

PREFACE.

THIS work is practically an edition of "A Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada," written by THOMAS NUTTALL, though only as much of the original title has been retained as seemed consistent with the changed character of the text.

Nuttall's work has been out of print for several years; but its popularity and real value have kept it in demand, and the few copies recently offered for sale were disposed of at high prices. A new edition was thus called for; but it seemed unwise to issue the work in its original form, or to remodel it to the extent that would be required to arrange it in harmony with the new *régime* of affairs ornithological; for the science has advanced rapidly since the "Manual" was written, and the changes effected have been numerous and important. A new and entirely different system of classification has come in vogue; the nomenclature has been altered and trinomials introduced; and, indeed, little is left of American ornithology as Nuttall knew it, except the birds,—and even of these, two species have become extinct, and a large number of new forms have been discovered.

Thomas Nuttall came to this country from England in 1808, and between 1825 and 1834 held the positions