

Boardman's 'The Naturalist of the Saint Croix.'¹— 'The Auk' for April, 1901 (XVIII, p. 219), contained a brief notice of the late Mr. George A. Boardman, for many years an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, having been elected in 1883, at the founding of the Union. In the present volume we have a detailed memoir, including extracts from his correspondence, with letters from several prominent ornithologists to him. The memoir gives first an account of the Boardman ancestry, followed by a description of the valley of the St. Croix River, the business interests of which he did so much to develop, and which was the principal scene of his natural history work. Then follows, in separate chapters, an account of his business and domestic life, his work as a naturalist, the closing years at his home at Calais, a description of the Boardman collection, some of the scientific results of his life work, and further chapters on his personal characteristics, testimonials of appreciation from prominent naturalists, and extracts from his correspondence. The book concludes with lists of the vertebrates of the St. Croix valley, and short extracts from Mr. Boardman's natural history writings, in illustration of their character.

Mr. Boardman was "one of the pioneer field naturalists of the United States," an intimate friend of Baird, Brewer, Lawrence, and other ornithologists who have "passed on," and of others who still remain, to whom collectively this memoir "is respectfully and lovingly dedicated." Between the Baird and Boardman families there was close intimacy for many years, which terminated only with the death of Professor Baird.

Mr. Boardman had very scanty school advantages, but became a very successful business man, and possessed personal traits that endeared him to a wide circle of friends. As a lumber merchant and lumber manufacturer he quite early in life acquired a competence, and was thus able to devote his later years to field work in natural history and to travel. He visited California, spent seventeen winters in Florida, and several seasons in Minnesota. The history of his life is here judiciously and simply told, and forms a narrative so replete with personal incident as to be little short of fascinating, especially to those who knew Mr. Boardman personally and his naturalist friends here mentioned; and also to all those of kindred tastes and sympathies. It is a record of personal history well worthy of the permanent form here given, containing, as it does, much of special interest relating to the natural history, and especially the ornithology, of Maine and Florida in times now long past. There are a

¹ The | Naturalist | of the Saint Croix | Memoir of | George A. Boardman | A selection from his correspondence | and published writings, notices of friends | and contemporaries with his | List of the Birds of Maine and New Brunswick | By | Samuel Lane Boardman, M. S. | University of Maine, Honorary, 1899 | Bangor | Privately printed | 1903—8vo, pp. xv+311, and 25 pll. (Edition, 500 copies, for private distribution.)

few errors in the rendering of personal names, as Dr. Heemann for Dr. Heermann, and Dr. Holden for Dr. Holder, due doubtless to obscure manuscripts; and the lists of mammals, fishes and reptiles are marred by serious typographical errors. But these are slight defects in a work otherwise exceedingly creditable. The twenty-five plates give facsimiles of letters from Baird, Sclater and Dresser; several portraits of the subject of the memoir, of his wife, of Baird, Dr. William Wood, Henry E. Dresser, and Charles Hallock; views of the Boardman residences at Milltown and Calais, interior views of his Bird Museum at Calais, etc. Boardman's list of 'St. Croix Birds,' originally published in 1862, and thus forming one of the earliest local bird lists of the United States, was republished and brought down to date in the Calais 'Weekly Times' in 1899 and 1900; this revised list is here republished (pp. 300-316), "without change" except to substitute the A. O. U. nomenclature for the obsolete nomenclature of forty years ago, previously employed on both occasions. It numbers 274 species, briefly annotated. The 'Natural History Sketches' would have increased interest had the date and place of publication been added, as has been done in the case of the 'Minor Notes on Natural History.'—J. A. A.

Pearson's 'Three Summers among the Birds of Russian Lapland.'—This is a narrative of three¹ ornithological expeditions to Russian Lapland, made respectively in 1899, 1901, and 1903. Various points along the coast were visited, considerable time being spent near the mouth of the Ukanskœ River, and a trip was made southward from Kola into the interior. The preface gives a brief notice of previous ornithological explorations of the region and of published accounts of them, including his own journey in 1895, recounted in 'Beyond Petsora Eastward.' The observations made during the three journeys take the form of a daily record of the author's experiences and thus have a setting and a freshness that would be lost in a more formal method of presentation; there being, however, only the briefest summary by species (Appendix I), recourse must be had to the index to find all that has been recorded of any particular bird. But the narrative is not lacking in interest, aside from its ornithological bearings, while the conditions of bird life in this dreary region are thus brought graphically before the reader. Thus, under date of June 2, 1899, at Devkin Bay, we read: "Near the house were fifteen to twenty Shore-Larks (*Otocorys alpestris*), feeding on a small piece of uncovered ground; while two White Wagtails flitted about from doorstep

¹ Three Summers among | the Birds of | Russian Lapland | By | Henry J. Pearson | author of "Beyond Petsora Eastward" | With History of | Saint Triphon's Monastery | and Appendices | London | R. H. Porter | 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1904—8vo, pp. i-xvi+1-216, 68 half-tone plates, and map.



1904. "Boardman's 'The Naturalist of the Saint Croix'" *The Auk* 21, 397–398.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/4070220>.

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

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070220>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/87887>

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>.