

upon those he may make for which we must accept his unsupported authority.

That many of the statements made would be correct if applied to prescribed districts I will not dispute; but I submit it is a mistake to suppose that what applies to the *fauna* of one limited locality must perforce be equally applicable to the entire Dominion. Each *faunal* area, and there are a number of such divisions in Canada, has a bird-life peculiar to itself; even though some species having a much wider range of distribution than others, are found in several areas. But there are in these books other errors of a more serious nature than the question of distribution. For instance, Dr. Ross gives the color of the eggs of the Olive-backed Thrush as reddish brown, while leading authorities have pronounced them greenish blue, speckled with brownish. The same author states that the Hudson Bay Tit "nests in a shrub; eggs four; pure white." Not one of these details are correct. This species invariably make an excavation into a dead stump or living tree, and lay from five to ten eggs, which Dr. Brewer, having before him the large series in the Smithsonian collection, described as being of a white ground color, but having reddish brown spots grouped in a ring around the larger end.

In his description of the plumage of the Olive-backed Thrush, M. Dionne states that the breast, throat and chin are of a pale brownish yellow, while the best authorities give the color of these parts as white, with a buffy tinge, and marked with dark spots.

In the matter of habits, this same author makes such remarks as that the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler delights in bushes and lower branches of the trees, but a number of careful and experienced observers have unanimously recorded this bird's preference for the highest branches of the highest trees.

Cuvier's Kinglet is found in both books, and may be taken as a fair sample of the carelessness which is so conspicuous. Dr. Ross records that the species occurs in Canada in spring and fall, and M. Dionne repeats the record and attempts to throw all responsibility from his own shoulders (which, by the way, he does very seldom, making most improbable statements upon his own unsupported authority) by quoting Dr. Ross; but he should have known that, to say the least, the occurrence of the bird was so very doubtful that it should not be placed on any list unless upon the most

unquestionable authority, and then the date and locality as well as the name of the collection should have been given to make the record acceptable by scientists. The only example of this Kinglet which has been so far reliably recorded was taken by Audubon near the Schuylkill River, Penn., in June, 1812. Mr. Ridgway has retained the name in the Smithsonian catalogue on this authority, but Dr. Cones has not placed it on his "Check List."

Just where M. Dionne gathered his information that Dr. Cones considers this species a variety of *calendulus* is not apparent. There is no such statement in the "Key," the only one of Dr. Cones' works which M. Dionne mentions among his authorities; and in "Birds of the North-west," *Cuvieri* is given as a doubtful synonym of *saturapa*, while in "Birds of the Colorado Valley" it is not mentioned.

As I have before remarked, references are made in these books to numerous western species, without any indication of their range being given. Macgillivray's Warbler will serve as an example of these. The most eastern limit of the range of this species which is authentically recorded, is Dr. Cooper's report of finding it at Fort Laramie, in Wyoming Territory. Yet Dr. Ross makes the unqualified statement that "it breeds in Canada," by which he must mean, to be consistent with his other records, that it breeds in Ontario.

M. Dionne follows with an unsupported assertion, changed, by way of appearing original, to "rarely seen in Canada," and he copies the pattern so closely as to repeat an error which Dr. Ross made in describing the eggs as "flesh-colored." The best authorities describe them as of a pinkish-white ground color, but "marked and spotted with purple, lilac, reddish-brown and dark brown approaching black."

Turning to the Owls, we find that M. Dionne, on page 131, states: "Nos espèces sont toutes sédentaires en Canada"; and, again, in his account of the Barrel Owl, "Cette chouette est commune à l'automne et disparaît au printemps pour aller faire sa ponte à la baie d'Hudson." These two statements do not harmonize and neither is correct. By "sedentary" species ornithologists mean those which remain during the entire year in one locality, and it is quite certain that in this sense neither the Snowy Owl, the great Gray Owl, the Hawk Owl, nor Richardson's Owl