

The Birds of Maine.

THE BIRDS OF MAINE, with key to and description of the various species known to occur, or to have occurred, in the State, an account of their distribution and migration, showing their relative abundance in the various counties of the State as well as other regions, and contributions to their life histories. By Ora Willis Knight, M. S., Member of Maine Ornithological Society, etc. Cloth, pages 693. Bangor, Maine, 1908.

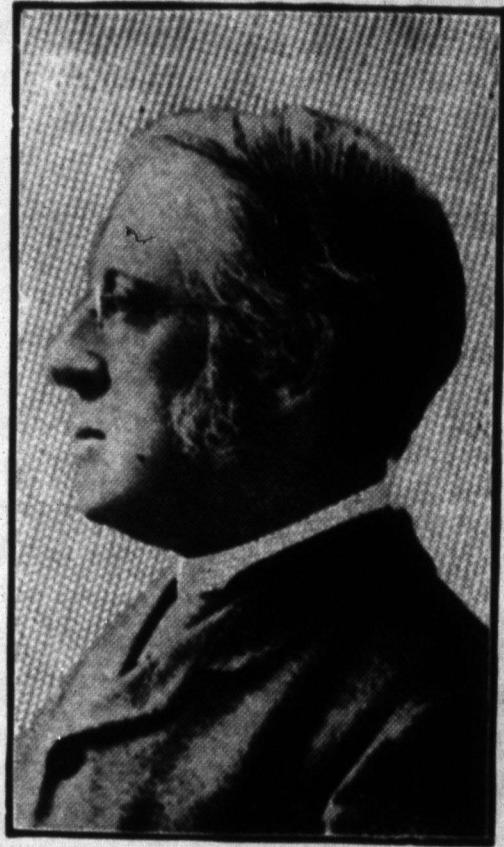
This book will be of great advantage to the bird students of these provinces, since at least four-fifths of the birds described in its pages are to be found in the neighbouring province of New Brunswick. It includes all material that is valuable for identification as found in Chapman's "Birds of North Eastern America," such as analytical keys, descriptions of plumage, nests, etc., and distribution and migration. In addition to these data, which are given with much more fullness than in Chapman, there are county records which refer in a few words to the occurrence of species in each county of Maine, with the name of the person responsible for such statement.

Following these records, which are a great stimulus to bird study in local centres, there are discussions of the status of each species, full descriptions of the nests, eggs, songs and call notes, number of eggs laid, periods of incubation, and other data, with a summary of conclusions, a chapter on faunal areas, a partial biography, and a complete index at the end of the work.

To take the Canadian ruffed grouse or partridge as an instance of the full measure of treatment accorded some of the most common birds. The scientific name is given with the common or local names by which the bird is known. Then follows the technical description, a photographic illustration showing the bird on her nest, also the eggs and nest uncovered, the geographical and county distribution, the woods in which found, its "drumming," the nesting and eggs, habits and food—the whole occupying five pages, and all told with a sympathy with other forms of nature that stamp the author as a true naturalist.

We are sure that the book will prove of great service to our bird students, to whom it is recommended for its interest, fullness and reliability.

Twenty-two children have handed in stories in answer to the REVIEW's invitation of April last to write on "Mother Autumn Calling in the Flowers." Teachers have written to say that the children were much interested in the competition, and were led to notice many things about the fall flowers that they had never noticed before; (that is nature study). The prizes, two illustrated books, have been awarded—the first to Muriel M. Mundle, age 12 years, Rexton, Kent County, N. B.; the second to Anna Creighton, age 10 years, Middle Musquodoboit, Halifax County, N. S. The two stories will be published in the January REVIEW.



CHARLES W. ELIOT, LL. D.

The president of Harvard University, Charles William Eliot, has resigned, the resignation to take effect in May, 1909, when he will have completed a little more than the 75th year of his age and thirty years as president of Harvard. President Eliot was born in Boston, March 20, 1834, was educated in Boston, and during the whole of his educational life has been connected with Harvard University, as tutor, professor and president. But his educational work has been by no means confined to Harvard, every school and college on the continent has felt the influence of his great gifts and his power to mould educational and public opinion. His opinions on higher education have been quoted throughout the English-speaking world, and his diction, always pure and simple, has enriched educational literature.

Lord Roberts, speaking in the House of Lords, has made the very serious statement that Germany could easily land an army of two hundred thousand men in Great Britain; and on his motion it was resolved that the defense of the country necessitates the immediate attention of the government to make provision for such a strong and efficient army that the most formidable foreign nation will hesitate before making an attempt at landing. He advocates a home army of a million men.