

differences occur all through the arrangements which we hope soon to see reconciled.

The birds of North America are understood to be all such as are found north of the Mexican border, and it is quite interesting to look back and observe at what rate the published record of species has increased, as well as the causes which have led to these results. No doubt many of the common species were observed by the early settlers in the country, and while raising their primitive homes with their minds still full of memories of the old land, finding a bird with a red breast coming familiarly near, he would naturally get the name of "Robin" after the familiar "Robin Redbreast" who was so much a favorite at home, but for some such circumstance our Robin might with greater propriety have been called the Red-breasted Thrush.

In these early days the hardy pioneers would have little time to devote to the study of the birds, and still less to record the result of such observation, but as the country became better known, and the facilities for reaching it were increased, travellers, adventurers, missionaries and others, made frequent visits from foreign countries, and as usual took home glowing accounts of the natural productions of the new land. Dr. Coues, who has made a careful search for records of this description gives in his new "Key to North American Birds" the names of quite a number of books published between the years 1600 and 1700, in which special reference is made to the birds of the districts visited by the writers. The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, etc., by Mark Catesby, published in parts, is the first in which any definite number of birds is mentioned. It was brought out in 1731, and by taking into account some additional species named in the appendix, the total number is brought up to 113.

In 1771, I. R. Forster published a tract entitled "A Catalogue of the Animals of North America," in which he mentions 302 birds, but they are not described, nor even named correctly.

In 1787, Pennant and Latham followed, the result of whose combined labors was the description of 500 species of American birds.

About this time Gmelin was busy compiling and transcribing the works of his predecessors, but he did not discover anything new