Keys | by | Lynds Jones, M. Sc. | Instructor in Zoology in Oberlin College. | Illustrated by 80 plates in color-photography, and more than 200 | original half-tones, showing the favorite haunts of the | birds, flocking, feeding, nesting, etc., from photo- | graphs taken by the author and others. | Sold only by subscription | Columbus | The Wheaton Publishing Co. | 1903 | All rights reserved.— 4to, pp. i-xlvi+1-671, 80 three-color process plates and 200 + half-tone text cuts. Author's edition, 1000 numbered autograph copies, full morocco, full gilt.

very fully and correctly indicates its general character — a copiously illustrated, scientifically trustworthy popular manual of the birds of Ohio, with analytical keys, and colored figures of eighty species. The scope of the work "is strictly Ohioan," and the birds are described "as any one in Ohio might see them," although something is generally said of their habits and range as found outside of Ohio. The nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check-List and its supplements, down to the last of the series, but the order of sequence is reversed, the Passeres, and of these the Raven, being placed at the head of the list and the Loons at the end. The number of species authentically recorded for the State, and hence here formally treated, is 320; descriptions are given of 13 others, "believed to occur or to have occurred in Ohio," forming a 'hypothetical list'; which is followed by a "conjectural list" of 13 more, reported from adjacent States and supposed, with good reason, to occur "at least casually." Many of these will doubtless be added, sooner or later, to the birds of the State on the evidence of actual capture within its borders.

Following the author's preface and the introduction are the analytical keys, prepared by Professor Lynds Jones, of the orders, families and species, occupying pp. xxiii to xlv. The main text gives a short description, in small type, of each species, including its nest and eggs, and its range, both within and outside of the State, and, in larger type, a short, well prepared biographical account, having special reference to the species as a bird of Ohio. The volume closes with three appendices, the first two of which consist respectively of the 'hypothetical' and 'conjectural' lists already mentioned, while the third, 'Appendix C' (pp. 647-660), gives migration tables "for the approximate latitudes of Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland." These are arranged in the order of the A. O. U. Check-List, and are based partly on the author's own observations and partly on those of other well known observers, as Henninger, Jones, Wheaton, and Mosely, as duly explained. There is also a good index.

As regards plan, literary execution, typography and general make-up, Dawson's 'The Birds of Ohio' is an exceptionally attractive volume and is entitled to high praise as a trustworthy popular manual of the birds of the region to which it relates. There is, however, one disappointing feature, and that is the character of the colored plates, for which the three-color process is not wholly to blame. When we state that they are a selection of eighty of the best of a series of some two hundred or more that were available, and that this series was originally published in a Chicago bird magazine, variously known at different times as 'Birds,' 'Birds and Nature,' etc., and also already used elsewhere as book illustrations, most bird students will be sufficiently aware of their character without further comment. While the greater part, and perhaps all, of those used in the present volume are sufficiently approximate to nature to be serviceable as an aid in identifying the species represented, very few of them are pleasing, owing mainly to the bad mounting of the specimens selected for photographing. Such illustrations may be accepted as perhaps much

better than none; and we fancy that this fact, and their comparatively small cost, accounts for their presence in a book worthy of a far better accompaniment. The half-tones in the text, on the other hand, are for the most part well reproduced, well selected, and appropriate to the text, giving characteristic views of the haunts of many species, as well of many nesting sites, nests and eggs, and of living birds.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States,' Second Edition.—The "second edition, revised"¹ differs from the first mainly through a revision of the matter relating to the Horned Larks (genus *Otocoris*, pp. 266–269), which has been rewritten and brought down to date, and the addition of Addenda (pp. 486–488) giving a list of the alterations in the names of western birds made by the Nomenclature Committee of the A. O. U. since the publication of the first edition in 1902, and also correcting the few omissions and errors of the first edition that could not readily be made in the text. The generous commendation given the work in our notice of the first edition need not be here repeated. The early call for a second edition shows that the work is appreciated and meets a real need.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Wheelock's 'Birds of California.'² — In this attempt to provide a non-technical manual of three hundred of the commoner birds of California the author has attained a high degree of success, and has also produced a work of much permanent value on account of the many original field observations, which add to the sum of our knowledge of the life histories of many of the species considered. As to the plan of the work: "Keys have been avoided and a simple classification, according to habitat or color, substituted," following a plan used by a previous author, here adopted and commended. Under the head of 'Contents,' the species are enumerated under the English names of the A. O. U. Check-List, beginning with the 'Water Birds,' which are grouped into sections according to their haunts, followed by 'Land Birds,' grouped as (1) 'Upland Game Birds,' (2) 'Birds of Prey,' and (3) 'Common Land Birds in Color Groups,' which latter are divided, on the basis of color, into eight minor groups. The species are arranged in the same incongruous order in the text, but are designated by the A. O. U. Check-List numbers and names, both tech-

¹ For collation and review of the first edition see *Auk*, XX, 1903, pp. 76–78.

² *Birds of California* | An Introduction | to more than Three Hundred Common | Birds of the State and Adjacent | Islands | With a Supplementary List of rare migrants, accidental | visitants, and hypothetical subspecies | By Irene Grosvenor Wheelock | author of "Nestlings of Forest and Marsh" | With ten full-page plates and seventy-eight drawings | in the text by Bruce Horsfall | [Vignette] Chicago | A. C. McClurg & Co. | 1904 — Sm. 8vo, pp. xxviii + 578, 10 half-tone plates, 78 text figures.



Dawson, William Leon. 1904. "Dawson's 'The Birds of Ohio'" *The Auk* 21, 297–299. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070073>.

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