

nical and vernacular. The descriptions are in small type and very brief, giving only the most characteristic features, the geographical distribution, breeding range and season, and nest and eggs. Then follows, in larger type, a short, well-written biography of the species. No originality, of course, is claimed for the technical descriptions, and many of the biographies of the water birds, and of some others, are compiled, and often in part quoted, with due credit, from previous authors. But a large proportion of the land birds have come within the personal experience of the writer, whose researches, begun in 1894, have extended throughout a large part of the State, and hence her biographies are based on original observations and contain much new information. The work closes with a briefly annotated 'Supplementary List' of the species and subspecies thus far recorded from California in addition to the three hundred formally treated, the list being compiled from authentic and accredited sources.

In the introduction the author makes some generalizations respecting the feeding habits of young birds that are to a large extent new and somewhat surprising; their confirmation or disproof opens up an interesting field of research. She says: "Long and careful study of the feeding habits of young birds in California and the Eastern United States has led the author to make some statements which may incur the criticism of ornithologists who have not given especial attention to the subject. For instance,—that the young of all macrochires, woodpeckers, perching birds, cuckoos, kingfishers, most birds of prey, and many seabirds *are fed by regurgitation from the time of hatching through a period varying in extent from three days to four weeks, according to the species.* . . . Out of one hundred and eighty cases recorded by the author, in every instance where the young were hatched in a naked or semi-naked condition they were fed in this manner for at least three days. In some instances the food was digested, wholly or in part; in others it was probably swallowed merely for convenience in carrying, and was regurgitated in an undigested condition." A few specific instances are cited here in illustration, and many others are given in the biographies.

Mrs. Wheelock's manual is in several ways noteworthy, and should prove most welcome to would-be bird students of the Pacific coast, and of interest to ornithologists in search of fresh information on the life histories of California birds.—J. A. A.

Torrey's 'The Clerk of the Woods.'¹—The thirty-two short essays here brought together received previous simultaneous publication in the 'Evening Transcript' of Boston and the 'Mail and Express' of New York. Those familiar with the author's previous books do not need to

¹The Clerk | of the Woods | By | Bradford Torrey | | Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1903 — 16mo., pp. i-viii, 1-280. \$1.10 net, postage extra.

be told that they will find in 'The Clerk of the Woods' a series of out-of-door sketches of literary merit, and well adapted to furnish entertainment, as well as much information, to lovers of nature who enjoy what might be rather commonplace incidents and observations to the trained field naturalist when given the literary flavor Mr. Torrey is so skilful in imparting. The chapter entitled 'Popular Woodpeckers' tells at length of the nesting of a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers in Newton, Mass., and incidentally pleasantly emphasizes the great popular interest in birds and their protection that has so happily of late been shown by the general public. It is a good commentary on the faithful work of the Audubon Societies. The chapters run through the year, from May to May, and include a record of trips to the seashore as well as inland, and while recording little that is new as natural history, serve to awaken pleasant reminiscences, or to incite the desire for future excursions to fields and woodlands to commune with Nature through "her visible forms." —J. A. A.

Mrs. Miller's 'With the Birds in Maine.'¹—The studies recorded in the fifteen chapters composing the present book were made, with two exceptions, in Maine, and are based on the experiences of the author during ten summers spent in different parts of the State. The localities include several points along the coast, and others situated far in the interior, so that shore birds, marsh birds, and the characteristic birds of the woodlands come within the purview of the work, the general character of which is suggested by such chapter titles as 'On the Coast of Maine,' 'Upon the Wood Road,' 'Mysteries of the Marsh,' 'In a Log Camp,' 'The Wiles of Warblers,' 'Flycatcher Vagaries,' etc. The table of contents includes the names of birds especially mentioned, and there is a good index. The book is written in the author's well-known agreeable style and its perusal will doubtless give pleasure to the many bird lovers who like detailed accounts of field experiences with birds.—J. A. A.

Kumlien and Hollister's 'The Birds of Wisconsin.'²—Respecting the present list the authors state: "We have made no attempt at descriptions of birds, nor have we gone to any length in discussing their habits. Our whole aim and object has simply been to bring our knowledge of Wiscon-

¹ With the Birds | in Maine | By | Olive Thorne Miller | [Vignette] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1904—16mo., pp. ix+300. \$1.10 net.

²The Birds of Wisconsin. By L. Kumlien and N. Hollister. Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society, Vol. III (N. S.), Nos. 1-3, Jan., April, and July, 1903, pp. i-iv, 1-143, with 8 half tone plates. Published with the coöperation of the Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee Public Museum.



Torrey, Bradford. 1904. "Torrey's 'The Clerk of the Woods'" *The Auk* 21, 300–301. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070076>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54101>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070076>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/87856>

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>.