

realize how rapidly our knowledge in this department has advanced within the last fifteen years.

Whether or not the book on the "Birds of New England" aided this advance, it certainly added to the number of observers. Ornithology seemed to become popularized among us at once, and it was astonishing to see how rapidly each edition was succeeded by another.

The demand still continues, notwithstanding there are now a number of other books to be obtained, some of which cover a portion of the ground occupied by this work.

Some of these books are reliable and valuable, and others are probably destined to scarcely more than a passing popularity, although the author of one makes the pretensions claim that it practically supersedes this book.

In the present edition a portion of the biographies has been entirely rewritten and enlarged, and new illustrations added, all of which, it is hoped, will add to the value of the work.

It has been decided in this issue to change the title of the book. Treating as it does of many birds which occur in States outside of New England, as well as within its limits, there seems no impropriety in removing from the title the suggestion of exclusiveness conveyed by the former name, and under the not inappropriate title of "Our Northern and Eastern Birds," it is hoped that the book will meet with a continuation of the favor it received when apparently treating only of the species found in New England.

In the preparation of the work I was greatly indebted to Professor Spencer F. Baird, of Washington, for his generous permission to use the descriptions of the birds which had been given by him in the ninth volume of the Pacific Railroad Reports; for this kindness I again return thanks, and to the many other friends who lent me valuable assistance I also renew acknowledgments.

EDWARD A. SAMUELS.

Boston, April 26, 1883.

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